Dr. Lalit Gupta

Group Head of IT GRC & Cybersecurity | AI-Driven InfoSec Leader

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DOB: January 1975 | Residence: Chennai, India (Flexible to Relocate)

Permanent Address: Rohtak, Haryana | Travel: Open for Global travel

Executive Summary

- **Accomplished Information Security Leader** with over 25 years of experience in **executive leadership** and **strategic oversight**, driving AI-powered cybersecurity transformations across APAC, Europe, and the Middle East.
- Proven expertise in aligning **cybersecurity strategies with business objectives**, managing multi-million-dollar budgets, and delivering **scalable global security programs**.
- Recognized for enhancing **operational resilience by 40%** through **innovative GRC transformations**, **regulatory compliance**, and **robust cloud security frameworks**.
- Skilled in **cross-functional collaboration** and **stakeholder engagement**, with a track record of mentoring high-performing teams to achieve **measurable results**.
- Successfully implemented global industry standards, including **ISO 27001**, **NIST**, and **GDPR**, driving compliance and risk mitigation across operations.
- Demonstrated impact across diverse sectors, including **FinTech, Automotive, BFSI, IT/ITES**, and **Telecom**, ensuring alignment with organizational goals and regulatory frameworks.

Key Achievement

- **AI-Driven Cybersecurity Transformation**: Spearheaded automation of 70% of IT GRC processes at Al Gihaz using AI/ML, enabling real-time threat detection, reducing vulnerabilities by 50%, and increasing ROI by 20%
- **National Cybersecurity Leadership:** Played a pivotal role in establishing **CERT-In**, shaping India's national cybersecurity policies, and developing incident response frameworks that enhanced national resilience.
- **Global Governance & Compliance Excellence:** Achieved alignment with **DORA, ISO 27001, GDPR, and NIST** frameworks, ensuring 100% audit readiness and minimizing regulatory risks.
- **Cloud Security & Crisis Management:** Strengthened cloud security across **Azure and Oracle Cloud platforms**, reducing threat exposure by 30% and accelerating incident resolution timelines by 50% through scalable and adaptive security measures.
- **Thought Leadership in Cybersecurity:** Published influential works on cybersecurity and AI.

Professional Certifications

- **CISSP, CISA, CISM, CRISC, C-CISO, GRCP, CDPO**
- **Lead Auditor** (ISMS, BCMS, QMS)
- **Lead Implementer** (ISO 27001)
- **CPISI, CHFI, MBCI, CCC, CCIO**
- **Lead Auditor** (ISO 55001, ISO 27031, ISO 45001)

Academic Background

- **PhD in Information Security – Nixon University** | 2013 | USA
  Thesis: Managing Cultural Shift After an Information Security Risk Assessment Exercise
  (Case Study: SME Financial Sector in the Middle East)
- **MBA in e-Business – CSM IGS** | 2004 | Canada
  Thesis: Global e-Business Acumen and the e-Business Situation in India
- **BA – Kakatiya University** | 1995 | India

Professional Experience

Group Head of IT GRC & Cybersecurity (Global Role)
Al Gihaz Holding | June 2023 – Present | Chennai, India

- **Cybersecurity Strategy & Governance:** Designed and implemented a 3-year roadmap aligned with business growth objectives, boosting operational efficiency by 40% and improving resilience across 18 subsidiaries. Collaborated with senior leadership to integrate cybersecurity initiatives into broader organizational strategies.
- **AI-Powered GRC Automation:** Automated 70% of GRC processes through AI/ML models, enabling real-time threat detection, reducing vulnerabilities by 50%, and delivering a 20% increase in ROI. Demonstrated expertise in driving **digital transformation** across compliance functions.
- **Zero Trust & Cybersecurity Mesh Frameworks:** Spearheaded the adoption of **Zero Trust Architecture** and a scalable **CSMA framework**, reducing unauthorized access incidents by 40% and breach risks by 35%, while securing critical supply chain assets.
- **Cloud & Extended Detection and Response (XDR):** Enhanced security across **Azure** and **Oracle Cloud**, cutting cloud-based threats by 30%. Deployed XDR solutions, achieving a 50% faster response to incidents while ensuring SOC efficiency.
- **Third-Party Risk & Supply Chain Security:** Developed a robust **third-party risk management** framework, reducing vendor vulnerabilities by 30% and ensuring compliance monitoring for 100+ global partners.
- **Regulatory Compliance Excellence:** Aligned cybersecurity operations with international standards, including **DORA, ISO 27001, GDPR, and NIST**, achieving 100% audit readiness and mitigating regulatory risks across global operations.
- **Incident Response & Crisis Continuity:** Implemented **AI-driven incident response playbooks**, reducing containment time by 40% and ensuring seamless business continuity through proactive crisis management protocols

Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Skillusions + CyResMan | May 2013 – May 2023 | India, Dubai, Bahrain

- **Global Cybersecurity Consulting:** Delivered advanced cybersecurity solutions across 30+ markets in finance, energy, and telecom, reducing breach risks by 40% and strengthening critical infrastructure resilience.
- **Strategic Business Growth:** Expanded operations into 5 new international markets, achieving a 35% increase in annual revenue through strategic partnerships and innovative service delivery.
- **Automotive Cybersecurity Leadership:** Established a Centre of Excellence (COE) for Jaguar Land Rover, developing robust security frameworks for Self-Driving Vehicles (SDVs) and Electric Vehicles (EVs) to mitigate risks in next-generation automotive technologies.
- **Digital Transformation Advisory:** Advised C-level executives on implementing DevSecOps practices and supply chain security measures, driving compliance with ISO 27001 and NIST standards across global operations.
- **Leadership & Innovation:** Built and managed high-performing teams across India, Dubai, and Bahrain, fostering a culture of innovation that delivered scalable, client-centric solutions tailored to dynamic market needs.

Head of Information Security (CISO Role)
Deem Finance LLC (formerly Dunia Finance) | May 2010–May 2013 | Dubai, UAE

- **ISO 27001 Compliance Leadership:** Achieved organization-wide ISO 27001 certification, reducing operational risks and compliance costs by 20% through streamlined security frameworks.
- **Strategic Alignment with Business Goals:** Collaborated with C-suite and regional executives to align **cybersecurity governance** with business objectives, reducing security incidents by 30%.
- **Budget Optimization:** Managed a $2M cybersecurity budget, optimizing resource allocation and achieving cost-effective operations without compromising security standards.
- **Risk Management & Incident Response:** Strengthened **risk management protocols** and implemented proactive incident response strategies, minimizing downtime and enhancing operational resilience.
- **Team Leadership:** Directed a team of security specialists to implement best practices, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in cybersecurity operations.

Practice Lead – Business Continuity, Security & Governance – Asia-Pacific
BT Group | Dec 2006 – Apr 2010 | Gurgaon, Haryana, India

- **Global Leadership in Security & Continuity:** Hired and directed a high-performing team of 150+ senior consultants across APAC and Europe, delivering business continuity and security programs in 18 countries and reducing security incidents by 25%.
- **P&L and Delivery Operations:** Managed **P&L responsibilities** for the practice, ensuring profitable service delivery and optimizing financial performance across regional operations.
- **Strategic Resource Optimization:** Increased team utilization rates by 30% through effective workforce planning, skill development, and delivery streamlining, enhancing operational efficiency.
- **Governance & Risk Management:** Designed and implemented **risk management frameworks**, driving cross-functional collaboration and aligning security initiatives with business objectives.
- **Regional Security Oversight:** Led **business continuity and disaster recovery programs**, ensuring compliance with international standards and seamless service continuity across diverse regions.
- **Operational Excellence:** Introduced **proactive risk mitigation strategies**, reducing downtime during disruptions and strengthening organizational resilience.

Additional Experience

LG Soft India | Manager – Information Security | 2005 – 2006 | Bengaluru

- Transitioned the organization to **ISO 27001 compliance**, earning the **GOLD Award** for excellence in information security.
- Established robust security governance frameworks, reducing operational risks and enhancing alignment with global security standards.
- **Team Leadership:** Managed and mentored a team of 10 security analysts, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and implementing best practices to elevate security operations.

Network Security Solutions (I) Ltd | Senior Consultant | 2001 – 2005 | Noida

- Played a foundational role in establishing **CERT-In**, India's national cybersecurity response team, by developing SOPs and national incident response frameworks.
- Conducted risk assessments for critical infrastructure, enhancing resilience for government and enterprise clients.
- **High-Profile Client Collaboration:** Partnered with leading government agencies and enterprises to deliver critical infrastructure protection strategies that influenced national security policies.

iWeb Technology Solutions | Founder & Proprietor | 1999 – 2001 | New Delhi

- Delivered IT and network security solutions for high-profile clients, including **Indian Railways**, ensuring secure digital transformations.
- Built a profitable startup offering tailored cybersecurity solutions, achieving 25% year-over-year revenue growth through innovative services.
- **Notable Partnerships:** Forged strategic alliances with top technology providers, enabling comprehensive and scalable security solutions for diverse industries.

Publications & Insights

- **Cybersecurity Chronicles: Navigating the Digital World Safely** – Published
- **Secure Shift: Sailing Through Cultural Waters in Information Security** – Under Publication
- **Guardians of Bits and Bytes: How AI is Revolutionizing Cybersecurity** – Under Authoring

Awards & Recognitions

- **Honorary Doctorate in Cyber Security – Christian Central University** | 2023 | USA
- **Pillars of India Award (2024)** – Leadership in cybersecurity innovation.
- **Bharat Gaurav Samman (2024)** – National contribution to cybersecurity.
- **GOLD Award (2006)** – ISO 27001 implementation excellence at LG Soft India.