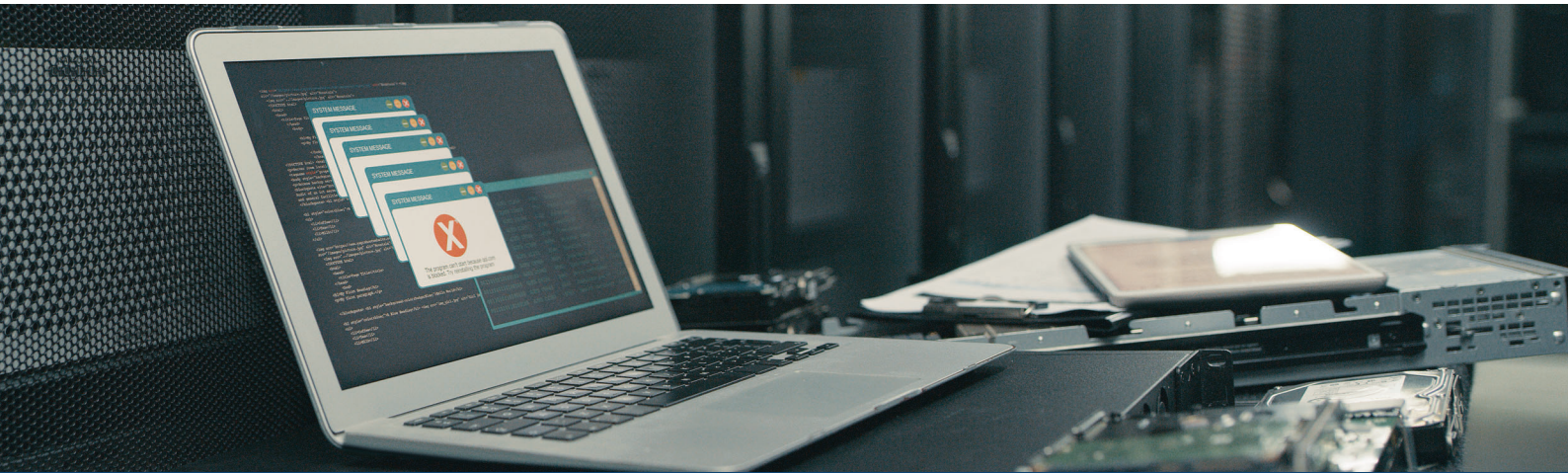


# Mandatory Cyber Incident Guidelines by the MeitY

On April 28, 2022, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued directions to be followed in case of a cyber-attack/cyber event. These directions are effective from June 28, 2022.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Mandatory CERT-In notification within six hours after the discovery of specified cyber incidents
- Incidents to be reported include, inter alia, targeted scanning of the network, compromise of critical systems, unauthorised access to IT systems/ social media accounts, malicious code, phishing, identity theft, spoofing, DoS, DDoS, attack on applications, data breach/leak
- Organisations bound by the directions are service providers, intermediaries, data centres, corporate bodies, and government organisations ('specified entities')
- Reporting via email (incident@cert-in.org.in), phone (1800-11-4949), and fax (1800-11-6969)
- Specified entities to designate a point of contact to interface with CERT-In, and such information to be sent to CERT-In in the prescribed format and updated from time to time
- Specified entities to mandatorily enable logs of all their ICT systems and maintain them securely for a rolling period of 180 days, within the Indian jurisdiction, and to be shared with CERT-In along with reporting of any incident or when ordered/ directed by CERT-In
- Specified entities to connect to the Network Time Protocol (NTP) server of National Informatics Centre (NIC) or National Physical Laboratory (NPL) or with NTP servers traceable to these NTP servers, for synchronisation of all their ICT systems clocks
- Failure to furnish the information or non-compliance with the directions may invite punitive action under Section 70B(7) of the IT Act, 2000 and other laws, including imprisonment for up to 1 year or a fine up to INR 1 lac or both



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The complete list of incidents required to be notified is annexed to the directions. The list is fairly exhaustive, and the directions are aimed at increasing transparency on cyber incidents and better communication of information to the CERT-In. Given the mandate also extends to service providers, corporate bodies, and government organisations, it is a widely applicable circular with a larger pool of companies being bound by the directions. The punitive consequences, albeit relatively lower, do add to the risk arising out of a cyber incident. It is advisable to incorporate these guidelines into your organisation's cyber response plan.

**Do reach out to our cyber experts to know more about cyber policies and how cyber insurance can be used as an effective risk transfer tool.**

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