

India Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBDC)

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About India Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBDC)

- The challenge is **spearheaded by MeitY** in **collaboration with the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA)** and the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** Bangalore.
- The Challenge **seeks to inspire and empower technology enthusiasts, innovators**, and developers from all corners of the country **to create an indigenous web browser**.
- The desired browser **will have its own trust store, use a root certificate from India's CCA**, and **offer cutting-edge functionalities** and **enhanced security & data privacy protection features**.
- As part of the challenge the government has announced a **cash prize of Rs 3.4 crores for the developers**.
- **Qualifications for Participants:**
 - The Indian Tech **Start-ups, MSMEs, Companies, and LLPs** registered in India under the **Companies Act 2013** can apply.
 - The **entity must have at least 51% shareholding with Indian citizens** or persons of Indian origin.
 - The applicant's entity **should not be a subsidiary company of any foreign corporation**.

- **Participants can apply either as “individuals” or “organization”.** Members applying as “**individuals**” should have a **minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 members** in their Group.
- **All other applicants** (Startups, MSME, etc.) **should apply under the “organization”** category only.
- **Desired features in an Indian web browser:** The **ministry has also laid down** the **features desired** in an Indian web browser.
 - It must be **compatible with all platforms**, including iOS, Android and Desktop.
 - It should **offer built-in accessibility support**.
 - The browser should also have the **ability to digitally sign the documents using a crypto token**.
 - It should also have **parental control and a web filter for child-friendly browsing**.
 - It should come **with support for Web3 and compliance with W3C standards**.
 - Lastly, it should also **support all the official Indian languages**.

Key Facts about Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA):

- The **Information Technology Act 2000 (IT Act)** provides for the CCA.
- **Function:** To **license and regulate the working of Certifying Authorities (CAs)**.
- The **CAs issue digital signature certificates for electronic authentication of users**.
- The CCA **also maintains the National Repository of Digital Certificates (NRDC)**, which **contains all the certificates issued by all the CAs** in the country.
- Its **aim is to promote the growth of e-Commerce and e-Governance through a wide use of digital signatures**.
- The Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) **is appointed by the Central Government under section 17 of the IT Act**.

Q1) What are digital signatures?

A digital signature is a cryptographic technique used to authenticate the origin and integrity of electronic documents, messages, or data. It provides a way to ensure that a digital file or message has not been tampered with and that it comes from a legitimate source. Digital signatures are a crucial component of digital security, especially in contexts such as electronic transactions, contracts, and sensitive communications.

Source: [MeitY launches Indian Web Browser Development Challenge](#)

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