

# CYBER GUARDIAN

## PUBLICATION FOR YOUR ONLINE SAFETY

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### Sri Lanka Showcases Unified Commitment to Cyber Resilience at Annual Conference

Sri Lanka CERT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Economy, successfully hosted the 16th National Cyber Security Conference on 12 November 2025 at Water's Edge, Battaramulla. The event, held under the theme “Building a Trusted and Cyber Resilient Nation,” brought together more than 400 participants representing government, private sector, academia, industry, and civil society.

This year's conference focused on “Shaping Policy, Enabling Practice, and Strengthening National Response Capacity,” signaling the country's commitment to advancing digital trust, strengthening cyber preparedness, and fostering national resilience in the face of rising cyber threats.

The event marked a significant step forward in promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration an essential component in enhancing institutional capacity, raising public awareness, and shaping responsible digital innovation for the future.

### The conference featured notable guest speakers

Deputy Minister of Digital Economy Eng. Eranga Weeraratne addressed the gathering on the importance of public trust in digital systems, while Mr. Waruna Sri Dhanapala, Acting Secretary of the Ministry, delivered the opening remarks emphasizing cybersecurity as a driver of economic growth and global competitiveness. Mr. Thilak Pathirage, Chairman of Sri Lanka CERT, officially welcomed participants.



The conference featured notable guest speakers, including Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya, Chief Advisor to the President on Digital Economy and Chairman of ICTA, and Mr. Chris Gibson, Executive Director/CEO of FIRST. Their speeches highlighted the need for strengthened accountability, inter-sector coordination, and enhanced national incident response capacity.

Dr. Kanishka Karunasena, Acting CEO of Sri Lanka CERT, provided an update on the implementation of Sri Lanka's National Cyber Security Strategy, while keynote speaker Takafumi Kadono, ADB Country Director for Sri Lanka, discussed global cyber security trends shaping national readiness.



### FIRST.Org's Executive Director Visits the CERT Office

Chris Gibson, the Executive Director and CEO of FIRST.Org, visited the Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT) office at BMICH On November 14, while attending the National Cyber Security Conference in Sri Lanka and praised the team's performance. He met with senior staff members at the CERT office and learned about the Center's efforts to defend the country's cyberspace against cyber attacks. furthermore, he examines the activities at the National Cyber Security Operations Center.



## 200 Police Officers Trained in Cybercrime Prevention in Nuwara Eliya

A group of nearly 200 police officers from the Nuwara Eliya and Hatton Divisions took part in a two-day intensive training program focused on combating online crime. The program was conducted by the Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team (Sri Lanka CERT) with the aim of strengthening the capacity of law enforcement to address emerging cyber threats.

The sessions highlighted critical areas such as social media related crimes, handling digital evidence, and best practices in cyber investigations. Officers were also given the opportunity to share real world insights from their field experience, fostering a valuable exchange of practical knowledge.

According to organizers, the initiative is expected to significantly enhance the preparedness of police officers in dealing with modern cyber challenges and safeguarding the public from online crime.



## Avoid messages about “winning” government financial grants.

Several individuals have started receiving messages from fraudsters who display themselves as from government bodies such as Electricity Board. These scammers persuade them that they have won a financial award and to obtain the reward share their personnel information through a particular link.

These fraudsters steal money from their accounts once they provide their personal information, including bank account information and OTP. We urge public to avoid responding to any messages claiming you’ve won a financial award from a government agency and share their personal details.

**Avoid responding to any messages claiming you've won a financial award from a government agency.**  
Do not click on links in such false messages.

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## Beware of Scams in Disaster Relief

After the largest and most devastating natural disaster Sri Lanka has faced, several fraudsters have begun collecting money by pretending to seek public donations for victims. Authorities urge the public to be cautious and verify all relief appeals before contributing, as scammers are exploiting the tragedy for personal gain.

## Rebuilding Sri Lanka Fund

Cabinet approval has been granted to establish the “Rebuilding” Sri Lanka’ Fund, aimed at reconstructing the country following the terrible devastation caused by Cyclone ‘Ditwah’, one of the deadliest natural catastrophes in Sri Lanka’s recent history. The Fund is to be established as a statutory fund under the Presidential Secretariat.

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