CIO Association

# CIOA CHRONICLES

Dear Esteemed Members,

The encouraging feedback on our first newsletter has been truly motivating. It reinforces our belief that the CIO Association can serve as a meaningful bridge between technology leaders and partners.

Since our last edition, we have also hosted our first-ever Partner Event, bringing together marketers and B2B business leaders for a candid discussion on *what CIOs look for when engaging with vendors* — and more importantly, how to build trust and lasting partnerships. It was a fruitful exchange, with clear takeaways that both sides can put into practice immediately. You can find more details later in the issue.

In this edition, you'll also find news & updates from our chapters, perspectives from our members, highlights from recent engagements, and a preview of the exciting events lined up for the months ahead.

We look forward to your continued suggestions as we evolve through this together.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you & your families a very happy festive season.

With Warm Regards,

**Umesh Mehta**

President of Governing Body, CIO Association

Celebrating the light of innovation,
leadership, and togetherness

# TRUE LEADERSHIP BEGINS WHERE COMFORT ENDS

*By Jai Thomas, Member - Governing Body, CIO Association*

Over the past 25+ years of my corporate journey, I have had the privilege of working with some truly extraordinary leaders, individuals whose actions shaped not only businesses but also the people around them. And as I reflect on leadership, I see two distinct kinds:

**The ones who "walk around the problem":** observing from the sidelines, analyzing, delegating, and staying at a safe distance.

**The ones who "walk into the problem":** diving right into chaos, tackling the issue at its core, and taking ownership when things go wrong.


Jai Thomas

The latter has always fascinated me. These leaders have achieved remarkable success, built fortunes, and reached a level where they could comfortably step back. Yet, when a crisis unfolds, they do not hesitate; they step in, take charge, and see it through to resolution. I often wondered, what drives them? What makes them choose the hard road when they do not have to?

Then, I came across a story about **Kobe Bryant**, one of the most successful and iconic basketball players, that brought clarity to my thoughts.

After Kobe's passing away, his wife **Vanessa Bryant** shared an incredible moment that captured his mindset. She recalled a time when Kobe had a 103-degree fever and sick, and yet, despite his condition, he put on his jersey and played the game. Over dinner, she asked him, "Why push yourself when you are so unwell? You could have skipped this match to recover."

Kobe's response was simple, yet profound:

*"Vanessa, what you do not realize is that some of these fans save their salaries just to come and watch me play. Some of them save for months to take their children to watch me play. How disappointed they would be if I did not show up after they spent their hard-earned savings?"*

That moment defined him. For Kobe, it was never about him. It was about the people who believed in him.

And I realized, this is exactly what drives the leaders who "walk into the problem."

Despite their success & fortunes, they step in, not for their own benefit, but for the employees who have stood by them, the teams that have trusted them, and the people who have given their all to help build something bigger than themselves. Just like Kobe, they know that leadership is not about being at the helm of things, it's about showing up when it matters the most.

And that, to me, is the essence of true leadership, and I was fortunate enough to work with such leaders over my corporate career.

# DATA DEMOCRATIZATION AND AI ACCESSIBILITY: EMPOWERING CROSS FUNCTIONAL TEAMS

*By Manoj Gautam, CIO, Maruti Suzuki India*
*Member - Delhi NCR Chapter*

In today's fast-changing business landscape, CIOs are no longer just guardians of IT systems; we are **strategic partners** in business reinvention, aligning technology with culture and purpose. Our mission is to **empower cross-functional teams** – from marketing and finance to production, R&D and supply chain operations – to leverage AI and analytics in their daily work. This endeavour is not merely about deploying new tools, but about fostering a mindset of collaboration, agility and continuous learning.

**Breaking Silos with Shared Data**

**Data democratization** is the key to breaking down organisation silos. Too often, valuable data remains locked in one department, leading to missed opportunities and slower decisions. According to an IBM report 82% of enterprises experience critical workflow disruptions due to data silos, with 68% of data going unused. By opening up data access to all teams, we turn information into a shared asset. When everyone can draw insights from a **single source of truth,** decisions become faster and more evidence-based.

**AI for All: Making Intelligence Accessible**

**AI accessibility** complements data openness. Today's platforms, self-service dashboards, no-code ML tools let non-tech users extract insights. Natural language queries make complex data usable for all. Insights that once took weeks now take minutes.

**At Maruti Suzuki,** we have huge data set available with us, accumulated in last 40+ years of operation. The datasets belong to Production, Supply Chain, Engineering, Spares etc. With so many disparate systems and data sitting in silo, we started to unify data few years back, connecting the disparate sources into a unified data layer which enabled business reporting and dashboards for different business verticals. Our approach was to enable business users to search and analyse the datasets on their own instead of relying on IT teams to get the data.

Building on the strong foundation of data, we are now moving towards provisioning use case specific Small Language Models (SLMs) which will be trained on Maruti specific data to harness the AI capabilities. This will ensure our business users get the AI enabled business applications while not worrying about the security and privacy of business sensitive information.

**Leading with Culture and Curiosity**

From a **leadership perspective**, enabling this change requires more than technology deployment – it calls for **cultural transformation.** I believe our role as CIOs has evolved into that of **chief enabler and educator.** We must champion data literacy and ensure that our people have the skills and trust to use AI tools effectively. This means creating safe spaces for experimentation, celebrating curiosity, and being empathetic to the challenges our colleagues face as they adopt new ways of working.

**Human-Centric Innovation**

**Innovation** in the age of AI is as much about people as about algorithms. By prioritising empathy and purpose, CIOs can ensure that AI initiatives truly enhance human capabilities rather than intimidate or alienate. For example, when introducing an AI-driven analytics tool, we framed it not as a replacement for anyone's job, but as a **personal assistant** to lighten rote work and enable more creative problem-solving.

In closing, the role of the CIO has never been more exciting or impactful. We stand at the intersection of technology, business strategy, and community – uniquely positioned to **blend technical prowess with visionary leadership.** By embracing data democratization and AI accessibility, we don't just improve processes; we **reinvent how our organisations learn and collaborate.** My advice to fellow CIOs is to lead boldly and compassionately: invest in your people as much as your platforms, measure success in both business outcomes and cultural change, and stay adaptable in the face of uncertainty.

# CIOs AT THE HELM: DRIVING AI STRATEGY AND AUTONOMOUS FUNCTIONS

*Editorial*

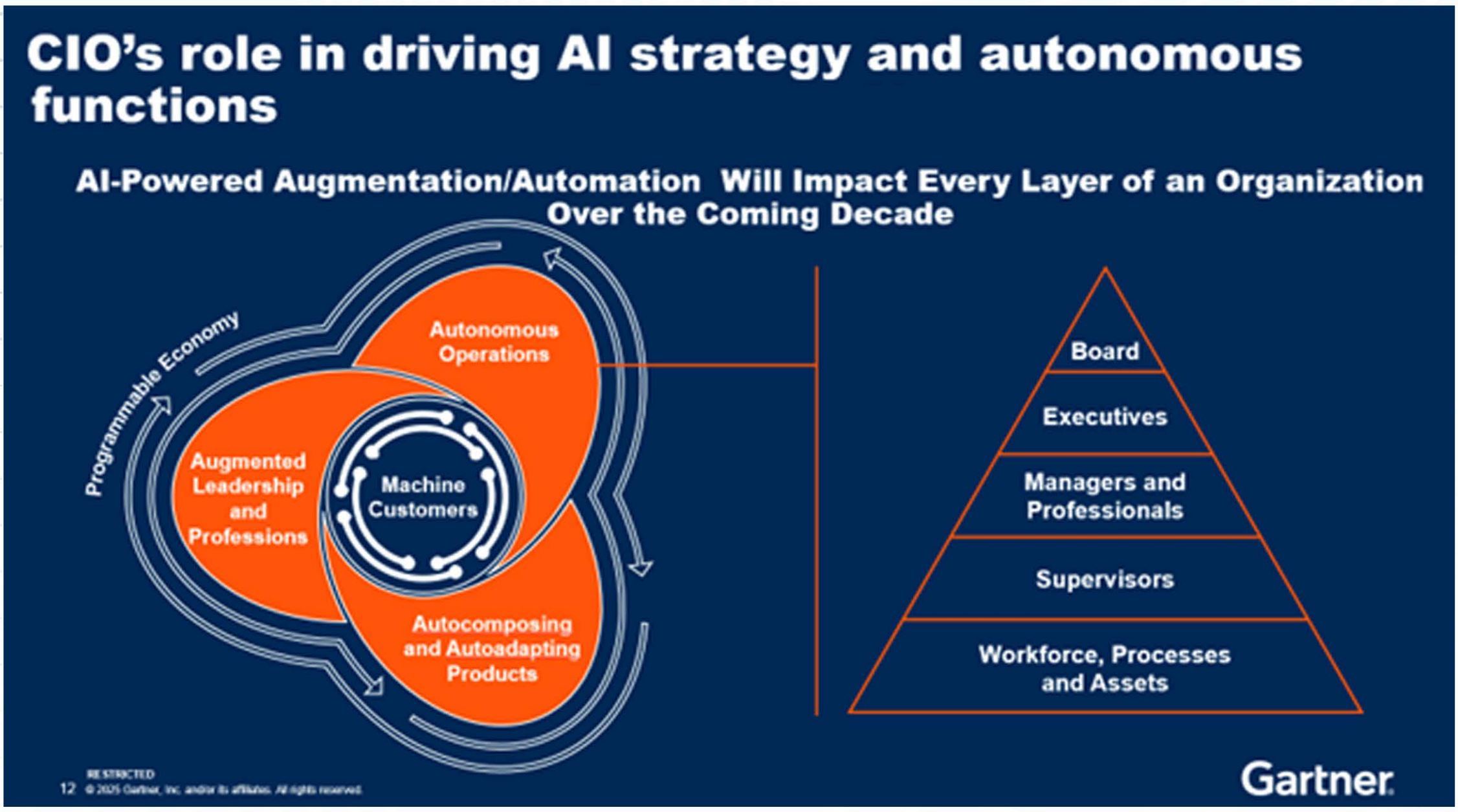
**A**rtificial Intelligence (AI) has shifted from promise to practice, and CIOs stand at the center of this transformation. What began as pilots and proofs of concept is now scaling across business functions, shaping how enterprises operate, innovate, and compete. Gartner calls this the "Age of Augmented Intelligence," where technology doesn't replace humans but amplifies them, and CIOs are the conductors of this new symphony.

Gartner highlights three core dimensions of the CIO's evolving role in AI strategy: **Augmented Intelligence and Insight, Autonomous Operations, and Augmented Work and Automation of Functions.** Together, these pillars define how organizations will reimagine processes, decision-making, and talent engagement in the years to come.

predictive models, and decision-support platforms equip leaders with foresight that goes beyond human capacity. According to IDC, by 2026, **40% of board-level decisions will be informed by AI-driven simulations and scenario planning,** helping enterprises navigate volatility with agility. CIOs must ensure that the data infrastructure, governance, and ethical AI frameworks are strong enough to deliver trust at this level.

**Autonomous Operations: From IT to Enterprise-Wide**

The second layer of CIO responsibility is enabling autonomous operations. What began as self-healing IT infrastructure and automated cybersecurity response is now extending into supply chains, finance, and HR. Gartner predicts




*Credit : Gartner's Linkedin Post*

**From Augmented Insight to Intelligent Decisions**

At the top of the organizational pyramid, boards and executive teams are under pressure to take sharper, faster, and more data-driven decisions. Augmented intelligence tools - AI-driven analytics

that by 2030, **75% of enterprise applications will include AI-powered autonomous functions** managing tasks such as workflow orchestration, anomaly detection, and resource optimization without human intervention. IDC's Future of Operations report estimates that **60% of large**

**enterprises will deploy autonomous decisioning systems by 2028** to improve uptime, efficiency, and cost predictability. For CIOs, this means balancing automation with adaptability - designing platforms that can learn continuously while keeping human oversight in the loop.

## Augmented Work: The Human-Machine Partnership

Perhaps the most visible impact of AI will be in how work itself is done. IDC estimates that by 2027, AI copilots will be embedded in 60% of enterprise workforce applications, reshaping roles across functions. Supervisors and managers will lean on AI copilots for talent management, performance coaching, and project oversight. Frontline employees will rely on automation to eliminate repetitive tasks, freeing them for higher-value problem-solving. Here, CIOs play the role of architects ensuring that AI tools integrate seamlessly with existing workflows while championing the human-AI partnership.

McKinsey's State of AI 2025 echoes this, showing that generative AI could automate **30% of employee tasks by 2030,** but the greatest gains will come from "augmentation, not replacement." Supervisors will use copilots for feedback and coaching, while employees leverage them to eliminate repetitive tasks and unlock creativity.

## The CIO as a Value Integrator and Enterprise Transformer

The CIO's role is no longer just about managing IT; it is about integrating value across the enterprise.

This requires a dual focus: driving innovation at the edge while ensuring governance at the core.

Forrester's 2025 Tech Leadership Report describes the modern CIO as a **"Value Integrator"**, bridging the divide between IT and business outcomes.

CIOs must align AI adoption with measurable business value, from customer experience to operational resilience. Collaboration with CMOs, CFOs, and CHROs will be key to democratizing AI responsibly.

Deloitte's Tech Trends 2025 adds that successful CIOs will "treat AI as an enterprise capability, not a collection of projects." This means embedding AI in governance, finance, and innovation simultaneously, making the organization not just digital but *intelligent by design.*

## Conclusion

AI-powered augmentation and automation are poised to redefine enterprise hierarchies and operating models. From the boardroom's strategic foresight to the frontline's productivity tools, every layer of the organization will be reshaped. CIOs, therefore, are not just technology leaders but enterprise transformers balancing ambition with accountability, and automation with augmentation.

As Gartner aptly frames it, **the CIO is the conductor of the AI-powered enterprise.** The next decade will belong to those who can orchestrate this symphony of humans and machines to deliver both resilience and growth.

"The CIO is the conductor of the AI-powered enterprise."
– Gartner

"40% of board-level decisions will be informed by AI-driven simulations and scenario planning by 2026."
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"By 2030, 75% of enterprise applications will include AI-powered autonomous functions."
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"By 2027, AI copilots will be embedded in 60% of enterprise workforce applications, reshaping how work gets done."
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Just as light transforms darkness, intelligence transforms enterprise

# AI-POWERED DECEPTION: COMBATING SOCIAL ENGINEERING WITH EMPLOYEE VIGILANCE

*Saloni Vijay - CISO, Vice President & Head IT at VOIS, Vodafone Group*
*Member - Ahmedabad Chapter*

In the age of artificial intelligence, cybercriminals have found a powerfulally. AI is no longer just a tool for innovation it is also a weapon of deception. Social engineering, once reliant on manual manipulation and guesswork, has evolved into a sophisticated, scalable threat powered by machine learning, deepfakes, and voice cloning.

Attackers now use AI to craft hyper-personalized phishing emails, simulate trusted voices and even impersonate executives in real-time video calls. This alarming convergence of technology and psychological manipulation is redefining the threat landscape, making it harder than ever for organizations to distinguish between genuine interactions and AI-generated fraud.

For CIOs and CISOs, this isn't just a technology challenge but a human & organizational one, demanding new levels of employee awareness, policy design and incident response readiness.

**1. Hyper-Personalization at Scale**

AI enables attackers to gather and analyze vast amounts of personal and professional data from public sources, social media, and breached databases. This data is then used to craft highly personalized phishing emails, voice messages, and even video calls that mimic trusted individuals with uncanny accuracy.

- AI tools like ChatGPT and WormGPT are used to generate grammatically perfect, context-aware phishing messages that bypass traditional filters.
- Deepfake technology allows attackers to simulate voices and appearances of executives, colleagues, or family members, making scams nearly indistinguishable from reality.

**2. Deepfake-Driven Impersonation**

One of the most alarming developments is the use of AI-generated deepfakes in real-time video and audio impersonation.

- In one high-profile case, an employee was tricked into transferring $25 million during a video call where every participant except the victim was a deepfake.
- These attacks exploit human trust in visual and auditory cues, bypassing the natural skepticism that might arise from text-based scams.

For CIOs and CISOs, this calls for revisiting verification protocols – video or voice alone can no longer be considered "proof".

**3. AI-Powered Voice Cloning and Vishing**

AI can clone voices with just a few seconds of recorded speech, enabling attackers to conduct voice phishing (vishing) attacks that sound exactly like a known contact.

- Victims receive calls that convincingly mimicked their children or executives, demanding urgent action or money transfers.
- The emotional immediacy of these calls makes them especially hard to resist, even for trained employees.

**4. Automation and Industrialization of Attacks**

AI has industrialized social engineering, allowing attackers to launch thousands of personalized attacks simultaneously.

- Autonomous agents and AI scripting tools can mimic human interaction across email, chat, and voice platforms.
- Emerging subscription-based services on the dark web, like FraudGPT offer pre-built social engineering campaigns for a monthly fee.

This "on-demand" and "as-a-service" model of cybercrime means that the barrier to entry has dramatically lowered, expanding the attacker ecosystem.

**5. Real-Time Adaptation and Learning**

Unlike traditional attacks, AI systems can adapt in real-time, learning from failed attempts and refining their approach to increase success rates.

- When an attack fails, the system automatically refines its approach — adjusting tone, timing, and target based on response data.
- This continuous feedback loop makes AI-enabled

threats more persistent, adaptive, and harder to detect using static security filters.

## From Weakest Link to Strongest Shield: Combating Social Engineering Through Employee Empowerment

Unlike technical exploits, these attacks manipulate human psychology—trust, urgency, and fear to bypass even the most robust defenses. The challenge is not just technological but cultural-how do we ensure employees become the strongest protectors of our digital assets?

## Understanding the Threat: Social Engineering in Action

Social engineering attacks come in many forms:

- **Phishing and Spear Phishing:** Deceptive emails or messages impersonating trusted entities to steal credentials or install malware.
- **Pretexting and Baiting:** Attackers fabricate scenarios to extract sensitive information or lure users into unsafe actions.
- **Tailgating and Impersonation:** Physical access breaches through social manipulation.

These tactics are increasingly powered by AI, enabling attackers to craft hyper-personalized campaigns that evade traditional detection.

## Infrastructure Protection: Technical and Procedural Defenses

To safeguard infrastructure, organizations must deploy layered defenses:

1. **Unified Endpoint Management:** Ensures consistent security across remote and on-prem devices.
2. **Tiered Data Access:** Classify data into sensitivity levels (e.g., C1–C4) and restrict access accordingly.
3. **Patch Management and IT Lifecycle Compliance:** Enforce timely updates and disconnect expired systems from the network.
4. **Email Filtering and Secure Communication Channels:** Block malicious content and enforce encrypted exchanges.
5. **Behavioral Analytics and AI Monitoring:** Detect anomalies and potential insider threats.

## Transforming Employees into Cyber Defenders

The human firewall is the most critical line of defense. Here's how to strengthen it:

### 1. Cybersecurity Awareness Programs

- Teaching employees to recognize and report suspicious activity.
- Reinforcing secure behaviors like multi-factor authentication and data classification.
- Promoting secure data handling practices (e.g., encryption, access controls).

### 2. Simulated Attacks and Gamified Training

Phishing simulations and red team exercises help employees recognize and respond to threats in real time.

Let awareness be the light that protects

**3. Leadership Engagement and Cultural Enablement**

importance of executive-level training and board engagement in cybersecurity culture.

**4. Incident Response Planning**

Trained employees act as early warning systems. Awareness programs empower them to Identify and report threats quickly.

**5. Minimizing Public Exposure**

Limit publicly available employee data to reduce reconnaissance opportunities for attackers.

**6. Regular Security Audits**

Include social engineering scenarios in penetration testing to assess organizational resilience.

**7. Building Resilience Across the Organization**

Cybersecurity is no longer the sole responsibility of IT. Awareness programs democratize security by:

- Making every employee accountable.
- Aligning security with business goals.
- Creating a resilient workforce that adapts to evolving threats.

**Spreading Awareness: Internal and External Campaigns**

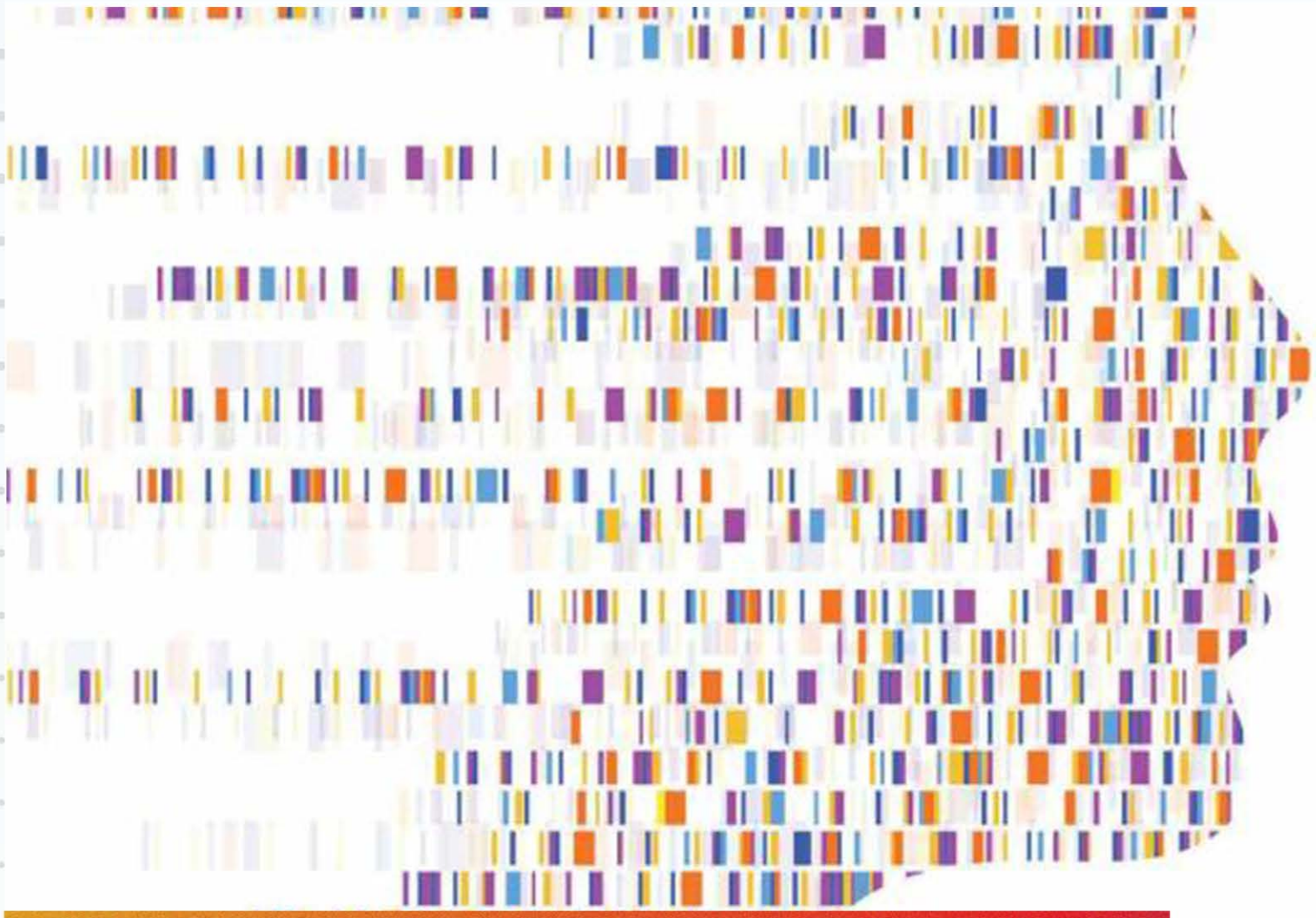
Organizations can amplify awareness through **Workshops, Posters, and Motion Graphics** tailored to local contexts.

**Conclusion: Building a Security-Conscious Culture**

As AI amplifies both the speed and believability of social engineering, technology defenses alone are no longer sufficient. By empowering employees with knowledge, tools, and a sense of responsibility, CIOs and CISOs in organizations can transform their workforce from potential vulnerabilities into vigilant defenders. The goal is not just to protect infrastructure but to cultivate a culture where security is everyone's business.

*This article has been penned by Saloni as the world celebrates **Cybersecurity Awareness Month** this October - a reminder that the human firewall remains our most powerful defense against AI-powered deception.*


Keep the flame of vigilance alive



# TODAY'S ADVANCES, TOMORROW'S IMPACT

## Advances in genomic sequencing are enabling early detection, precise diagnosis, and personalised treatment.

*By Chandandeep Kaur, PhD – Senior Science Writer, Happiest Health*

Rewind the clock by just seven decades, and you would see that diagnosing genetic disorders was almost akin to guesswork. Doctors relied on symptoms and rudimentary tests to diagnose conditions like sickle cell anaemia, while cancer detection depended only on imaging and biopsies. These methods offered a very limited glimpse into the complex world of genetics.

However, a breakthrough came in 1957 when a doctor studying protein chemistry in England pinpointed the cause of sickle cell anaemia to be a single gene mutation. This discovery revolutionised our understanding of genetic disorders and paved the way for a new era of DNA analysis in the 1980s. While early techniques allowed scientists to examine specific sequences, they remained slow and only focused on larger mutations.

### The rise of whole genome sequencing

Fast forward to today, genomics has redefined this process. Next-generation sequencing (NGS) lets us explore DNA down to the tiniest 'letter edits' in hours, enabling more personalised treatments for complex conditions like cystic fibrosis, breast cancer, and aggressive brain cancers like glioblastoma. Genetic counselling is now common place, helping couples understand how their combined genes might impact their future children — an insight unimaginable just a few decades ago.

"We can now sequence nearly the entire 3 billion bases of the human genome, offering a near-complete view of our genetic blueprint," explains Dr Nilangi Andurlekar, a cancer biologist and independent life sciences consultant based in Mumbai. "Whole genome sequencing (WGS) holds immense potential for discovering new disease-causing variants."

But sequencing a person's entire genome to pinpoint the cause of a genetic disease may be a little overkill. Technologies like whole exome sequencing (WES) and genotyping on arrays offer a lot of information while using up fewer resources.

While WGS offers a complete view of DNA, WES focuses on just the 2 per cent of the genome responsible for protein production, which is also where 85 per cent of disease-causing mutations are found. "By targeting just these regions, WES efficiently identifies mutations linked to disease," explains Dr Andurlekar.

Reading a genome is complex: each of the human body's 37 trillion cells carries about 3 billion DNA base pairs. This adds up to a staggering 111 septillion base pairs, with each base pair representing a "letter" in our genetic code. But since most cells have identical DNA, WGS only needs one set of 3 billion base pairs to capture a full genetic blueprint. This allows scientists to detect a range of DNA changes, including larger shifts like extra copies, missing segments, or rearranged sections. Such advances offer an unprecedented view into the human genome, tracing back to a pivotal achievement.

Back when early millennials were burning CDs and Gen Z was just learning to walk, scientists accomplished something historic: the Human Genome Project, a global effort that mapped the entire genome and created a reference that fuels countless breakthroughs. Shortly after, Indian scientists sequenced the first Indian genome, enriching our understanding of DNA. Today, vast genome databases allow scientists to compare individual DNA to this reference, identifying unique traits and potential health risks.

**Beyond diagnostics**

WES and WGS are revolutionising healthcare worldwide, aiding the diagnosis of developmental delays, rare disorders, and cancer mutations. Hospitals like Great Ormond Street in the UK use WGS for aggressive cancers and tuberculosis, while neonatal ICUs are piloting it for early disorder detection. India has also joined these initiatives with national labs and specialised centres supporting applications ranging from newborn screening to cancer genetics.

Genomics is not just shaping healthcare—it is also changing what is on our plates through nutrigenomics, the science of how our genes respond to the food we eat. "Nutrigenomics helps dietitians customise dietary plans based on individual genetic profiles," explains Ryan Fernando, a nutritionist at Qua Nutrition in Bengaluru.

"By analysing genes related to nutrient absorption and metabolism, it provides insights into food compatibility, enhancing dietary adherence," he adds.

Fernando further says that people feel more motivated to make dietary adjustments when they understand their genetic predispositions, such as lactose intolerance.

He also combines microbiome analysis with genomic data, creating dietary plans that align with both genetic and gut health.

"The gut microbiome's genetic contribution is several-fold more than the human genome," notes Dr Yogesh Shouche of SKAN Research Trust. These bacteria enable nutrient digestion, compound production and immune regulation. At SKAN, Dr Shouche and his lab use next-generation sequencing to study this microbiome and its various effects on human health.

To gain quicker, more targeted insights, targeted panel sequencing (TPS) focuses on genes linked to fat metabolism and digestion, using reference genomes to pinpoint gene locations. This is often faster and more cost-effective than a full genome scan. The Dietary Optimization and Microbiome Integration with Nutrigenomics or DOMINO trial has a context menu.

Beyond nutrition, TPS is being applied in clinical settings, such as oncology, where it identifies cancer-associated genes to support precise diagnostics and treatment planning, with potential for wider adoption in the future.

## Future of sequencing

The latest advance in sequencing technologies is nanopore sequencing, which adds another layer by offering real-time, long-read sequencing for DNA and RNA without breaking them into smaller pieces, as WGS does. As a DNA strand passes through a tiny pore, each genetic 'letter' alters the electrical current uniquely. The device reads these shifts in real time, and the software interprets the sequence to capture full strands and structural details. This makes it ideal for complex cases needing rapid results.

For example, the University Hospital Basel uses nanopore sequencing to detect brain tumour mutations within hours, and Brisbane ICUs use it to quickly identify sepsis pathogens. Nanopore also monitors active genes by reading RNA, providing invaluable information in emergency infections like sepsis.

While promising, genomic sequencing is not yet part of standard newborn screening due to its cost and complexity, notes Dr Suruchi Goyal Agarwal, a senior paediatrician and paediatric endocrinologist at RxDx Healthcare in Bengaluru.

Since test results can sometimes trigger anxiety, Dr Agarwal stresses the importance of genetic counselling, especially for families with a history of genetic disorders.

She hopes that genomic testing will one day guide preventive care from birth. "Broader adoption will require reduced costs, regulatory support, and a deeper understanding of genetic data," she says.

*"Whole genome sequencing can discover new disease-causing variants," says Dr Andurlekar, while Prof Shouche adds, "Advances in gut microbiome analysis will improve diagnosis and therapy."*

The hope is that as the technology evolves, precision medicine becomes accessible to everyone.

# BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT BRIEFINGS
# THE GROWTH EQUATION: POWERED BY CIO ASSOCIATION

26 September 2025
Bangalore


**T**he CIO Association's Partner Event, held at The Ritz-Carlton, Bengaluru, was an evening of connection, candour, and collaboration. Bringing together some of India's most influential technology and business leaders, the forum explored a central question of today's enterprise landscape — how do technology companies truly engage the CIOs?

**Setting the Stage**

Umesh Mehta, President of the CIO Association, opened the evening with a note that resonated through the sessions ahead: "The future of technology partnerships lies not in transactions but in trust." His remarks framed the evening as one focused on understanding - of people, priorities, and partnerships, rather than product pitches.

**Inside the CIO's Playbook**

The first session, "Inside the CIO's Playbook: How Technology Leaders Want to Be Engaged", turned the spotlight squarely on the CIO. Moderated by Anjali Gupta, Founder of The Fractional CMO Company and Strategic Marketing Advisor to the CIO Association, the panel featured **Sendhil Kumar (CTO, Shriram Capital), Jai Thomas (CIO, VerSe Innovations), Kaustubh Chandra (CMO, Airtel Business), and Sudhir Nayar (India Business Head, Apple).**

In a lively, candid conversation, the CIOs shared what truly earns their attention — authenticity over allure, substance over slogans. They called for engagement rooted in understanding their business realities, not just technology stacks.

Kaustubh Chandra offered a marketing perspective on "earning credibility before creativity," while Sudhir Nayar added , "sales conversations must begin with empathy, not targets."

As the session closed, Anjali summarised the sentiment succinctly: "It's time we listen harder, speak less, and partner more."


## Driving Growth Together

If the first session opened the CIO's mind, the second opened the business playbook. "Driving Growth Together – From Pilots to Partnerships & Engaging CIOs for Impact" brought perspectives from the other side of the table — CMOs, CEOs, and business heads. The panel featured **Praval Singh (VP Marketing, Zoho), Ashish Gangrade (CEO, Vigorous Softech), Sudhir Kanvinde (CIO, Supreme Industries), and Nandu Kannan (Regional Sales Director, Palo Alto Networks),** and was moderated again by Anjali Gupta.


The discussion explored how pilots, proof-of-concepts, and campaigns can evolve into sustainable co-innovation. Praval shared how customer advocacy and storytelling can turn technology into trust and Ashish spoke about "leadership alignment as the new currency of partnership." Sudhir, offering a CIO's lens within a business panel, reminded everyone that "credibility scales faster than code."

## Evening Takeaways

The event wasn't just about insights but also energy. Between warm reunions, animated discussions, and new introductions, the corridors buzzed with optimism. As the evening concluded, one message stood out: CIO-CEO-Sales & Marketing relationships are entering a new era – one that is defined by shared goals, longer horizons, and authentic engagement.


Celebrating Connections, Conversations & Community
— The CIO Way of Diwali

# SPOTLIGHT ON KNOWLEDGE EVENTS

Here's a glimpse into the exciting Knowledge Events that include Flagship & Bespoke Events, hosted by our vibrant CIO Association chapters across the country this past 2 months

**Coimbatore** : Business Meet With Dell Technologies
9th August, 2025

**Chennai** : Zero Trust. Secure Workspace
21st August, 2025

**Chennai** : AI-Powered Networking For A Smarter Tomorrow
30th August, 2025

**Punjab** : Future Forward 2.0
31st August, 2025

**Pune** : Exclusive Knowledge Sharing Session with Orient Technologies, 10th September, 2025

**Hyderabad** : 2nd Session of Think AI
13th September, 2025

**Kerala** : Confluence 2.0
22nd - 28th September, 2025

**17th Annual General Meeting**
28th September, 2025

**Chennai** : STT GDC Chennai Data Centre Circuit
7th September, 2025





# CHAPTER ANNUAL EVENTS

Here are the highlights of the signature gatherings that celebrated collaboration, learning, and leadership across our CIO Association chapters nationwide.

**Coimbatore** : Tech Bash 2025
23rd August, 2025

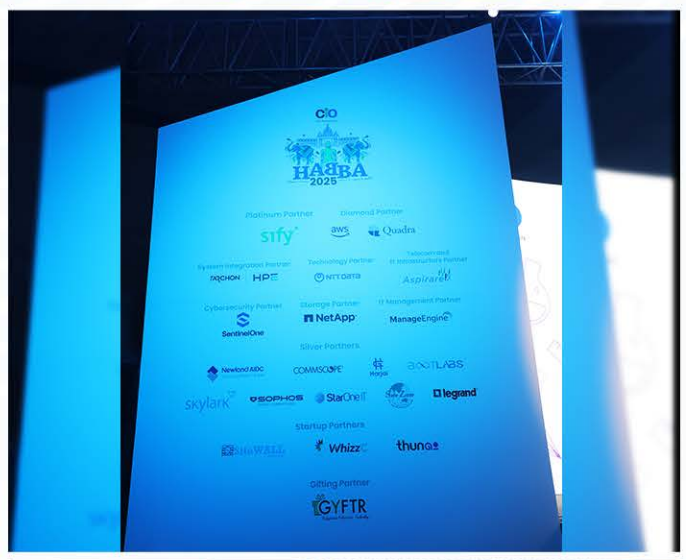
**Bangalore** : Habba 2025
27th September, 2025

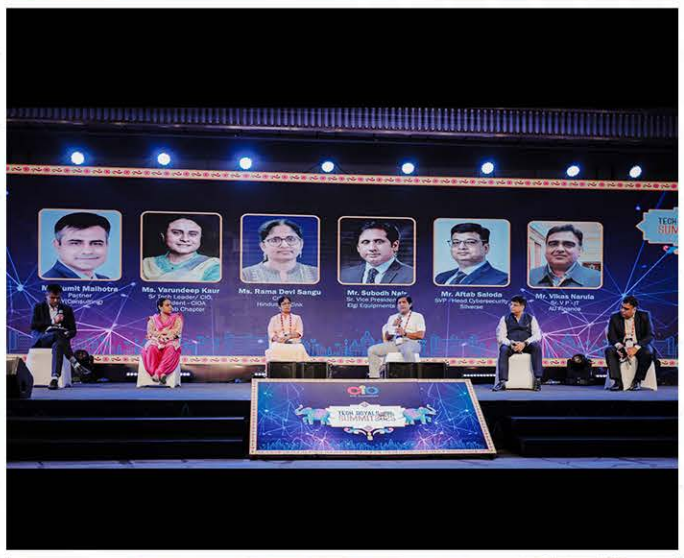
**Rajasthan** : TECH Royal Summit 2025
6th September, 2025

**Delhi NCR** : CIO Leadership Symposium 2025
4th October, 2025









# SPECIAL CHAPTER MOMENTS

Alongside our major and exclusive chapter events, a few unique gatherings stood out for their innovation and personal touch:

**Kolkata: GAMETECH 2025**
30th August, 2025

An immersive experience by the CIO Association Kolkata Chapter that redefined learning and leadership through gaming-inspired challenges and live innovation showcases.

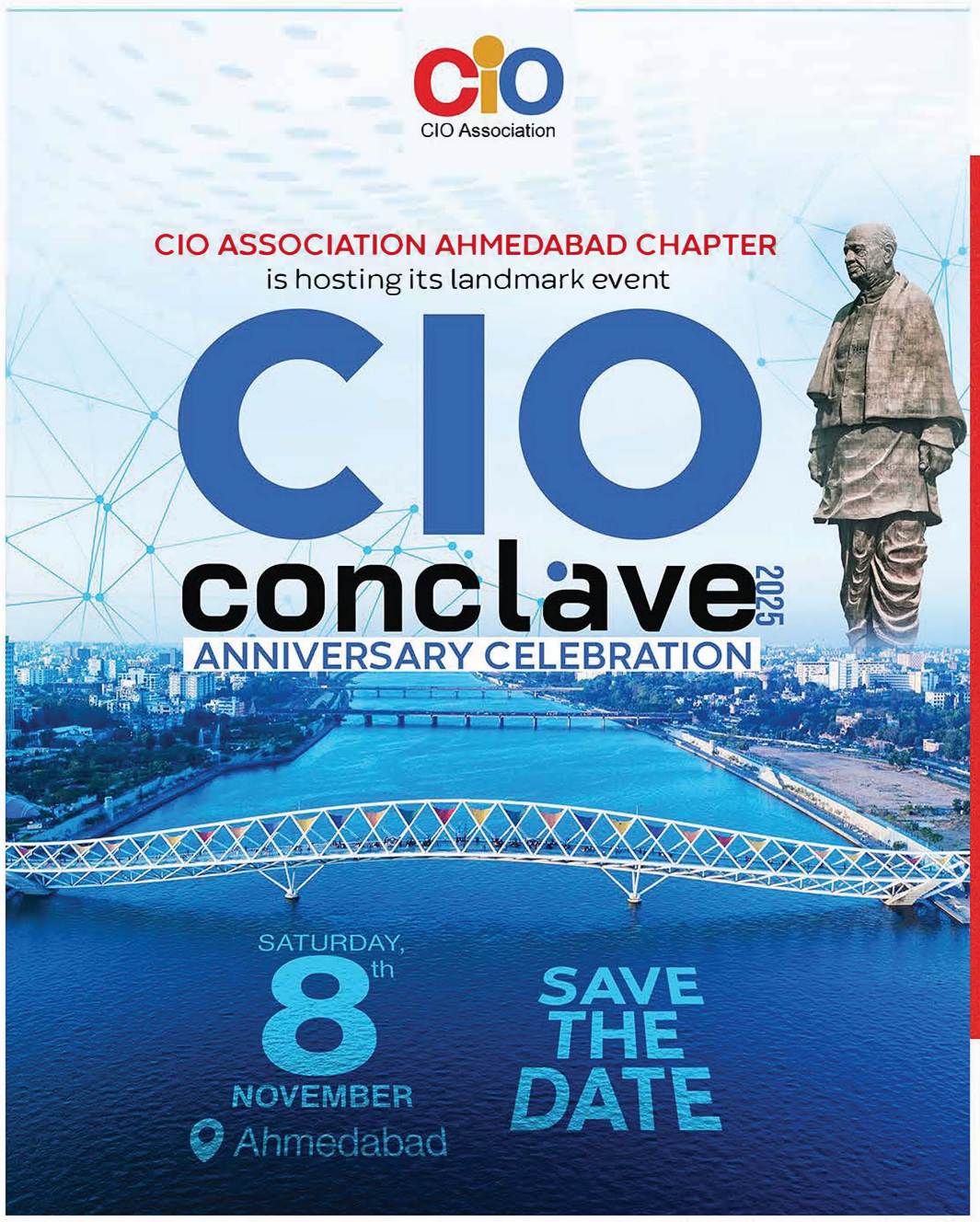
**Mumbai : Freedom Run 2025**
15th August, 2025

A nationwide virtual fitness initiative that brought together 300+ CIOs and their families to celebrate wellness, unity, and the spirit of freedom.



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We invite partners to collaborate in these events and showcase their solutions to technology leaders, foster innovation, and create powerful brand engagement opportunities across the CIO community.




## AHMEDABAD

**CIO Conclave 2025**

Date: 8th November, 2025
Venue: Ahmedabad, Gujarat

The CIO Association Ahmedabad Chapter's annual flagship event brings together CIOs and technology leaders from across Gujarat to celebrate the strength of community, exchange insights, and set the vision for the future of enterprise leadership.

*Click Here to Participate*

# PUNJAB

**Tech Vision Summit**

Date: 22nd November, 2025
Venue: Chandigarh, Punjab

A landmark gathering by the CIO Association Punjab Chapter, this annual flagship event brings together technology leaders to explore emerging innovations, share insights, and celebrate three years of transformative impact.

*Click Here to Participate*



# KOLKATA

**CIO Future Scape 2026**

Date: 10th January, 2026
Venue: Kolkata

An engaging convergence of minds, the annual flagship event of the CIO Association Kolkata Chapter explores how technology, strategy, and leadership will define the next phase of enterprise transformation.


# NAGPUR

## CIO ORANGE CITY TECH CONCLAVE 2026

Date: 24th January, 2026
Venue: Nagpur

Three years of collaboration and shared vision - the journey of the CIO Association Nagpur Chapter continues with its annual flagship event, celebrating progress and partnerships.