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THE STATE OF RANSOMWARE IN INDIA 2025

Findings from an independent, vendor-agnostic survey of 378 organizations in India that were hit by ransomware in the last year.

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About the report

This report is based on the findings of an independent, vendor-agnostic survey of 3,400 IT/cybersecurity leaders working in organizations that were hit by ransomware in the last year, including 378 from India.

The survey was commissioned by Sophos and conducted by a third-party specialist between January and March 2025.

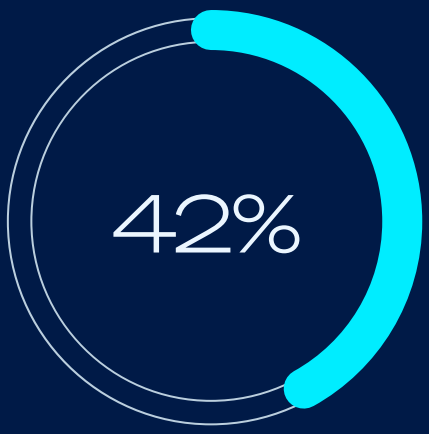
All respondents work in organizations with between 100 and 5,000 employees and were asked to answer based on their experiences in the previous 12 months.

The report includes comparisons with the findings from our 2024 survey. All financial data points are in U.S. dollars.

Survey of

378

IT/cybersecurity leaders in India working in organizations that were hit by ransomware in the last year



Percentage of attacks that resulted in data being encypted.

Median Indian ransom payment in the last year.

Average cost to recover from a ransomware attack.

Why Indian organizations fall victim to ransomware

- **Exploited vulnerabilities were the most common technical root cause of attack,** used in 29% of attacks. They are followed by compromised credentials, which were the start of 22% of attacks. Malicious emails were used in 21% of attacks.
- **A lack of people / capacity and poor-quality protection are the two most common operational root causes,** both cited by 41% of Indian respondents. 39% said that not having the necessary cybersecurity products and services in place played a factor in their organization falling victim to ransomware.

What happens to the data

- **42% of attacks resulted in data being encrypted.** This is below the global average of 50% and a drop from the 62% reported by Indian respondents in 2024.
- **Data was also stolen in 31% of attacks where data was encrypted,** a drop from the 34% reported last year.
- **95% of Indian organizations that had data encrypted were able to get it back,** just below the global average.
- **53% of Indian organizations paid the ransom and got data back,** a considerable drop from the 65% reported last year.
- **51% of Indian organizations used backups to recover encrypted data,** a small drop from the 52% reported last year.

Ransoms: Demands and payments

- **The median Indian ransom demand in the last year was $961,289,** which is a 52% drop from the $2 million reported in our 2024 survey.

Median Indian ransom demand in the last year.

- **49% of ransom demands were for $1 million or more**, down from 62% in 2024.
- **The median Indian ransom payment in the last year was $481,636,** a 79% drop from the $2 million reported last year.
- **Indian organizations typically paid 88% of the ransom demand,** slightly above the global average of 85%.
  - 41% **paid LESS THAN the initial ransom** demand (global average: 53%).
  - 46% **paid THE SAME as the initial ransom** demand (global average: 29%).
  - 12% **paid MORE THAN the initial ransom** demand (global average: 18%).

Business impact of ransomware

- Excluding any ransom payments, **the average (mean) bill incurred by Indian organizations to recover from a ransomware attack in the last year came in at $1.01 million**, a drop from the $1.35 million reported by Indian respondents in 2024. This includes costs of downtime, people time, device cost, network cost, lost opportunity, etc.
- **Indian organizations are getting slower at recovering from a ransomware attack,** with 48% fully recovered in up to a week, a decrease from the 61% reported last year. 23% took between one and six months to recover, a notable increase from last year's 14%.

Human impact of ransomware on IT/cybersecurity teams in organizations where data was encrypted

46% report **increased anxiety or stress** about future attacks.

42% report **increased pressure** from senior leaders.

36% say the **team's workload has increased** since the attack.

30% report **feelings of guilt** that the attack was not stopped.

25% have experienced a **team member absence** due to stress/ mental health issues.

Recommendations

Ransomware remains a major threat to Indian organizations. As adversaries continue to iterate and evolve their attacks, it's essential that defenders and their cyber defenses keep pace. The learnings from this report indicate key areas for focus in 2025 and beyond.

- **Prevention.** The best ransomware attack is the one that didn't happen because adversaries couldn't get into your organization. Look to reduce both the technical root causes of attack and the operational ones highlighted in this report.
- **Protection.** Strong foundational security is a must. Endpoints (including servers) are the primary destination for ransomware actors, so ensure that they are well defended, including dedicated anti-ransomware protection to stop and roll back malicious encryption.
- **Detection and response.** The sooner you stop an attack, the better your outcomes. Around-the-clock threat detection and response is now an essential layer of defense. If you lack the resources or skills to deliver this in house, look to work with a trusted managed detection and response (MDR) provider.
- **Planning and preparation.** Having an incident response plan that you are well versed in deploying will greatly improve your outcomes if the worst happens and you experience a major attack. Be sure to take good backups and regularly practice recovering from them.

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To explore how Sophos can help you optimize your ransomware defenses, speak to an adviser or visit **sophos.com/ransomware2025**

Sophos delivers industry leading cybersecurity solutions to businesses of all sizes, protecting them in real time from advanced threats such as malware, ransomware, and phishing. With proven next-gen capabilities your business data is secured effectively by products that are powered by artificial intelligence and machine learning.

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