CYBER KUSHTI 2026

Prelims: *Current events of national and international relations*

Why in news?

CYBER KUSHTI 2026 a national Cybersecurity and AI Hackathon launched recently.

- **Launched by** – National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT).
- **Nodal ministry –** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Conducted in collaboration with** – ISAC Foundation under the National Security Database (NSD) with CERT-In as Knowledge Partner.
- **Focuses on** – *human judgment in cybersecurity*, rather than only detecting vulnerabilities.
- Teams will receive a security assessment containing genuine, false, duplicate and missed vulnerabilities generated through different security tools and AI systems.
- Participants must *identify real threats, reject false findings, prioritise risks and justify their decisions*.
    - Participants may use AI tools of their choice.
- The competition has **3 rounds**:
    - **Round 1 - Akhada –** Online round on 15 September; 50 teams qualify.
    - **Round 2 - Dangal –** Online round on 24 September; 10 teams qualify for the final.
    - **Final round - Kesari –** Final on 9 October at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- The final will compare machine-generated analysis with human judgment.
- **Participation** – free and open to students and independent researchers in teams of three.
- **Recognition** – The winner will receive the title **"Cyber Kesari 2026"**.
    - while runners-up will be recognised as **"Rustam" and "Pahalwan."**
    - Participants will receive certificates and scorecards, while teams progressing beyond Round 1 will receive **NSD recognition credits**.
- The final will be held as part of the 3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics and Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026).

Quick facts

Key organisations

• **NIELIT** – Autonomous scientific society under MeitY.
  - Focuses on E&ICT skill development and digital empowerment.
• **ISAC Foundation** – It is a registered not-for-profit cybersecurity foundation operating as a Section 8 organisation in India
  - Focused on Cyber Security, AI and professional ethics.
• **National Security Database (NSD) –** Professional recognition and certification initiative for information-security practitioners.
• **CERT-In** – National agency for responding to cybersecurity incidents and Knowledge Partner for the hackathon.

Reference

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