



## Command Cyber Operations and Support Wings

**For Prelims:** CCOSW, Technical Entry Scheme model, Cyber security

**For Mains:** Significance of the CCOSWs in the Indian Army's cybersecurity posture

### Why in News?

In the recent **Army Commanders' Conference (ACC)**, the Indian Army decided to operationalize the **Command Cyber Operations and Support Wings (CCOSWs)** to strengthen its [cybersecurity capabilities](#), defend its networks, and counter threats in the key domain of [cyberspace](#).

### What is the Army Commanders' Conference (ACC)?

- The ACC is a **biannual institutional event** that serves as a platform for **high-level conceptual discussions and decision-making on important policies for the Indian Army**.
- The latest conference discussed various agenda points, updates from the Army Headquarters, progress on **transformation initiatives, and budget management**.

### What are CCOSWs?

- **About:**
  - The CCOSWs are a specialized unit of the Indian Army that will assist the **formations in undertaking mandated cyber security functions**.
    - The unit will be responsible for **safeguarding the networks and enhancing the cybersecurity posture** of the Indian Army.
  - They will also facilitate better **utilization of modern communication systems and networks within the Indian Army**.
- **Importance:**
  - The migration towards **network centricity and increased reliance on modern communication systems** makes the CCOSWs important.
    - The CCOSWs will help the Indian Army counter their adversaries in the **grey zone and their cyber warfare**. And to stay ahead of its **adversaries in terms of cybersecurity**.
  - The CCOSWs will be instrumental in maintaining the **confidentiality, integrity, and availability of critical information**.
  - The CCOSWs will ensure that the Indian Army's communication networks are **secure from cyber-attacks**. And will be responsible for identifying and **mitigating cyber threats to the Indian Army's networks**.

### What Were the Other Key Decisions Made in ACC?

- **Training and Technology Infusion:**
  - Nominating lead directorates and test bed formations to evolve optimal employment philosophies and facilitate better **modern communication systems and networks across the force.**
- **Force Structuring and Optimization:**
  - Quantifying progress on the ongoing transformational initiatives in the key domains of **force structuring and optimization, modernization and technology infusion, processes and functions, human resource management, and jointness and integration.**
  - Deliberating upon the efficient implementation of the [Agnipath Scheme](#).
  - Transitioning from the existing (5-year) **1+3+1 years Technical Entry Scheme (TES) model to (4-year) 3 + 1 TES model** from January 2024 onwards.
    - The current five-year TES model for officer entry as B.Tech graduates has been in place since 1999.
      - Under the current model, **1 year of military training is imparted, followed by 3 years of B.Tech degree at Cadet Training Wings (CTWs) and 1 year at one of the three engineering colleges of the Army.**
    - The Upcoming new model will have **3 years of technical training at CTWs, followed by 1 year of Basic Military Training (BMT).**
      - The new model has received [AICTE approval in March 2023.](#)
- **Paralympic Events:**
  - Identifying and training selected motivated soldiers for [paralympic events.](#)

## What are India's Initiatives in Cyber Warfare?

- **[Defence Cyber Agency:](#)**
  - It is a tri-service agency that deals with cyber issues and coordinates with other agencies such as **the National Cyber Security Coordinator, National Technical Research Organisation, etc.**
    - The Agency is responsible for formulating cyber doctrine, strategy, and policy for the defense forces. It also conducts **joint training, exercises, and operations in the cyber domain.**
- **[Indian Computer Emergency Response Team \(CERT-In\):](#)**
  - This is the national nodal agency for responding to **cyber security incidents and providing cyber security services** to various sectors.
- **[National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre \(NCIIPC\):](#)**
  - This is the national agency for protecting the **critical information infrastructure of the country**, such as power, banking, defense, etc.
- **[Cyber Swachhta Kendra \(Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre\):](#)**
  - This is a platform for detecting and cleaning infected devices and providing **malware analysis reports.**

## Way Forward

- Develop a **comprehensive cybersecurity strategy** that integrates the **CCOSWs with other cybersecurity capabilities** across the Indian Armed Forces, to ensure seamless coordination and effective response to cyber-attacks.
- Continue to **invest in modern communication systems and networks**, while also prioritizing cybersecurity training and awareness programs for all personnel within the Indian Army to ensure they are equipped with the **necessary skills** to identify and **respond to cyber threats.**
- **Regularly review and update the cybersecurity policies** and procedures in light of emerging security scenarios, to ensure the Indian Army remains prepared to tackle cyber threats in the future.

## **Prelims**

**Q.1 In India, under cyber insurance for individuals, which of the following benefits are generally covered, in addition to payment for the loss of funds and other benefits? (2020)**

1. Cost of restoration of the computer system in case of malware disrupting access to one's computer
2. Cost of a new computer if some miscreant wilfully damages it, if proved so
3. Cost of hiring a specialised consultant to minimise the loss in case of cyber extortion
4. Cost of defence in the Court of Law if any third party files a suit

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (b)**

**Q2. In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents? (2017)**

1. Service providers
2. Data centres
3. Body corporate

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 1 and 2 only  
(c) 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (d)**

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## **Mains**

**Q.** What are the different elements of cyber security? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy. **(2022)**

**[Source: TH](#)**