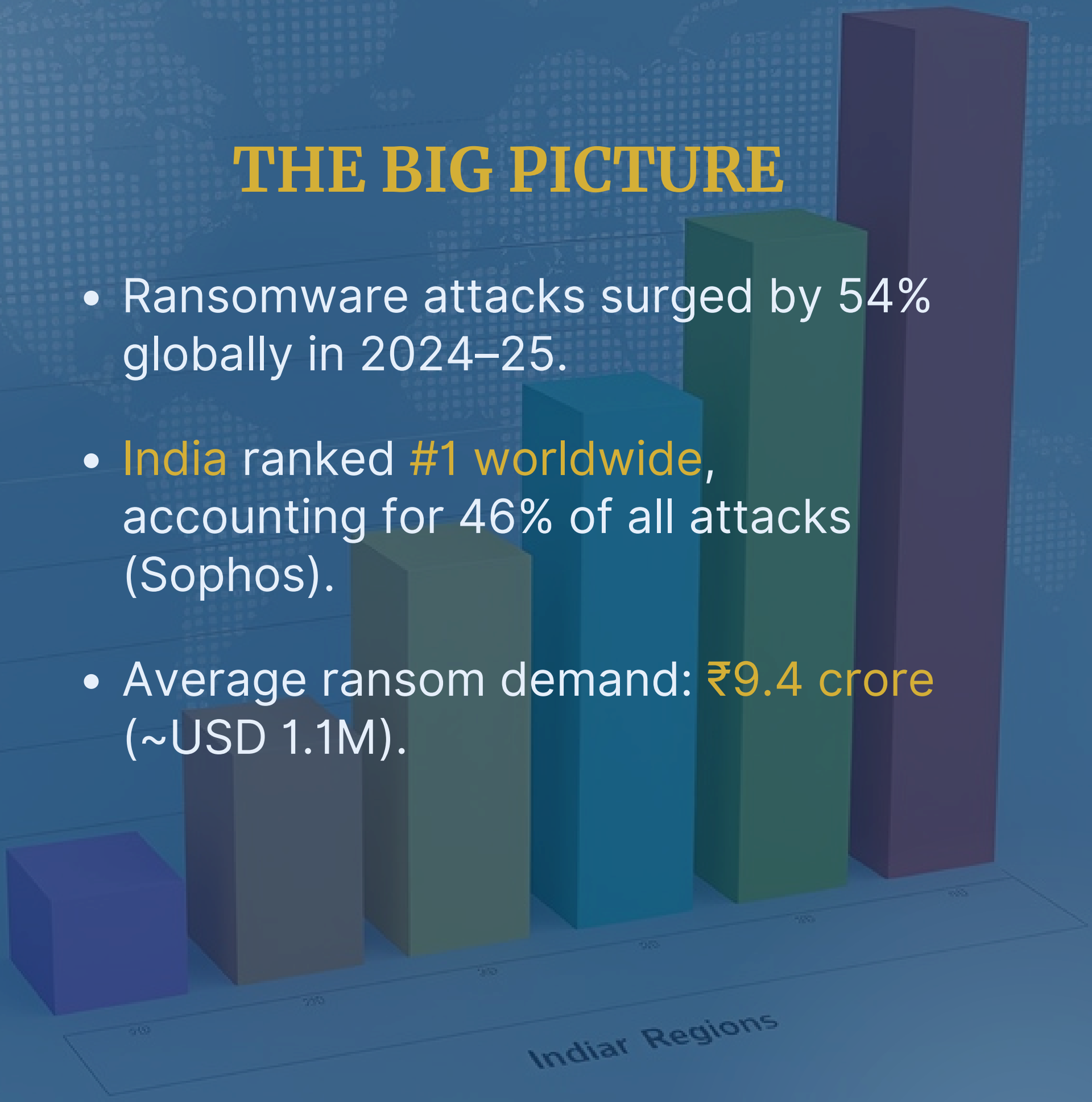
DO YOU KNOW?

INDIA SAW HALF OF ALL GLOBAL RANSOMWARE ATTACKS

What went wrong, and what can we do next?

THE BIG PICTURE

- Ransomware attacks surged by 54% globally in 2024–25.
- India ranked #1 worldwide, accounting for 46% of all attacks (Sophos).
- Average ransom demand: ₹9.4 crore (~USD 1.1M).



WHY INDIA?

- Rapid digital transformation in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) without matching cybersecurity maturity.
- Heavy reliance on cloud & third-party IT services.
- Low reporting rates, high payment frequency.

THE RISE OF CYBERCRIME AS A SUBSCRIPTION MODEL

- Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) lets criminals “rent” attack kits and profit-share with developers.
- Most active RaaS groups in India: LockBit, BlackCat/ALPHV, and Akira.
- Increasing use of AI-generated phishing & credential harvesting.

THE HUMAN FACTOR

- 76% of Indian ransomware incidents start with phishing or credential theft*.
- Remote workforces and hybrid setups remain primary weak links.

* THE STATE OF RANSOMWARE IN INDIA 2025 by SOPHOS

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

- Average downtime: 9.2 days (up from 6.5).
- Data encrypted: 73% of incidents.
- Ransom paid: 64% of victims among the highest globally.
- Recovery cost (incl. downtime): ₹13.2 crore average.

CERT-IN FINDINGS: (2024 REPORT)

- Ransomware attacks concentrated in:
  - IT/ITeS (27%)
  - Manufacturing (21%)
  - Healthcare (14%)
- Surge in “double extortion” tactics: encryption + data leak threats.

LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- IT Act 2000 (Sections 43 & 66): Covers unauthorised access, data theft.
- CERT-In Directions 2022: 6-hour breach reporting requirement.
- DPDP Act 2023: Data fiduciaries liable for breach prevention.

India lacks a dedicated ransomware reporting law or victim support mechanism.

PREVENTION & PREPAREDNESS

What businesses should do now:

✅ Enforce multi-layered backups (offline + encrypted).

✅ Conduct phishing simulations & employee training.

✅ Maintain updated patch management & MFA.

✅ Prepare legal + technical incident response playbooks.

✅ Partner with CERT-In–empanelled audit agencies.

Centre for Research and
Governance on Cyber Law

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