Contents

REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY FOR THE FY 2025 - 26 ..... *2*

1. MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS (PDM's) 4
2. WORKSHOPS 5
3. ISACA Chennai Conference 2025 5
4. ISACA Chennai Conference 2026 6
5. Members' Day March 7th, 2026, at Mathsya TNagar 7
6. ISACA Chennai Community Day (October 4, 2025): 8
7. Chapter Certification Training and Review Programs 8
8. SIG (Special Interest Group).....9
9. Research Initiatives 15
10. Academic Focus Group (AFG), Marketing & Other Professional Bodies 17
11. Wrap-up 19

REPORT OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY FOR THE FY 2025 - 26

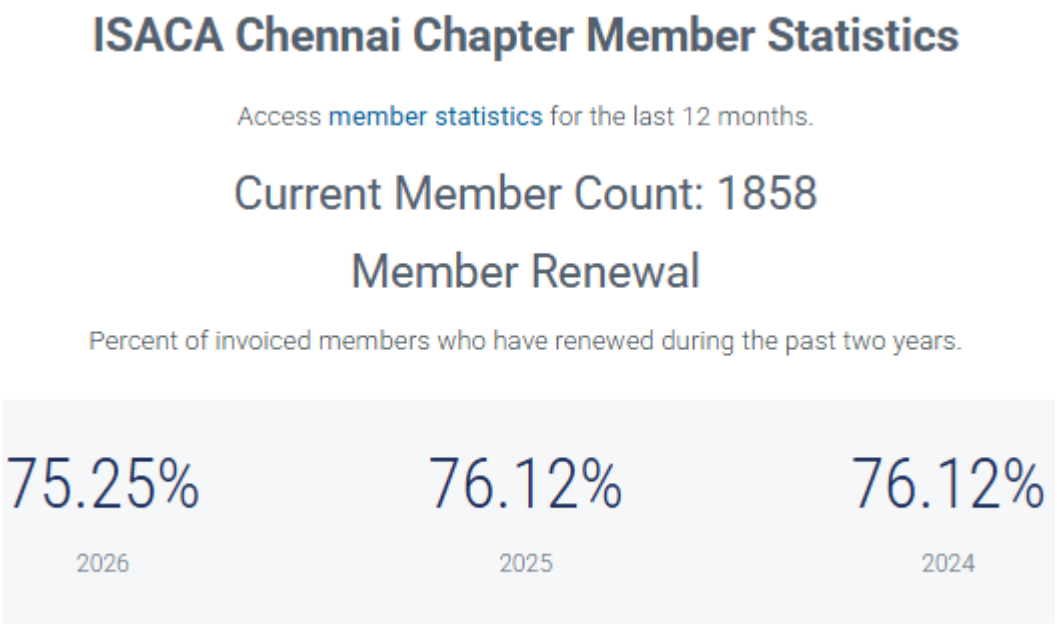
Good evening, ladies and Gentlemen:

It's my pleasure to place before you the Honorary Secretary's report on our Chapter activities for the year Apr 2025 – Sep 2026. I want to highlight our Chapter's key achievements and updates to you as part of the report.

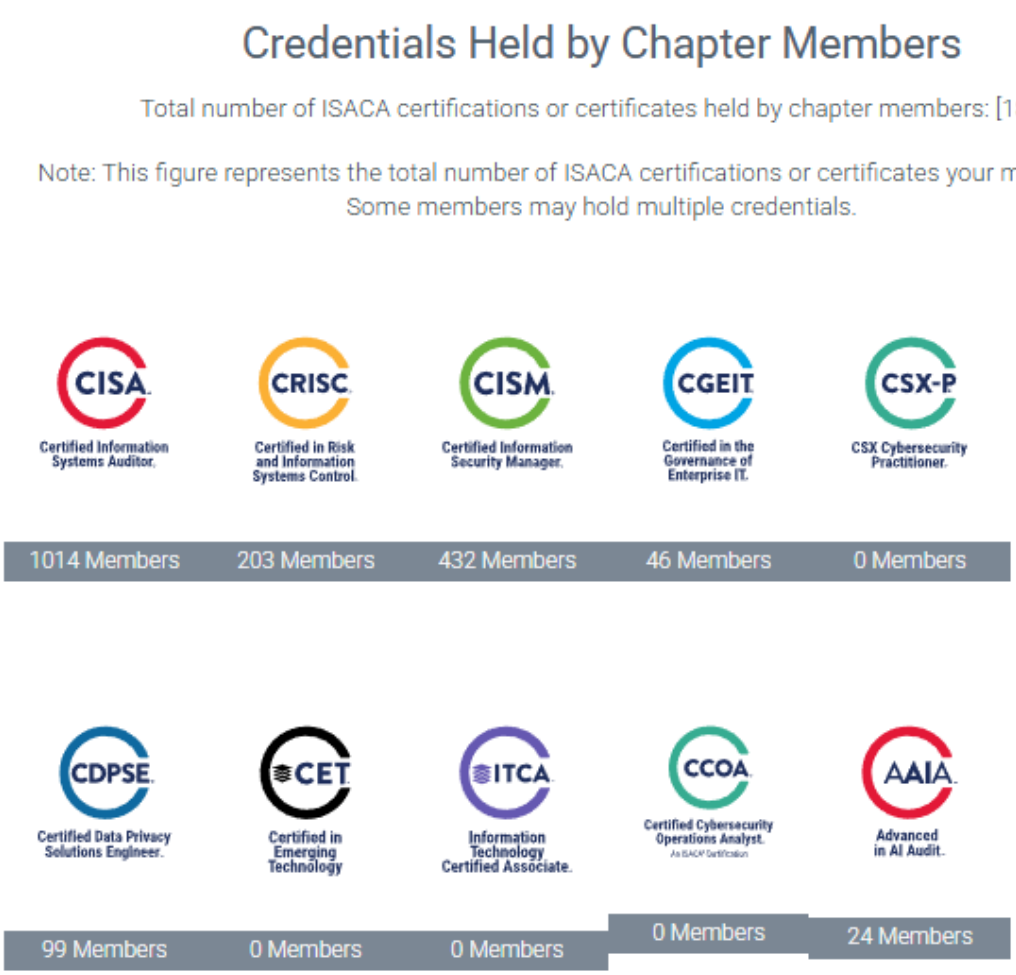
Membership Renewal

We are happy to state that our chapter membership stands at 1858 active members as of 18th Sep 2026 with a renewal of 75.25% Member base with ISACA Certifications stands at 1830 (98.69%).

The renewal percentage for the past three years are:



Credentials Held by Chapter Members



Chapter Compliance Updates

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

- Monthly GST Filing
- Statutory requirements of 'The Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975' including mandatory submission to Registrar of Societies , completed in Nov 2025.
- Filing of Annual Income Tax Returns
- Annual ISACA Global Reporting completed in Nov 2025

Chapter Activities

I would like to describe our regular activities under the following major headings.

- Professional Development activities comprising monthly meetings, workshops, and annual conference.
- Education initiatives include exam review courses, training programs, and student bodies.
- Marketing, engagement with academic institutions, and associations with other professional bodies and stakeholders.
- Research Activities

- SIGs

1. MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS (PDM's)

We host monthly PDMs featuring industry experts, and these meetings are well attended. We also hold quarterly in-person PDMs to enhance member networking.

Continuing the EQS series from last fiscal year, a theme-based Professional Development Meeting (PDM) journey and moving away from the EQS series to non-EQS individual sessions from September 2025. These monthly professional development meetings include in-depth learning sessions fostering continuous engagement and learning for chapter members. Our PDM journey for the last FY includes the following theme and topics.

Q1 (Apr-Jun'25): EQS 7 – TPRM: Building Resiliency and Trust in the Extended Ecosystem

- April 27, 2025, PDM – EQS #7 – Session 1
- May 10, 2025, PDM – EQS #7 – Session 2
- June 14, 2025, PDM – EQS #7 – Session 3

Q2 (Jul- Aug'25): EQS 8 – The Tools Helping Us Govern & Manage Our Enterprise

- Jul 12, 2025, PDM – EQS #8 – Session 1
- Aug 9, 2025, PDM – EQS #8 – Session 2

Non-EQS (Individual Sessions)

1. Sep 27, 2025, PDM - Importance of Dark Web Monitoring for Brand Protection & Reputation
2. Oct 25, 2025, PDM – Walkthrough of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA)
3. Nov 2025 PDM – How to Set Up and Operationalize a Data Privacy Office for a Bank
4. Dec 2025 - Beyond Compliance: Unleashing the Power of Data Governance for Secure & Smart Enterprises
5. Jan 2026 - From Frameworks to Field Reality: Making Risk, Audit, and Compliance Work Together
6. Feb 2026 - First step to AI initiative: Aligning to ISO/IEC 42001:2023 - Relevance and Benefit
7. Mar 2026 - AI Governance in Critical Infrastructure: Telecom Industry Lessons for Managing Risk in the Age of Autonomous Networks
8. Apr 2026 - Physical event at Nandhana Hall in Hotel Swagath | Data Security and Governance in DPDPA context
9. May 2026 - Proactive Security in a Reactive World: Leading from the Front
10. June 2026 - Legal Challenges in AI
11. Jul 2026 - Export Control and Sanctions – Our first tested Hybrid PDM
12. Aug 2026 - Threat Modelling in the AI era

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

2. WORKSHOPS

The ISACA Chennai Chapter consistently provides valuable insights into emerging areas and current topics by hosting relevant seminars and conferences.

2.1 Trustworthy AI: From Global Principles (OECD) to Professional Assurance (ISACA's AAIA Certification) on 28th June 2025: This focused session delved into the OECD's globally recognized AI Principles and introduced ISACA's AAIA certification. It empowered professionals with the knowledge and tools to audit, assess, and assure AI systems responsibly and effectively. This program was designed for those aligning AI innovation with governance and trust.

2.2 One day Virtual Conclave | Dec 2025 | Joint Program by ISACA Chennai and IIA Madras, From Assurance to AI – Insights for the Audit and Cybersecurity Profession.

2.3 Apr 9, 2026: ISO/IEC 42001Artificial Intelligence Management System Lead Implementer Training Course (Non-IRCA), 4 days program for 13 participants (12 members and 1 non-member) offered by ISACA Chennai Chapter in collaboration with DNV, a globally trusted leader in certification and assurance.

2.4 June 13, 2026 - ISO/IEC 42001 Artificial Intelligence Management System Lead Auditor Training Course (Non-IRCA), 5 Days Program for 16 participants (13 members and 3 non-members), offered by ISACA Chennai Chapter in collaboration with DNV, a globally trusted leader in certification and assurance.

2.5 August 28, 2026 - ISO/IEC 42001:2023 Artificial Intelligence Management System Lead Auditor Training Course (Non-IRCA), 5 Days Program for 12 participants (11 members and 1 non-members), offered by ISACA Chennai Chapter in collaboration with DNV, a globally trusted leader in certification and assurance.

3. ISACA Chennai Conference 2025

September 11, 12 and 13 With the theme of "Driving Excellence through People and Innovation." with the tagline Anticipate | Assess | Adapt

In a world shaped by disruptive innovation and human-driven decision-making, Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) were no longer just about processes—they were about people and innovation leading the way. As organizations grappled with technological evolution, cyber threats, regulatory shifts, and climate risks, success lay in empowering leaders, fostering a risk-intelligent culture, and leveraging innovation for resilience.

At ISACA Chennai Conference 2025 (ICC 2025), we brought together risk leaders, cybersecurity professionals, legal experts, board members, and governance specialists to explore how organizations can drive excellence by harnessing People and Innovation in GRC.

Through thought-provoking keynotes, strategic dialogues, and expert panels, the conference redefined how organizations Anticipate, Assess, and Adapt to emerging challenges.

Key Focus Areas:

- People-Driven Governance – Strengthening leadership, accountability, and decision-making
- Innovation & Digital Trust – Building confidence in digital ecosystems
- Strategic Oversight & The Three Lines Model – The Board's role in shaping governance excellence
- Enterprise Risk & Agility – Integrating risk strategy with business transformation
- Cyber Law & Compliance – Adapting to evolving regulatory landscapes
- AI & Emerging Tech – Governing innovation while mitigating AI risks

Through insightful discussions and expert perspectives, we explored:

- How people-centric leadership and culture drive governance excellence
- How innovation transforms risk and compliance into strategic enablers
- How the Three Lines Model strengthens accountability and resilience

ICC 2025 took place at Hotel Hyatt Regency on September 12-13, with pre-conference workshops on September 11.

4. ISACA Chennai Conference 2026

ISACA Chennai Conference 2026 (ICC 2026), themed **"Build. Assure. Trust. (BAT) – Governing Cognitive Intelligence"**, we brought together governance leaders, risk professionals, technologists, policymakers, lawyers, and industry experts to explore how organizations can scale intelligence responsibly while sustaining trust.

Drawing inspiration from the Seven Chakras (Themes for Global Cooperation) from the AI Impact Summit 2026 — spanning data, models, systems, governance, ethics, and societal impact, the conference offered a structured yet holistic lens to navigate the lifecycle of cognitive systems.

A key emphasis was on governing AI, where systems operate with increasing autonomy, demanding new models of oversight, accountability, and control aligned with OECD AI principles.

This conference was anchored in a simple yet powerful idea: **Intelligence must be built with intent, assured with rigor, and trusted through accountability.**

The conference was held on **August 7 & 8** featuring **two parallel tracks,** enabling deeper exploration across governance, risk, security, and innovation. This was complemented by **three pre-conference workshops on August 6**, offering hands-on, practitioner-focused

learning to equip participants with actionable frameworks for governing AI and emerging technologies.

Through thought-provoking keynotes, strategic dialogues, and expert-led sessions, ICC 2026 redefined how organizations approached the lifecycle of intelligent systems balancing innovation with responsibility, autonomy with oversight, and efficiency with ethics in an increasingly AI driven world.

- **Build. Assure. Trust:** was not just a framework, but a shared lens to examine the evolving landscape of cognitive intelligence:

Together, these perspectives moved us beyond technology—into the realm of governed cognitive intelligence, where innovation is balanced with responsibility, and autonomy is guided by control.

This was not about prescribing answers.

It was about asking better questions:

- What does it take to trust intelligent and autonomous systems?
- How do we ensure accountability at scale in an agent-driven world?
- Where does responsibility truly lie when machines begin to decide?

Because the future of intelligence will not be defined by what we build alone – but by what we choose to assure, and ultimately, what we are willing to trust.

5. Members' Day March 7th, 2026, at Mathsya TNagar

Title: So that Illness does not strike again...

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) have become one of the greatest public health challenges of our time. Premature deaths, the rising prevalence of diabetes, and the increasing incidence of cancer—all medical research strongly emphasizes that beyond genetic factors, diet and environment play a crucial role in these conditions. With the growing elderly population and the burden of debilitating diseases affecting people at a younger age, what are the things we should do—and should avoid—in our food choices and lifestyle practices? This talk explores the concerns and considerations essential for a happy and healthy life.

Dr. G. Sivaraman, B.S.M.S., Ph.D., is the Managing Director and Chief Siddha Physician of Arogya Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, with over three decades of experience in Siddha medicine. He founded Arogya Siddha Hospital in 1995, which later evolved into Arogya Healthcare, a leading integrated traditional healthcare organization. A trained Siddha physician and researcher, he actively contributes to national and state health initiatives and serves as a Member of the Tamil

Nadu State Planning Commission. Dr. Sivaraman is also a noted author and public health advocate, widely recognized for his contributions to Siddha medicine, literature, and healthcare policy through several state and national awards.

6. ISACA Chennai Community Day (October 4, 2025):

Community Day Highlights

- **Event Date & Venue**: October 4, 2025, at Mathsya Hotel, T Nagar.
- **Partner Organization**: Wasted 360 Solutions (Wasted Trust).
- **Attendance**: Over 40 members, families, and friends participated.

Keynote & Awareness Session

- **Speaker**: Ms. Ann Anra, Founder of Wasted 360 Solutions.
- **Theme**: Waste as a beginning, not an end - emphasizing sustainability and value creation.

Impact & Initiatives by Wasted Trust

- **ReBirth Collective & Auction to Action**:
  - Diverted **500+ tons of waste**.
  - Empowered **90+ changemakers**.
  - Created livelihoods for women and waste pickers.

Chapter Contributions & Activities

- **Donation**: Chapter and individual member contributions to Wasted Trust.
- **Walkthrough**: Visit to the Regional Waste Collection Centre and thrift store.
- **Lunch**: Shared meal at Mathsya Hotel fostering community bonding.

Responsible Recycling Effort

- **Chapter Office Contribution**: 75+ kgs of e-waste, clothing, cartons, batteries, electrical items, plastics.
- **Logistics**: Materials transported via mini goods van (Porter) to Wasted Trust.

7. Chapter Certification Training and Review Programs

The ISACA Chennai Chapter has consistently delivered accredited certification review programs for over three decades, supporting both local and international participants. In the last financial year alone, eight training sessions helped 61 professionals earn certifications like CISA, CISM, CRISC, and CGEIT. About 30% of our attendees came from outside the state and country, highlighting our broad reach.

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

Certification Course	Month/Year	Participants	Certified
CISA	May-June 2025	7	
CRISC	July 2025	9	2
CISA	November 2025	14	3
CISM	December 2025	14	3
CRISC	Feb 2026	7	
CISM	Apr 2026	6	1
CISA	May 2026	9	
CISA	September 2026	9*	
Total		75	

8. SIG (Special Interest Group)

Special Interest Groups – Programme Purpose, Management and Progress

Programme Purpose – Special Interest Groups

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a focused and member-driven learning initiative designed to nurture professional interests through structured knowledge sharing, collaborative discussions, research, and peer learning. The SIGs provide a platform for members to deepen their technical expertise, exchange practical industry experiences, explore emerging technologies and regulatory developments, and develop a broader strategic perspective on issues shaping the cybersecurity profession.

The SIGs operate as volunteer-led groups, encouraging members not only to participate as learners but also to contribute as knowledge creators and presenters to create a powerful and sustainable learning ecosystem.

The current SIG programme covers four areas of strategic importance: Security Operations, Data Protection and DPDPA, Quantum Computing and Cryptography, and Enterprise and Responsible AI. Together, these areas address both current cybersecurity priorities and emerging technologies.

Programme Management

The SIG programme was initiated at the beginning of the year following an invitation to chapter members to voluntarily enrol in areas aligned with their professional interests and learning objectives. The four focus areas were communicated to members through a structured registration process, enabling participants to identify their preferred SIG and commit time towards continuous learning.

SIG Group A – Security Operations

The Security Operations SIG focuses on the operational aspects of cyber defence and organizational resilience. Key areas include Security Operations Centre (SOC) practices, threat detection and response, incident management, threat intelligence, cyber resilience, security monitoring, automation, and emerging security operations trends.

SIG Group B – Data Protection and DPDPA

The Data Protection and DPDPA SIG focuses on the rapidly evolving privacy and data protection landscape. The group explores data governance, privacy frameworks, regulatory compliance, GDPR, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, privacy risk management, data breach management, and emerging privacy challenges.

SIG Group C – Quantum Computing and Cryptography

The Quantum Computing and Cryptography SIG team explores the fundamentals and potential impact of quantum technologies on cybersecurity. Topics include quantum computing fundamentals, real-world applications, quantum cryptography, post-quantum cryptography.

SIG Group D – Enterprise and Responsible AI

The Enterprise and Responsible AI SIG team focuses on the rapid adoption of Artificial Intelligence and its implications for organizations. The group explores AI governance, responsible and ethical AI, AI risk management, security, privacy, regulatory and compliance considerations, bias and fairness, transparency, and responsible enterprise adoption of AI.

SIG Group on Prompt Engineering was integrated into the AI Enterprise group in 2026. This group had many interesting sessions on importance of quality of good prompts and various techniques associated with them.

Member Participation and Engagement

The response from chapter members has been highly encouraging. Approximately 120 members expressed interest in participating in the SIG programme, with nearly 100 members committing to dedicate approximately 8–10 hours per month to their chosen SIG stream.

Learning Approach and guidelines

The Director – SIG has provided overall direction and a common framework for the four groups while allowing each SIG flexibility to develop its own detailed learning agenda.

A key feature of the programme has been its member-led learning approach.

SIG leaders were identified based on their professional experience, subject-matter expertise, and willingness to facilitate collaborative learning. The volunteer leadership model has helped create a strong sense of ownership and accountability among participating members.

To facilitate effective communication and coordination, dedicated communication groups were established for each SIG. SIG leaders have supported participants by guiding topic selection, facilitating discussions, coordinating sessions, and encouraging active participation. Meetings have generally been conducted on a bi-monthly basis, with individual SIGs determining the specific week and timing based on member availability and interests.

Progress During the period of review

Over the past year (01Apr25 to 31 Mar 26), the SIG learning calendars have reflected the dedication, enthusiasm, and sustained involvement of participating members. The learning journey has largely been driven by member interests, with individuals taking ownership of specific topics and leading knowledge-sharing sessions. The initiative has now taken firm root within the Chapter and is steadily developing into a disciplined and sustainable professional learning platform.

Collectively, the four SIGs have conducted more than 40 sessions during the first six months, covering a diverse range of topics across cybersecurity, privacy, emerging technologies, and enterprise risk.

The programme has successfully established a culture of continuous learning, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, and professional collaboration. It has also created opportunities for members to strengthen their presentation, research, analytical, and leadership skills while contributing to the development of the wider professional community.

Looking Ahead:

The SIG initiative will continue to evolve, with opportunities for greater cross-SIG collaboration, joint sessions, industry expert interactions, practical workshops, case-study

discussions, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. A full day conclave is planned for sharing the knowledge of the SIG teams with wider participation.

The strong participation and growing number of sessions demonstrate that the SIG programme has established a solid foundation for creating a vibrant, collaborative, and future-focused learning ecosystem within the ISACA Chennai Chapter.

Details of sessions by SIG

Sl. No.	Date	Topic	SIG Group
1	05 April 2025	Build and use of AI	AI SIG
2	06 April 2025	Digital Forensics and Incident Response	SecOps SIG
3	06 April 2025	Amazon Bedrock - Part II	Prompt Engineering SIG
4	12 April 2025	"Understanding the Data Privacy requirements for Healthcare Industry and ensuring compliance with HIPAA regulation"	Privacy SIG

5	19 April 2025	LLM evaluation	AI SIG
6	20 April 2025	AI Secops Use cases for Industries - Healthcare & Energy sector	SecOps SIG
7	26 April 2025	"Robust AI Governance emphasizing and overseeing these from Data Privacy perspective"	Privacy SIG
8	27 April 2025	External Speaker (Prompt Engineering) - Practical implementation of LLMs in Security Audits and Compliance Processes	Combined SIG
9	04 May 2025	Endpoint Security - The promises & the perils	SecOps SIG
10	11 May 2025	Responsible Prompt Engineering	Prompt Engineering SIG
11	18 May 2025	Zero Trust Architecture and Open house for Q& A of all topics discussed thus far	SecOps SIG
12	01 June 2025	External Speaker Session from SecOps SIG - Application Security	Combined SIG
13	07 June 2025	AI essentials - Part I	AI SIG
14	08 June 2025	Recap Learnings: Basic Techniques, Best Practices for Responsible Prompts	Prompt Engineering SIG
15	15 June 2025	Cloud FinOPs	SecOps SIG
16	21 June 2025	Implementation of India DPDP Act from various perspectives: Audit Point of View	Privacy SIG
17	21 June 2025	Realistic Chatbot use cases - Break out room discussion - Healthcare and Financial sector	AI SIG
18	22 June 2025	Magic within M365 Copilot	Prompt Engineering SIG
19	05 July 2025	AI essentials - Part II	AI SIG
20	06 July 2025	Application and Database Security	SecOps SIG
21	12 July 2025	Session on conforming to RBI guidelines on Data privacy and PCI DSS	Privacy SIG
22	13 July 2025	Gen AI use cases	Prompt Engineering SIG
23	19 July 2025	Know your LLMs - inner workings of an LLM	AI SIG
24	20 July 2025	Q& A of all topics discussed thus far	SecOps SIG
25	26 July 2025	Privacy by Design	Privacy SIG
26	02 August 2025	President's session - The Apprentice who Forgot - Rethinking Impact and Continuity in an AI driven World	Combined SIG
27	03 August 2025	OT vs IT - Secops perspective	SecOps SIG
28	10 August 2025	President's session - Words that shape the World - Art and Ethics of Prompt Engineering	Combined SIG
29	17 August 2025	Cyber Crisis Management	SecOps SIG
30	24 August 2025	Silent Symphonies of Prompting	Prompt Engineering SIG
31	30 August 2025	President's session - The Apprentice who Forgot - Rethinking Impact and Continuity in an AI driven World	Combined SIG

32	21 September 2025	Risks to Recovery Building strong DR plans by Vaidyanathan C	Combined SIG
33	05 October 2025	Cryptography in Transition: Preparing for Post-Quantum Threat	SecOps SIG
34	26 October 2025	Data Security & DLP	SecOps SIG
35	01 November 2025	DPIA -Practical perspectives by Suresh Ramamurthy	Privacy SIG
36	02 November 2025	Recent Cyber Incidents	SecOps SIG
37	06 December 2025	TPRM and Data Privacy by R Sathyabama	Privacy SIG
38	05-03-2026	Deep Dive: NIST AI RMF (Govern–Map–Measure–Manage)	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
39	08 March 2026	Kick off session for SIG 2026 groups	Combined SIG
40	18 March 2026	The DPDP Act Primer - Part 1	Privacy SIG
41	28 March 2026	End point Security	SecOps SIG
42	28-03-2026	End point Security	Security Operations
43	29 March 2026	Basics of AI and AI Impact Summit-2026 outcomes -	AI SIG
44	05-04-2026	The DPDP Act Primer - Part 2	Data Protection
45	05-04-2026	Quantum computing fundamentals	Quantum and cryptography
46	11-04-2026	Offensive Security	Security Operations
47	18-04-2026	Quantum threat landscape	Quantum and cryptography
48	19-04-2026	ISO27701, the new PIMS mapped to DPDPA	Data Protection
49	25-04-2026	Data protection and Encryption	Security Operations
50	02-05-2026	Modern SOC	Security Operations
51	03-05-2026	Privacy by Design (PbD) in the SDLC	Data Protection
52	23-05-2026	Quantum Initiatives in India	Quantum and cryptography
53	24-05-2026	Data Sovereignty & Multi-Cloud Challenges	Data Protection
54	30-05-2026	Cloud Security	Security Operations
55	06-06-2026	ICS/OT Security Fundamentals	Security Operations
56	07-06-2026	GDPR essentials	Data Protection
57	20-06-2026	Digital Personal Data Protection	Security Operations
58	21-06-2026	DPDP Readiness Gap Analysis	Data Protection
59	05-07-2026	The Compliance Triad - GDPR vs DPDP	Data Protection
60	19-07-2026	Built-In, Not Bolted On: Architecting Privacy for Global Regulations and AI	Data Protection
61	02-08-2026	From Checkbox to Operational Privacu	Common to all SIGs
62	11-08-2026	Network Security and Concepts	Security Operations
63	16-08-2026	DPDPA - Gray areas clarifications	Data Protection
64	16-08-2026	AI Risk Taxonomy	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
65	30-08-2026	AI- Getting closer to AI models	Common to all SIGs

66	06-09-2026	Cross border Privacy Rules	Data Protection
67	07-12-2026	Data Privacy and AI	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
68	05-04-2026	AI Governance -AI core Principle) Standards - Mapping	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
69	14-06-2026	Comparison Session: EU AI Act vs. NIST AI RMF vs. ISO 42001-AI Policy-— Use Case Evaluation-Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for AI Lifecycle	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
70	17-05-2026	Deep Dive: EU AI Act Risk Tiers	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
71	19-04-2026	Deep Dive: NIST AI RMF (Govern–Map–Measure–Manage)	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
72	26-07-2026	OWASP Top 10 for LLM Security	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
73	28-06-2026	AI-High level overview of AI governance and deep dive into AI risk assessment and AI Impact assessment	AI- Generative and Responsible AI
74	31-05-2026	ISO 42001 & ISO 42005 (AI Management System + Impact Assessment)	AI- Generative and Responsible AI

9. Research Initiatives

In March 2025, ISACA Chennai Research Wing 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

Research Group Members are being mentored and guided by other senior ISACA Members on defining the problem statements, research methodologies and techniques and so on.

The following agenda outlines the key activities undertaken by the Research Group during the reporting period.

No	Date	Description
1	05-Apr-2025	Research Group launched with 36 members inducted. Governance structure established and members organized into six industry verticals with leads and co-leads.
2	19-Apr-2025	Strategic meeting held. Senior members Mr. Anantha Sayana S and Mr. Vijayakumar A joined as Advisors and expectations for members were defined.
3	03-May-2025	Research Methodology session covering the 8-phase research lifecycle conducted.
4	17-May-2025	Stage Gate Review of research problem statements across all six verticals with advisor feedback.
5	31-May-2025	Literature review presentations by all six verticals to support formulation of research hypotheses.
6	07-Jun-2025	Review of literature stage completed; session on AI Governance Lifecycle covering data, privacy, and societal impacts.
7	21-Jun-2025	Research hypotheses reviewed across all six industry verticals by advisors and Director-Research.
8	05-Jul-2025	Research design reviewed across verticals and refined based on feedback.

9	19-Jul-2025	Training session on Sampling Methodology and Research Questionnaire Preparation conducted by a senior Research group member
10	02-Aug-2025	Research designs finalized and Data Collection phase formally launched.
11	23-Aug-2025	Interim Review #1 of Data Collection phase; questionnaires and survey approaches reviewed.
12	06-Sep-2025	Interim Review #2 of Data Collection phase; automated questionnaires reviewed and improvement suggestions provided.
13	20-Sep-2025	Interim Review #3 of Data Collection phase; progress reviewed and multiple action items assigned to improve outreach and response collection.
14	04-Oct-2025	Interim Review #4 of Data Collection phase with feedback from advisors, President, and Director-Research.
15	01-Nov-2025	Interim Review #5 of Data Collection phase; progress and questionnaires reviewed.
16	15-Nov-2025	Interim Review #6 of Data Collection phase; progress updates, data analysis planning, and action items assigned across verticals.
17	29-Nov-2025	Data Collection review continued; updates received from all verticals and CPE credit processing initiated. Education vertical completed survey of 1400+ students, teachers and parents
18	06-Dec-2025	Planned Stage Gate Review of Data Collection phase.
19	20-Dec-2025	Planned Stage Gate Review of Data Collection phase.
20	05-Feb-2026	Draft Banking & Financial Services Research Report presented.
21	21-Feb-2026	Telecom Industry Research Report presented on the topic " The Role of FTTH in Offering Agentic AI with Privacy and Security in the Telecom Industry" and Education vertical report presented on the topic " AI Lifecycle, Risks, and Privacy Controls for Child-Focused EdTech Applications"
22	02-May-2026	Retail Research Report presented on the topic" Consumer Trust, Privacy Concerns, and AI Adoption in Retail: An Empirical Analysis of the Privacy Paradox"

23	04-Jul-2026	Research Report for Banking and Financial Services titled: "AI/ML Driven UPI Fraud Detection with Privacy Preservation; An Empirical Analysis of Safety, Privacy and User Trust" presented

Besides igniting the passion of those interested in research ISACA Chennai is also keen on providing a platform for members to showcase their brilliance. As part of our short-term goals, we will be carrying a series of articles (presented as LinkedIn Newsletters) written by members under the aegis of the research wing. These articles represent the opinions of the author-member and do not in any way represent the opinion of ISACA Chennai Chapter or ISACA Global. Our aim is to encourage members to contemplate, share and receive feedback. Our first article of this fortnightly series is titled "Resilient Reskilling in the Age of AI: An Urgent Imperative for Workforce Adaptability".

The second article, titled "Safeguarding Privacy in Cloud-based AI credit scoring by FinTechs: A TPRM imperative for Indian Banks " and the third article "Deploying Responsible AI (Ed-Tech Applications) in Indian Schools: Key Measures Towards Preserving Privacy Data of Children" were also published.
Research members are continuing to work on the other topics of research and sequels to the current topics already presented in the year 2026.

10. Academic Focus Group (AFG), Marketing & Other Professional Bodies

Pillar Context

The Nurture Talent pillar was established to build a structured pathway between academic institutions and the IT audit, security, and governance profession. The Academia Focus Group (AFG) is the pillar's flagship — and to date, sole — initiative.

Year in Review: From Concept to Two Recognized Student Groups

The framework was developed in November 2025, discussed with the board, and formally launched to chapter members at the December 2025 Professional Development Meeting (PDM).
Outreach began with Sri Sai Ram Institute of Technology and SRM Institute of Science and Technology (Kattankulathur), followed by discussions with Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology, Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, St. Joseph's Institute of Technology, SSN College of Engineering, and Sri Ramachandra Faculty of Management Sciences — roughly 32 meetings across participating colleges. The chapter also drew on guidance from ISACA's Philippines and Kerala chapters, both experienced in setting up ISACA Student Groups (ISGs).

ISG Recognition Milestones

College	Milestone	Date
SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur	Core members elected (11 March 2026); formally recognized as ISACA Chennai Chapter's first ISG	17 April 2026
St. Joseph's Institute of Technology	Core members elected (11 July 2026); application filed (Jul 2026); formally recognized — making ISACA Chennai the first chapter in India with more than one ISG	7 August 2026

Industry Connect Activities

AFG has delivered several direct engagements connecting students with ISACA professionals:

- 11 March 2026 — Core members elected for the ISACA Student Group at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur.
- 4 July 2026 — Expert Talk at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology (Dept. of CSE – Cyber Security / OWASP Sathyabama). Dir-Outreach, ISACA Chennai Chapter board member, delivered the talk as part of AFG's industry-connect efforts.
- 11 July 2026 — Core members elected for the ISACA Student Group at St. Joseph's Institute of Technology.
- 11 July 2026 — Core members from both SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur and St. Joseph's Institute of Technology were introduced at ISACA Chennai Chapter's monthly PDM — the first-time student representatives participated in a chapter industry-connect event.
- 14 July 2026 — Workshop on “Microsoft Azure Cloud Security — From Fundamentals to Practical Hands-on” at SSN College of Engineering, delivered by ISACA members Dir-Training and Dir-Outreach.
- 15 July 2026 — Orientation cum Induction Program at Sri Ramachandra Faculty of Management Sciences, with Director-Outreach, ISACA Chennai Chapter as Chief Guest.
- 28 August 2026 — Inauguration of the ISACA Student Chapter at St. Joseph's Institute of Technology, themed “A New Chapter Begins.” Chief Guest: Vice President, ISACA Chennai Chapter. The technical talk on Information Security and Threat Intelligence was delivered by Director-Outreach, ISACA Chennai Chapter, and Mrs. Sucharitha KP - AFG Volunteer.
- 2 September 2026 — ISACA Student Chapter Inauguration and Talk Series on Information Security and Threat Intelligence, hosted by the Department of Networking and Communications, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur. Chief Guest: President, ISACA Chennai Chapter. The expert talk on industry experience was delivered by Director-Outreach, ISACA Chennai Chapter and Mrs. Sucharitha KP - AFG Volunteer.

Volunteer Engagement

AFG was showcased at the ISACA Chennai Chapter's Annual Conference (6–8 August 2026), where the initiative was discussed with attendees and a call for volunteers was issued. 26 volunteers registered to support the program going forward.

Colleges in Active Discussion

Beyond the two recognized ISGs, the chapter continues outreach with:

- Sri Sai Ram Institute of Technology
- Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology
- Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology
- Sri Ramachandra Faculty of Management Sciences
- School of Management Studies, Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai
- SRM Institute of Technology, Ramapuram

Chapter social media and Website related

ISACA Chennai Chapter is one of the most active social media handles that have a highly active follower based 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 (2026)**	**Previous AGM (2025)**
LinkedIn	6426	4983
Facebook	1429	1436
YouTube	700	653
X	480	488
Instagram	249	223
WhatsApp	671	998

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

11. Wrap-up

I thank sincerely our current board members for their contributions in making our chapter vibrant.

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

Mahesh
Honorary Secretary
ISACA - Chennai Chapter
25th Sep 2025