BENGALURU: Personnel from nearly 1,000 police stations in Karnataka will be trained to handle cybercrime as the state plans one cybercrime station per district by 2019.

“We are starting from zero,” Praveen Sood, director-general of police (CID), who has begun an intensive two-stage training programme on how to deal with hacking, online harassment, credit/debit card fraud, data theft etc, for ranks till the level of constable. He maintains that training personnel remains the challenge when it comes to dealing with digital crime.

Karnataka was the first to establish a dedicated police station to handle digital crime 15 years ago. Other states, including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, have stepped up police training, including seeking out experts from industry.

“We are now setting up a predictive unit, which will analyse data points from across the web and try to predict the areas that need more vigilance and crimes that are more common,” said Balsing Rajput, superintendent of police, cyber, Maharashtra. The ministry of electronics and information technology (Meity) has collaborated with the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) to set up cyber forensic labs in all metro cities for training and building awareness of cybercrime investigation.

The National Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA) programme expects to train over one lakh police personnel — not just police personnel — by 2020. “These sessions have been happening for some time now,” says Dr Triveni Singh, additional superintendent of police, Uttar Pradesh Police, who trains law enforcement departments across the country. “We are invited by the CBI and many such agencies to hold training sessions in cyber forensics and internet investigation for one or two weeks.”

Dr Anup Girdhar, chief executive, Sedulity Solutions & Technologies, an online security services firm, says training in identifying vulnerabilities and mitigating attacks is elaborate — often taking couple of months. “Until an officer clears the first session, he’s not taken to the next level,” said Girdhar, who expects more participation from the police as digital training is being mandated.
Abu Dhabi Police launch crime-fighting 3D printing initiative

Abu Dhabi furthers its position as a 3D printing capital with a new announcement from the city’s police department. According to reports from Emirates News Agency, the official news agency of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), also known as WAM, the Abu Dhabi Police has launched a 3D printing initiative to help solve crimes.

3D printing in the UAE

From 3D printed buildings, to the millions of dollars available to startups, the UAE is committed to becoming a world leader in cutting-edge technology. Many of the activity has been localized in Dubai, through the Future Accelerators fund, efforts by the Roads and Transport Authority, and inauguration of the Smart Buildability Index.

Recently, the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and GE Additive signed an MoU in March 2017 committing to a project for advancing the UAE's commitment to the 'Industrial Internet of Things' (IIOT), and accelerating its status as a hub for 3D printing by the year 2030. Following this, Abu Dhabi launched its Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS) with 3D printing as a key focus for the future and GE as a founding partner.

Further, 3D software company Autodesk invested $100 million in future UAE startups through the Spark Fund. A new layer of fighting crime

Believing that tech innovation too is the way forward for the city’s police force, Abu Dhabi Police will be applying 3D printing to help in handling of evidence. 3D printed dioramas could, for example, be used to help thoroughly assess a crime scene, or communicate to the court a series of events. A similar initiative has been set up in the UK by the West Yorkshire Police and, in Cascade County, Montana the police are applying 3D scanning for crime scene investigation.

Brigadier Abdulrahman Al Hammadi, Director of the Criminal Evidence Administration, is leading the initiative and also hopes to make 3D printed models that are helpful in training exercises, and customer service activities that help promote the force. In line with the UAE’s vision of the future, the new 3D printing initiative is part of Abu Dhabi Police’s 2057 Plan for a city powered by technology.

According to Lt. Colonel Sulieeman Al Kaabi, Director of Innovation and the Future, at the time of the announcement, “Forecasting the future is a key engine for Abu Dhabi Police’s efforts to address global trends, challenges and opportunities through preventative scenarios and solutions.”

NIT Mizoram students call off stir after police starts probe

The agitating students of the National Institute of Technology, Mizoram, called off their indefinite stir against poor quality of hostel food which they alleged had caused the death of a student, police said today.

The students, who launched agitation on April 2, called off their stir yesterday after the police started enquiry into the death of the student, they said.

A first year student Sevsharan Kumar, hailing from Bihar, was taken ill in the NIT hostel at Tanhril near Aizawl on March 26 and died in a Guwahati hospital on March 31, they said.

The NIT students alleged that Kumar died after consuming rotten food served in hostel mess. The police took up the case and launched investigation into the cause of the death of Kumar and also whether the hostel warden provided poor quality food to the boarders, they said.

Earlier yesterday, at the instructions of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the Principal Secretary (Home) Amir Subhani had called up the Home Department of Mizoram, about the stir by students of NIT Mizoram.

The Mizoram government officials had assured Subhani that the government of the north-eastern state was “committed to security and welfare of all students of NIT, Mizoram”, an official release said in Patna.

Subhani had also called up the Union HRD Ministry and learnt that the department had sent a senior official to the north-eastern state for resolving the issue, the release said adding “the Home department of Bihar is keeping a constant watch on the situation”.

Lawrence police update body cameras to turn on whenever a gun is pulled from an officer’s holster

The Lawrence Police Department now has new technology includes body cameras that turn auto-starting the camera on as soon as an officer activates their lights and sirens or if an officer starts running – but the Department now has new technology includes body cameras that turn auto-starting the camera on as soon as an officer activates their lights and sirens or if an officer

When a gun is pulled from an officer’s holster.
Aussie-founded tech company YuuZoo raided by Singapore police in securities probe

Australian-founded technology company YuuZoo is under police investigation in Singapore over allegations it breached the country’s Securities and Futures Act.

Co-founded by Australian tech entrepreneur Ron Creevey and former Nokia Asia Pacific chief executive Thomas Zilliacus in 2007, the Singapore-listed company claims to make “social e-commerce networks” for brands.

YuuZoo specialises in franchise arrangements between 2013 and 2016.

According to The Straits Times, the company’s Singapore headquarters were raided last week as part of an investigation by the city state’s Commercial Affairs Department over breaches related to its franchise arrangements between 2013 and 2016. Thomas Zilliacus, YuuZoo’s co-founder and current chief executive officer, has handed over his passport to the CAD, the Straits Times reported.

Creevey—who claims to be no longer associated with the company—was previously managing director of Magna Data, one of Australia’s early Internet Service Providers, and was a major shareholder in the late Heath Ledger’s artistic collaborative, The Masses.

In 2010, when YuuZoo recruited Telstra’s then head of content, Chris Taylor, to the company, Creevey said the company would be “the first truly global new media company run out of Australia”.

Taylor left Yuuzoo to join Quickflixx the following year and the company went on to list on the Singapore Stock Exchange in 2014 following a reverse takeover.

In a statement posted on the Singapore Stock Exchange last Thursday, the company said: “As at the date of this announcement, the CAD has not disclosed to the company any further details on the above mentioned investigations.

“The company will cooperate fully with the CAD in its investigation and will make announcement as and when there are further significant developments with regard to this matter.”

YuuZoo specialises in making gamified social commerce platforms and in 2015 was said to have partners and franchisees in 68 countries, including China, France and Nigeria.

Among YuuZoo’s most notable products released in Singapore was a mobile game called Honey Snatch. However, since its SGX listing, YuuZoo has been embroiled in a civil lawsuit in New York that alleged the company and its founders, including Zilliacus, Creevey and Mark Cramer-Roberts, had engaged in securities fraud.

In the lawsuit, the founders are alleged to have made YuuZoo look like a successful entity valued at US$538 million (S$490 million). Since the Singapore police’s investigation was launched, YuuZoo’s trading on SGX has been suspended.

In its latest financial statement from last year, the company made significant losses of S$20,678,000 before tax. The previous year, it had made a gross profit S$4,102,000.

Meanwhile, its losses before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation came to S$12,758,000 against its EBITDA of S$12,222,000 in 2016.

The company said it raised S$30 million in investor funding, but its revenue from last year amounted to around S$519,000. The year previously, YuuZoo had made S$4,878,000, marking a fall of nearly 90%.

According to the results, the losses were caused by “significant impairments of available for sale assets”.

Making policing more responsive, SPIDR Tech raises $2.5 million

Across the country, police brutality and the series of fatal shootings of mostly black men have soured many on the role that police officers play in the community. To combat those negative assessments, police forces are turning to an array of new technologies, such as body cameras, new communications technologies and social media monitoring services to (ostensibly) become more accountable to and engaged with the citizens they’re policing.

With the new wave of spending comes more venture capital dollars invested in technologies that entrepreneurs are developing to solve these problems.

Los Angeles-based SPIDR Tech, founded by two former officers, Rahul Sidhu and Elon Kaiserman, is one of the companies benefiting from this newfound interest in policing technology. The company raised $2.5 million from investors, including Sidewalk Labs (the urban tech subsidiary of Alphabet, Google’s holding company), Birchmere Ventures, Stage Ventures, Kairos Association, Heartland Ventures and No Name Ventures.

From Tucson to San Antonio and Grover Beach to Redondo Beach, police departments are using SPIDR Tech’s automated messaging system to help departments respond to victims of crimes and keep them informed of the status of the investigation into their case.
Scottish police to deploy hi-tech gadgets which access phone data

Police Scotland will use cyber kiosks like the one pictured to access mobile phones

SCOTTISH police have spent £370,000 on forty-one “cyber kiosks” which can override mobile phone passwords to access private data such as text messages, encrypted conversations, photos, web browsing history, contacts and call records in a matter of seconds.

The Sunday Herald revealed last week that a pilot of the technology, in Edinburgh and Stirling, saw specially-trained officers access 375 phones and 262 sim cards during investigations of what Police Scotland called “low-level crime”.

In a significant rollout of the initiative, kiosks will now be distributed to officers “across the country” so that they can see what is held on seized phones, campaigners have raised concerns about whether information will be held elsewhere.

Detective Chief Inspector Brian Stuart said.

READ MORE: MP slams UK Government detention policy as "absolute disgrace" after Dungavel suicide watch figures are revealed

The senior officer also said they would only extract “relevant information” and “no data will be retained on the kiosk”, but politicians and privacy campaigners have raised concerns about whether information will be held elsewhere.

Israel company Cellebrite, which manufactures the kiosks, boasts on its website that they can “access a wide range of evidence sources, including encrypted or locked mobile devices, public and private social media and other cloud data”.

Details of the £370,000 police contract for the kiosks appeared on the Public Contracts Scotland website on Thursday. The Scottish Police Authority, which procured the devices for Police Scotland, also rubber stamped a contract for “Evidence Management System Support and Maintenance” worth £431,000, and a contract for “eDiscovery and Analytics Software” worth £286,000. Both contracts were awarded on Friday, the day after the kiosks were signed off.

Solicitor Millie Wood, of campaign group Privacy International, said: “Given that the police in Scotland have spent more than £1m this week, it’s clear they’re steamrollering ahead, even though there is little in the way of detail and no consultation. The big question is whether this is lawful?”

Former police officer John Finnie, who is now an MSP and the justice spokesman for the Scottish Greens, intends to question the head of the Scottish Police Authority about the contracts.

He said: “It is concerning that Police Scotland has apparently invested substantial funds in devices designed to collect mass personal data with seemingly little public discussion on the issue. Accessing personal data when there are reasonable grounds to believe it can help tackle crime is one thing, but mass collection would be quite another.

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FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

FOUNDATION FOR POLICE RESEARCH

1206, Pragati Tower, 26, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008

+91-7533018444

office@policeres.org

award.policeres.org

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