Finalists To Compete At The Cyber Security Games To Be Held In November

Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW) is the biggest event of its kind organized by students. The event was founded 13 years ago by the NYU Tandon School of Engineering and 2016 is the first time the event has expanded its scope to include India and the Middle East.

CSAW has multiple events spread over three days (November 10-13, 2016) and Capture The Flag (CTF) is one of the cornerstone challenges. Remote players from around the world are given problems at the preliminary stage, after qualifying which they move on the final round.

The preliminary round this year was held on 6:30pm, September 16 (US Eastern time) as part of which a system with a number of cyber security vulnerabilities was set up at NYU Tandon School of Engineering. The contestants were given a fixed time to find those security lapses and fix them to move ahead with the challenge.

Over 2,000 teams from around the world had participated in the preliminary stage of which 70 were from India. The logistics of those participating from India were handled by Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. The highest-scoring Indian team ranked 40th worldwide.

Out of the 15 teams from across India who qualified for the final stage, 12 have been chosen based on their satisfying the participating criteria (only undergraduate level students could participate in the challenge). These chosen teams are affiliated to institutes from across country such as Amrita University, IIT Roorkee, IIIT Delhi, NIT Karnataka, IIT Kanpur, IIIT Allahabad and IIT Indore.

The finalists will be travelling to IIT Kanpur for the worldwide CTF finals held November 10-13. Apart from the CTF winners, there will also be awards for the 3 teams from India who score the highest.

Speaking on the fact that this is the first time India has participated in CSAW, Prof Sandeep Shukla, Coordinator of CSAW at IIT Kanpur, said, "*CSAW@IITK is a first of its kind cyber security awareness event in India, thanks to our partnership with the New York University's Tandon School of Engineering where this annual event over the past 10 years have been successful in cultivating interest in cyber security among students at various levels – from high school to graduate school. This is the first time this is happening in India, and we at IIT Kanpur are very happy to organize it for Indian participants. For the first year, a 70-team participation in the CTF is quite good but as more colleges and institutes learn from this year's events, we expect the participation to grow multi-fold in the next few years. From the preliminary rounds, we were able to identify the institutes that have a culture of CTF participation, and we will try to pivot on them to grow the interest in other institutes in the coming year. IIT Kanpur has been a pioneer in Computer Science education in India since the 1960s, and we plan to pioneer the Cyber Security Education in India and this event is part of that vision.*"

Apart from CTF, the three days will also have an Embedded Systems Challenge, the Applied Research Competition where students will present papers, a policy competition in which

participants will present policy recommendations for cyber security and a quiz to create awareness about cyber security. On the sidelines of these events, there will also be a workshop on cyber security and a job fair with companies looking to hire cyber security professionals.

For the schedule and other information, click [here](#).