

# With rise in online crimes, need to create cyber warriors: CM

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**Panaji:** There is a 6% rise in cybercrime in the country and cyber criminals are a few steps ahead by using the latest technology in cyber space, chief minister Pramod Sawant on Friday said.

The need of the hour is to create cyber warriors to combat cybercrime, he said.

“Cybercrimes are not easy to investigate because the crime scene exists in the digital world, and therefore there is a great demand for skilled professionals in this area. It is clear that cybersecurity and digital forensics are integral to national security,” the chief minister said at the inaugural of the International Conference on Information Security, Privacy and Digital Forensics (ICISPD 2022) at BITS.

Sawant said cybercrimes can be broadly classified into three types — first is crimes against people, for example,



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cyber harassment or stalking, credit card fraud, identity theft and online defamation, second category is crimes against property, for example, hacking, virus transmission and copyright infringement, and the third is crimes against government which mainly include hacking, accessing confidential information, cyber warfare and cyber terrorism.

“Crimes against the government are considered an

attack on that nation’s sovereignty,” he said.

Sawant said that it is alarming that cyber crime cases have steadily spiked since 2018. “There have been several reports of data breaches in the recent past. Security of personal, organisational and government information is not completely secure. One of the reasons is that the offenders who commit cybercrimes have been a few steps ahead by utilising the latest tech-

nology to commit crime in cyberspace,” he said.

The second reason is lack of education and awareness among the people about the technology and online scams, Sawant said.

“In order to confront the challenge of cyber threats in all aspects effectively there is a need of awareness, knowledge and skills about the emerging trends of cybercrimes and training in the latest technologies of cybersecurity and computer forensics,” the chief minister said.

Sawant said even children are using online tools for learning or playing online games. “It is very important to make them aware of the consequences of careless use of technology. The importance of comprehensively addressing social media privacy issues cannot be underestimated. The challenge calls for skilled experts,” he said.