REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024 - 25

Good day ladies and gentlemen:

It's my pleasure to place before you the Honorary Secretary's report on our Chapter activities for the year Apr 2024 – Mar 25. I want to highlight all our Chapter's key achievements and updates to you as part of the report. I want to start my speech quoting this famous Thiru Kural which resonates our chapter board members' dedication to serve our community knowledge upliftment.

Those who never get tired of striving undauntedly, shall leave even Fate behind.

1. Membership Renewal

We are happy to state that our chapter membership stands at 1665 active members as of 9th Sep 2025 with a renewal of 75.98% Member base with ISACA Certifications stands at 1632 (98%).

The renewal percentage for the past three years are:

- **2025 Renewal Percentage:** **75.98 %**
- **2024 Renewal Percentage:** **70.62 %**
- **2023 Renewal Percentage:** **76.40 %**

2. Chapter Compliance Updates

On compliance matters, our Chapter compliance reporting is up to date with the following completed:

1. Monthly GST Filing
2. Statutory requirements of 'The Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975' including mandatory submission to Registrar of Societies
3. Filing of Annual Income Tax Returns
4. Annual ISACA Global Reporting

3. Chapter Activities

Now coming to our regular activities, I would like to describe them under the following major heads

I. Professional Development activities comprising monthly meetings, certification meets, workshops, seminars, and annual conference.
II. Education initiatives which include exam review courses, training programs, and student bodies.
III. Marketing, engagement with academic institutions, and associations with other professional bodies and stakeholders.

I. MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS (PDM's)

We host monthly PDMs featuring industry experts discussing topics like IoT Essentials, Resilience Organizations, CI/CD Pipeline Management, Information Security, IT Audit, Cybersecurity, Risk Management, AI, Data Privacy, and Third-Party Risk. These meetings are well-attended. We also hold quarterly in-person PDMs to enhance member networking. The registration and CPE certificate processes are efficient, allowing instant certificate downloads post-meeting.

During the last quarter of 2023, ISACA Chennai Chapter kickstarted an innovative quarterly "Digital Trust" a theme-based Professional Development Meeting (PDM) journey. The Enlightening Quarterly Series (EQS), presented by the ISACA Chennai Chapter, is a significant initiative. Each quarter, the series explores a different aspect of digital trust through themed events. These monthly professional development meetings include in-depth learning sessions and case study-based breakout

discussions, fostering continuous engagement and learning for chapter members. Our EQS journey for the last few quarters includes the following theme and topics.

Q1 (Apr-Jun'24): IoT Essentials: Foundations, Pillars, and Opportunities
Q2 (Jul-Sep'24): Shaping Resilient Organizations
Q3 (Oct-Dec'24): Securing the Pipeline: Threat Modeling in Modern CI/CD
Q4 (Jan-Mar'25): Beyond Continuity: Mastering the Art of Resilience

1. 13th April 2024 - EQS #3 – Session 1: IoT Essentials: Foundations, Pillars, and Opportunities
2. 11th May 2024 - EQS #3 – Session 2: IoT Essentials: Foundations, Pillars, and Opportunities
3. 8th Jun 2024 - EQS #3 – Session 3: IoT Essentials: Foundations, Pillars, and Opportunities
4. 27th Jul 2024 - EQS 4: Session 1: July 2024 PDM – Shaping Resilient Organizations
5. 24th Aug 2024 - EQS 4: Session 2: Aug 2024 PDM – Shaping Resilient Organizations
6. 28th Sep 2024 - EQS 4: Session 3: Sep 2024 PDM – Shaping Resilient Organizations
7. 26th Oct 2024 - EQS 5: Session 1: Oct 2024 PDM – Securing the Pipeline: Threat Modeling in Modern CI/CD
8. 9th Nov 2024 - EQS 5: Session 2: Nov 2024 PDM – Securing the Pipeline: Threat Modeling in Modern CI/CD
9. 14th Dec 2024 - EQS 5: Session 3: Dec 2024 PDM – Securing the Pipeline: Threat Modeling in Modern CI/CD Pipeline
10. 11th Jan 2025 - EQS 6: Session 1: Jan 2025 PDM – Beyond Continuity: Mastering the Art of Resilience
11. 8th Feb 2025 - EQS 6: Session 2: Feb 2025 PDM – Beyond Continuity: Mastering the Art of Resilience
12. 8th Mar 2025 - EQS 6: Session 3: March 2025 PDM – Beyond Continuity: Mastering the Art of Resilience.

We actively engage our members through social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Twitter, enhancing our outreach and member interaction.

II. REVIEW CLASSES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS
ISACA Chennai Chapter consistently offers insights into emerging areas and current topics by organizing relevant seminars and conferences.

1. 29th Jun - ISO 42001:2023 Five Days Lead Implementer Program Non IRCA – Jun 29, 30, July 6, 7 and 8

   The program established guidelines for managing Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems responsibly and effectively.
   a. Provide a Framework for AI Management: It offered a structured approach for members to implement, operate, and maintain an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS), ensuring AI technologies are managed systematically.
   b. Ensure Responsible AI Use: The standard promoted the ethical, transparent, and accountable use of AI, addressing issues like data privacy, bias mitigation, and security to build trust among stakeholders.
   c. Enhance AI System Performance: By setting best practices for AI system development and operation, this program helped members improve the reliability, effectiveness, and quality of AI solutions.
   d. Facilitate Compliance and Risk Management: The standard supported organizations in meeting legal, regulatory, and societal requirements, while also identifying and mitigating risks associated with AI systems.
   e. Support Continuous Improvement: ISO 42001 encourages ongoing evaluation and improvement of AI systems, fostering innovation and adaptability in response to evolving technological and market demands.
   f. Overall, this program helped in managing AI systems in a way that maximizes benefits while minimizing risks and negative impacts.

2. 12th, 13th and 14th Sep 2024 - ISACA Chennai Conference 2024

   With the theme of "Redefining Digital Trust in the AI Era" with the tagline Strategic | Secure | Sustainable

   As we delve deeper into the Artificial Intelligence (AI) era, the exchange between technology and trust has become a cornerstone of digital strategy. The "Redefining Digital Trust in the AI Era" conference was an essential convergence of global experts, innovators, policymakers, and industry leaders aimed at tackling one of the most pressing issues of

our times—building and maintaining trust in digital and AI-driven systems.

The conference addressed the multi-faceted challenges of digital trust through a comprehensive agenda that spans strategic planning, cybersecurity, and sustainable AI practices. Attendees will gain insights into:

1) Policy and Governance: How can we develop effective policies that govern AI without stifling innovation? What roles do transparency and accountability play in enhancing trust?
2) Ethics and Compliance: As AI systems become more autonomous, the ethical implications grow. We'll explore how organizations can navigate the complex terrain of AI ethics and compliance.
3) Technology and Innovation: With the rapid advancement of AI technologies, keeping security measures and trust mechanisms up to date is a challenge. This track will showcase the latest innovations that are setting new standards in AI security and trustworthiness.
4) Impact and Implementation: Understanding the real-world impact of AI and trust frameworks on business operations and society at large is vital. Discussions will focus on case studies and practical implementations that have successfully bridged the trust gap in digital environments.

ICC 2024 took place at Hotel Feathers on September 13-14, with pre-conference workshops on September 12.

3. 23rd Nov 2024 - One Day Seminar on Cyber Security Attitudes and Behavior Report and DTEF Primer
   a. The National Cyber Security Alliance (CYBSAFE) released its 2024 Cyber Security Attitudes and Behavior Report. This session will concisely summarize the report, breaking down its eight parts and presenting four key approaches and recommendations to improve cybersecurity by Dr. Rama K Subramaniam
   b. ISACA Digital Trust Ecosystem Framework Primer by Sriram Srinivasan

4. 21st Dec 2024 - One Day Seminar on SEBI Cyber Security and Cyber Resilience Framework
    a. To enhance the cybersecurity posture of its regulated entities (REs) and ensure the integrity and stability of India's financial markets, SEBI designed the Cyber Security and Cyber Resilience Framework (CSCRF). It categorizes REs based on their scale and mandates tailored requirements for governance, risk identification, protection, detection, response, and recovery. The framework introduces a Cyber Capability Index (CCI) for maturity assessment, emphasizes third-party risk management, and requires robust incident response mechanisms. Compliance deadlines are set for early 2025, reinforcing global best practices in cybersecurity and investor confidence.

5. 1st Mar 2025 – Chapter Annual Members' Day (Earlier called as Founders' Day)

Members' Day, previously called Founders' Day, is the inimitable celebration of the Chennai Chapter. The day for each of us to gather as friends and families, recall the contribution of our founders' and past presidents & volunteers of the chapter and enjoy a session of general interest is here.

Members' Day was on March 1st, (Saturday) at Hotel Palmgrove.

Health and wellness are two words that appear to be synonymous and mean the same to most of us. Despite their similarity, health and wellness are distinct concepts that, in practical application, should enhance each other. Health is a goal; wellness is the same goal with embedded activities towards the goal. In short, wellness is the active pursuit to bring a distance closer and is a reiteration of powerful and beneficial daily habits. Good habits lead to good health; wellness is both the path to and the progress of good habits.

Eminent public speaker Dr. Sudha Seshayyan address our august gathering at the Member's day about Health and Welness. Dr. Sudha is a multifaceted professional: a medical doctor, teacher, administrator, educationist, spiritual scholar, Tamil & Sanskrit literary resource, author, and media personality. An alumna of Madras Medical College, she also holds qualifications in public administration and hospital management. As a former Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, she

has over three decades of teaching experience. Sudha is a sought-after resource in medical sciences, science communication, Indian knowledge systems, and value systems.

6. 20th Mar 2025 - India CIO Summit 2025

ISACA Chennai Chapter has supported Association Partner for the India CIO Summit 2025 happened at ITC Grand Chola on Mar 20 and 21, 2025.

The 2025 edition of the India CIO Summit featured a stellar lineup of C-suite executives, influential analysts, industry thought leaders, international speakers, and market-leading solution providers. Together, they discussed AI's role as the leading technology enabler of business strategy and the endless potential it provides enterprises across the region. This premier gathering of ICT experts examined the industry's hottest topics, trends, and challenges, providing essential guidance on adapting to an unpredictable business landscape, implementing new business models, and scaling massively in the AI-powered digital economy.

7. Oct 2024 - ISACA CommunITy day Health Walk 🚶 🌳

This time, we celebrated ISACA Community Day on first Saturday of October by organizing a health walk! Here were the locations explored:

- Besant Nagar Beach – Walking along the GCC-designed health walk route
- Anna Nagar Tower Park
- T. Nagar (Sir Thyagaraya Road aka Pondy Bazaar)
- KK Nagar Park
- Sholinganallur Junction to ECR Kalaignar Karunanidhi Road

ISACA Volunteers gathered at 6 AM at these locations for a 30–45-minute walk as a group. We partnered with SankalpTaru.org to plant trees on behalf of members who sign up. For a nominal fee, a tree has been planted in member's name, and the member's received a certificate with a QR code, allowing them to track your tree's growth over time.

The Chennai Chapter, known for its strong volunteering culture, proudly supported this global initiative by ISACA.

8. Chapter Certification Training and Review Programs

ISACA Chennai Chapter has been a pioneer in conducting review programs and expanding the ISACA certified community for over 3 decades. The baton has passed many times, but the successful journey never stops and it will continue forever. All thanks to our Chennai Chapter and our member continuity. We are also proud to state that approximately 30% of participants enroll are outside the state and country. ISACA Chennai Chapter conducts ATP Accredited certification review programs and helped many clear CISA, CISM, CRISC and CGEIT certifications. Last financial year, we had conducted 6 training programs and trained 61 professionals.

The following is our statistical table on ISACA Certifications training/Programs conducted on Virtual and Physical mode:

Certification Course	Month/Year	Participants
CRISC	March-April 2024	11
CISA	May-June 2024	10
CISA	July 2024	10
CGEIT	December 2024	6
CISM	February 2025	6
CISA	March 2025	18
Total		61

III. MARKETING, ENGAGEMENT WITH EDUCATIONAL & OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES

➢ MARKETING

To create visibility for ISACA and our Chapter, we have ordered ISACA Chennai logo embossed merchandised kits through ISACA Global for our chapter activity contributors. This marketing program is 100% supported by ISACA Global.

4. Chapter social media and Website related

ISACA Chennai Chapter is among one of the most active social media handles having highly active follower base on all major social media platforms. We have a LinkedIn Company page, Facebook Page, a YouTube Channel. The current Number of subscribers in our channels along with last year details are in the table below:

Social media	Current AGM (2025)	Previous AGM (2024)
LinkedIn	4983	4000
Facebook	1436	1400
YouTube	653	631
X	488	493
Instagram	223	210
WhatsApp	998	808

We are making all efforts to improve the effectiveness of our social media presence.

5. SIG (Special Interest Group)

Program Purpose

The Special Interest Group (SIG) within the ISACA Chennai Chapter is a dedicated community that focuses on sharing knowledge on specific areas of professional interests. The focused learning initiatives aim to enhance members' professional opportunities as they integrate the knowledge acquired onto their work deliverables. By fostering professional development, the SIG benefits its members and has far-reaching implications for the broader industry. Together, we learn to leap ahead.

Program Management

The development of the SIGs began with the identification of 3 broad topics during 2024 and thereafter broadening the spectrum with the 4th topic during 2025:

SIG 1: Emerging Technologies-AI & IoT (Bi-monthly)
SIG 2: Data Privacy (Bi-monthly)
SIG 3: Security Operations (Bi-monthly)
SIG 4: Prompt Engineering (Bi-monthly)

These topics were communicated to chapter members, along with a form to indicate their preferred area of learning. Approximately 100 members expressed interest and around 80 members committed to dedicating 8 to 10 hours per month to their chosen SIG stream. The leaders from the prior year largely continued except for minor changes.

To ensure effective communication, communication groups were created for each SIG, enabling seamless interaction among group members and leaders. Meeting frequencies were largely bi-monthly among groups, with the week specifications depending on the interests and availability of their members. Attendance was tracked and submitted to the Director-SIG, and group meeting calendars were diligently scheduled by the leaders and shared with members. Through these efforts, the program gradually took root, establishing itself as a disciplined and effective learning initiative among the members.

The Director of the Special Interest Group (SIG) presented a clear mandate across all three groups: members were encouraged to actively research and present on topics they were eager to learn, with support and guidance from their respective leaders.

Over the past six months, the learning calendar for the four SIG groups has reflected the dedication and enthusiasm of the participating members. The pace of learning has been driven by the members' interests and involvement, with various individuals taking the lead in presenting their insights during sessions.

Our concentrated efforts had been recognized by ISACA Global by conferring the Innovative Chapter award to ISACA Chennai Chapter for the SIG initiative during 2025.

The prestigious award was presented at the North America Conference held during mid of May 2025 and received by our President Mr. Vaidyanathan Chandramouli. The award was showcased to all our members during a special in person session held at Hotel Maris on June 28, 2025. SIG has truly been a journey of its kind with rich learnings both on professional and member engagement spheres.

Date	Session Topic	Sig Ref	Month
25/01/25	Initial Kick off meeting Privacy group	Privacy SIG	Jan 25
26/01/25	Initial Kick off meeting Prompt Engineering	Prompt Engineering SIG	Jan 25
08/02/25	Importance of Data Subject Access Rights [DSAR]	Privacy SIG	Feb 25
09/02/25	Basics of Prompt	Prompt Engineering SIG	Feb 25
16/02/25	Initial kick off + Containerisation and Virtualisation	SecOps SIG	Feb 25
22/02/25	Introduction to AI	AI SIG	Feb 25
22/02/25	Data Localization and Sovereignty	Privacy SIG	Feb 25
23/02/25	Techniques in Prompt Engineering - part I	Prompt Engineering SIG	Feb 25
02/03/25	Securing Software Supply Chain	SecOps SIG	Mar 25
08/03/25	International Women's Day Impact of Privacy due to AI Implementation	Privacy SIG	Mar 25
09/03/25	Techniques in Prompt Engineering - part II	Prompt Engineering SIG	Mar 25
15/03/25	NIST AI lifecycle based sessions	AI SIG	Mar 25
16/03/25	Threat Modelling Concept and Walkthrough	SecOps SIG	Mar 25
22/03/25	Critic of erstwhile session	AI SIG	Mar 25
22/03/25	Data Breach Handling – What are the essential items to cover: Pre-Incident, During the Incident and Post incident	Privacy SIG	Mar 25
23/03/25	Amazon Bedrock - Part I	Prompt Engineering SIG	Mar 25
29/03/25	Data Protection Officer [DPO] – How significant is this role's contribution to an organization's Data Privacy Ecosystem	Privacy SIG	Mar 25

6. Research Initiatives

In May 2024, the research wing conducted a survey among members to understand privacy from a consumer's perspective for IoT devices they use. The results of the survey encouraged us to further our studies on the consumers' perspective, albeit on a wider topic of AI and so in March 2025, we decided to take up the theme of "Privacy in AI – the Consumers' perspective" in the following verticals:

1. Banking and Financial Services
2. Telecommunication
3. Healthcare
4. Education and Academia
5. Industrial Operations
6. Retail

We aim to share the outcome of this report and our recommendations there on for implementation of guardrails by institutions, Government and other authorities.

We also wanted to provide a platform for members to showcase their knowledge and writing skills. So, we planned to launch a series of

articles written by members, in the LinkedIn Newsletter of the research wing of ISACA-Chennai, which has about 2002 subscribers at this point.

7. Wrap-up

I want to end my speech with one of my favorite Thiru Kural.

தாளாண்மை என்னும் தகைமைக்கண் தங்கிற்றே
வேளாண்மை என்னுஞ் செருக்கு.   (சூரியங - 613)

Which means,

The pride of being a philanthropist belongs to those Who have that quality called perseverance.

With the new board initiation on this auspicious day, I thank sincerely our 2023-25 board members for their contributions to make our chapter vibrant. I wanted to thank our new board members 2025-27 for a great time ahead towards the welfare of Chapter members.

With this, I place this report before this prestigious body to deliberate and approve.

Balachandar Natarajan
Honorary Secretary
ISACA - Chennai Chapter
26th Sep 2025