

## **Capacity Building Workshop Report**

### **Cyber Security Capacity Building Workshop for MSMEs in India June 17, 2025, Barpeta, Assam**

CUTS International, in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Assam, organised a cybersecurity workshop for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Barpeta on 17 June 2025. Supported by The Asia Foundation and Google.org under the APAC Cybersecurity Fund initiative, the workshop aimed to enhance MSMEs' digital resilience by building their capacity to identify, prevent, and respond to cybersecurity threats.

The workshop witnessed the participation of 110 individuals, including entrepreneurs and workers from various parts of the Barpeta district. Attendees represented a wide range of sectors, including garments, food processing, dairy, stationery, handicrafts, and other local industries, reflecting the diverse economic landscape of the region.



Shri Subham Ghosh, Programme Associate, CUTS International, began the session by welcoming the distinguished guest and participants. This was followed by brief remarks by Shri Jayanta Bora, Additional District Commissioner, Barpeta, and Sri Pranjan Rajmedhi, General Manager, DICC, Barpeta

Shri Jayanta Bora, Additional District Commissioner of Barpeta, highlighted the increasing vulnerability of MSMEs, particularly in

districts like Barpeta, to cyber threats such as phishing, ransomware, and data breaches. He attributed this growing risk to the limited technical capacity and low levels of cybersecurity awareness among small business operators. Emphasising the urgent need for targeted interventions, he noted that as MSMEs increasingly transition to digital platforms, strengthening their cyber resilience has become imperative. The workshop was designed to address this need by providing participants with essential knowledge, practical tools, and preventive strategies. By promoting cybersecurity awareness and safe digital practices, the initiative aims to enhance the preparedness of MSMEs in Barpeta to effectively mitigate emerging cyber risks.

The cybersecurity workshop attracted 110 participants, with a significant majority (80 attendees) representing MSMEs and the remaining comprising representatives from NGOs, business associations, and related organisations. The participants were predominantly between the ages of 35 and 42, with most having completed at least secondary education. A significant lack of awareness regarding cybersecurity threats emerged during the sessions, although three participants shared that they had previously encountered cyberattacks.

The workshop focused on building cybersecurity awareness among MSME owners, staff, and business partners by covering a broad spectrum of digital threats, from obvious dangers to often-ignored weak points. Through engaging and interactive sessions, participants were introduced to core cybersecurity practices such as using strong passwords, backing up data regularly, updating software on time, and managing digital assets effectively. To keep the sessions lively and reinforce key takeaways, quizzes were held at the end of each segment, with participants actively responding and receiving prizes for correct answers. This format not only deepened understanding but also created an energetic, hands-on atmosphere that promoted real-world application of cybersecurity practices.

Analysis of participants' feedback after the workshop illustrated that 80 of them (72 per cent) rated the workshop as highly relevant and expressed strong appreciation for the quality of the content and the practical value of the case studies presented. 76 participants (69 per cent) termed their experience as positive and indicated interest in attending future cybersecurity workshops.

One of the participants shared an incident where they received a phone call claiming they had won a large sum of money through a lottery. The caller requested personal details, including bank account information and identity proof, under the pretext of transferring the prize amount. However, the participant grew suspicious of the caller's intent, as the offer seemed too good to be true and resembled common scam tactics discussed in cybersecurity awareness campaigns. Acting with caution, the participant refrained from sharing any personal information and immediately disconnected the call. The incident was later reported to the cybercrime authorities. This case highlights the importance of being alert and sceptical of unsolicited calls promising financial rewards, reinforcing the practical benefits of cybersecurity awareness.

## **Workshop Glimpses of the training sessions and Group Photo**







## Media Coverage

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/cyber-security-workshop-msmes-barpeta-digital-resilience-1230928-2025-06-18>

<https://nenews.in/assam/cybersecurity-workshop-enhances-msme-awareness-in-assams-barpeta/27409/>

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/assam/assam-cyber-security-capacity-building-workshop-held-in-barpeta-4092446>

<https://www.facebook.com/100067105832166/posts/1038685035045015/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v>

<https://www.facebook.com/100083927802142/posts/696002736540647/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6>

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