

Dr. Leela Lella

Founder & Strategic Cybersecurity Advisor, Velentraa · DBA · Ph.D. Research Scholar — Secure AI & National Security

Executive Cybersecurity & Security Transformation Leader

Hyderabad, Telangana, India 14+ years cybersecurity experience

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dr. Leela Lella is Founder & Strategic Cybersecurity Advisor at Velentraa and an Executive Cybersecurity & Security Transformation Leader with 14+ years of progressive experience across enterprise cybersecurity, security strategy, governance, architecture, application security, cloud security, cyber resilience and security transformation.

She has worked across Fortune 500 organizations, global consulting environments, banking, healthcare, retail and technology sectors, translating cybersecurity and emerging-technology risk into business-aligned executive decisions.

Her work includes establishing enterprise security governance, driving Zero Trust initiatives, strengthening security architecture, modernizing security operations, integrating security into DevSecOps, leading vulnerability management, enhancing cloud security, improving compliance maturity and enabling secure digital transformation.

She collaborates with executive leadership, global clients, technology organizations, audit teams, compliance functions and cross-functional stakeholders. This industry experience is complemented by ongoing doctoral research in Secure AI Governance, Zero Trust Architecture, Enterprise Cyber Resilience and National Security, together with publications, mentoring, technical workshops and professional speaking.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Executive Cybersecurity Leadership · Strategic Cybersecurity Advisory · Fractional CISO Advisory

Enterprise Security Strategy · Enterprise Security Architecture · Governance, Risk & Compliance

ISO 27001 · PCI DSS · NIST CSF · GDPR · DPDP Act Readiness · Zero Trust Strategy

Cloud & Infrastructure Security · AWS · Azure · Hybrid Cloud · IAM · PAM · Application Security

DevSecOps · Secure SDLC | SAST · DAST · IAST · SCA · API Security | Cyber Resilience | SOC · SIEM · Incident Response | AI Security Governance

SELECTED CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Founded Velentraa, a strategic cybersecurity advisory practice focused on executive cybersecurity leadership, Fractional CISO advisory, cyber resilience, secure AI governance and security transformation.
- Delivered business-aligned security transformation across Fortune 500 organizations, global consulting firms and highly regulated industries.
- Led enterprise cybersecurity transformation across application, cloud, infrastructure and information security domains.
- Directed security governance, enterprise risk management, compliance and security-maturity initiatives aligned with ISO 27001, PCI DSS, NIST, HIPAA, GDPR and DPDP Act readiness.
- Led enterprise vulnerability management through risk-based remediation, and drove Zero Trust and enterprise security architecture improvements.
- Integrated DevSecOps, Secure SDLC, SAST, DAST, IAST and SCA controls into enterprise delivery pipelines.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Strategic Cybersecurity Advisor

Sep 2025 – Present · Bengaluru

Velentraa India Pvt Ltd

Founded Velentraa, a cybersecurity consulting and strategic advisory venture focused on strengthening cybersecurity leadership, cyber resilience, security governance and secure adoption of emerging technologies.

- Provides strategic cybersecurity advisory across enterprise security strategy, cyber resilience, security governance, security architecture and cybersecurity risk leadership.
- Develops Fractional CISO and executive advisory capabilities for organizations seeking experienced cybersecurity leadership without an immediate full-time executive appointment.
- Advises leadership teams on Secure AI Governance, AI security strategy, cyber risk and the integration of cybersecurity into business and technology decision-making.
- Supports startups and growing organizations in establishing scalable security foundations, governance practices and security-by-design approaches.
- Translates complex cybersecurity and emerging-technology risks into practical, business-aligned decisions for executives and leadership teams.

Manager

Aug 2024 – Jun 2026 · Bengaluru

Capgemini

- Led enterprise-wide cybersecurity transformation across global environments, aligning security strategy with business objectives and client requirements across Application, Cloud (AWS), Infrastructure and InfoSec domains.

- Managed and scaled cybersecurity operations supporting 100+ applications and multi-cloud platforms, ensuring secure, resilient and high-availability environments across diverse business units.
- Led cross-functional security teams of 25+ members, driving delivery excellence, stakeholder alignment and high-performance outcomes across SOC, engineering and DevSecOps functions.
- Owned enterprise Vulnerability Management programs, implementing risk-based remediation strategies that reduced critical exposure and improved remediation timelines across large-scale environments.
- Drove enterprise security architecture and Zero Trust initiatives, strengthening access controls, segmentation and overall cyber resilience across critical systems.
- Led governance, risk and compliance initiatives aligned with ISO 27001, PCI DSS and NIST frameworks, ensuring regulatory alignment and improved security maturity.
- Championed DevSecOps and Shift-Left security, integrating SAST, DAST, API security and automated controls into CI/CD pipelines to enhance application security posture.
- Led incident response and threat detection programs, improving detection and response capabilities while delivering executive-level security insights and reporting.
- Enhanced operational efficiency and reduced enterprise risk exposure through automation, process optimization and data-driven security decision-making.

Security Testing Engineer

Feb 2023 – Nov 2023 · Bengaluru

Alchemy Techsol (Client: Shell India Markets Pvt. Ltd.)

- Led cybersecurity transformation initiatives for a global enterprise client, aligning security strategy with business priorities, risk posture and operational resilience goals.
- Drove enhancement of threat detection, incident response and monitoring capabilities across distributed enterprise environments.
- Partnered with senior stakeholders to strengthen security controls across application, cloud and infrastructure ecosystems.
- Influenced enterprise security roadmap execution, contributing to improved cyber resilience and operational maturity.
- Enabled strategic improvements in security operations through process optimization and data-driven decision-making.

Recognition — Spot Award for enhancing SOC monitoring, threat detection and security operations.

Technical Lead

Sep 2022 – Jan 2023 · Bengaluru

Diverse Lynx (Client: Atos Syntel)

- Provided leadership across cybersecurity delivery, driving alignment between security solutions and enterprise business requirements.
- Led cross-functional teams in implementing scalable security controls across infrastructure and application landscapes.
- Strengthened operational efficiency by streamlining security processes and improving delivery governance.
- Acted as a strategic liaison between technical teams and stakeholders, translating cybersecurity risks into actionable insights.
- Contributed to successful delivery of security programs within enterprise environments.

Recognition — Spot Award for integrating SAST and DAST into DevOps workflows, reducing security testing time by approximately 30%.

Senior Solution Advisor

Apr 2022 – Sep 2022 · Bengaluru

Deloitte

- Advised enterprise clients on cybersecurity transformation, risk management and strategic security initiatives across complex environments.
- Contributed to defining security architecture and governance frameworks aligned with business and regulatory expectations.
- Led security assessments and provided strategic recommendations to enhance organizational security maturity.
- Partnered with executive stakeholders to align cybersecurity strategy with enterprise objectives.
- Supported delivery of high-impact consulting engagements focused on strengthening cyber resilience.

Senior Software Engineer (AVP)

Nov 2021 – Apr 2022 · Bengaluru

Wells Fargo

- Contributed to enterprise application security initiatives within a global banking environment, aligning secure development practices with business risk and regulatory requirements.
- Partnered with cross-functional stakeholders to embed security controls across application architecture, strengthening overall system resilience and compliance posture.
- Drove adoption of secure coding standards and vulnerability remediation practices, improving application security maturity across critical systems.
- Supported secure SDLC transformation by integrating security validation, testing and risk assessment into development workflows.
- Influenced risk reduction strategies by identifying application security gaps and contributing to mitigation plans across enterprise platforms.
- Collaborated with development, security and governance teams to ensure alignment with organizational security policies and regulatory frameworks.

Associate Consultant

Apr 2020 – Nov 2021 · Bengaluru

GlobalLogic

- Delivered cybersecurity consulting services, contributing to enterprise security architecture and transformation initiatives.
- Supported integration of DevSecOps practices, embedding security controls into development and deployment pipelines.
- Collaborated with client stakeholders to identify risks and implement scalable security solutions.
- Influenced secure system design and architecture decisions across application and infrastructure environments.
- Contributed to continuous improvement of security posture through proactive risk mitigation strategies.

Recognition — Spot Award for measurable cybersecurity outcomes, including reducing enterprise application security risk by 40%, integrating SAST/DAST into the Secure SDLC (approximately 15% release-efficiency improvement) and supporting ISO/IEC 27001 certification readiness.

Information Security Specialist

Dec 2018 – Jan 2020 · Bengaluru

Standard Chartered

- Played a key role in driving enterprise information security initiatives within a global banking environment, aligning security controls with business risk and regulatory expectations.
- Contributed to strengthening security governance, risk frameworks and control effectiveness across critical systems.
- Collaborated with stakeholders to enhance enterprise security posture and compliance maturity.
- Supported implementation of security controls aligned with ISO 27001 and regulatory frameworks.
- Influenced enterprise risk mitigation and vulnerability management strategies.

Senior Security Analyst

Jan 2018 – Jul 2018 · Bengaluru

Lowe's India

- Contributed to strengthening enterprise security operations by supporting threat analysis, monitoring and proactive risk identification across business systems.
- Played a key role in vulnerability management activities, enabling improved prioritization and remediation of critical security risks.
- Collaborated with internal teams to enhance security controls and operational processes, improving overall detection and response capabilities.
- Supported incident analysis and response efforts, contributing to improved handling of security events and operational resilience.
- Assisted in aligning security practices with organizational standards, contributing to improved consistency and governance in security operations.

ITO Service Delivery Consultant II

Nov 2016 – Jan 2018 · Bengaluru

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)

- Supported enterprise security monitoring and vulnerability management operations, improving visibility, strengthening control effectiveness and enhancing risk detection capabilities.
- Enabled implementation of information security controls and compliance requirements across enterprise environments.
- Oversaw secure code review practices, ensuring adherence to secure development standards and reducing application risk exposure.

Security Administrator

Jan 2016 – Nov 2016 · Bengaluru

TEKsystems (Payroll for Hewlett Packard Enterprise)

Built foundational experience in enterprise infrastructure, cloud and information security while supporting operational security services for global enterprise environments.

- Supported infrastructure, cloud and information security operations.

- Assisted with security monitoring, incident handling and vulnerability management.
- Participated in security-control implementation, operational governance and compliance processes.

Systems Engineer

Apr 2012 – Jan 2016 · Rajahmundry

Vaishnavi Consultancy

Established foundational expertise across enterprise cybersecurity, secure application delivery, information security, vulnerability management and operational risk management.

- Performed vulnerability assessments and security testing across enterprise applications.
- Supported information security assessments, remediation validation and security documentation.
- Assisted with secure configuration reviews and implementation of security best practices.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Research Scholar (Pursuing) — Secure AI Governance, Cybersecurity & National Security
KL University · 2025 – 2030

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) — Cyber Security
IMET · 2022 – 2023

Master's Degree — Systems Management
GITAM Deemed University · 2017 – 2019

Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) — Electronics and Communication Engineering
JNTUK · 2005 – 2012

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) — EC-Council

Certified Security Analyst (ECSA v10) — EC-Council

AWS Certified Solutions Architect — Associate

Certified API Security Architect

ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Lead Implementer

PCI DSS v3.2.1 Implementer Certified

PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Executive cybersecurity speaker, industry mentor and thought-leadership contributor. Conducts technical workshops and cybersecurity awareness sessions, mentors cybersecurity professionals, supports academic learning initiatives and publishes thought leadership on AI security, information security governance, enterprise cybersecurity and secure digital transformation.

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

Ph.D. researcher specializing in Secure AI Governance, enterprise cybersecurity and national security. Research interests include Secure AI Governance, enterprise security strategy, cyber resilience, Executive Trust Architecture, information security governance, AI risk management, national cyber defence, cybersecurity leadership and board-level cyber governance.

Executive Trust Architecture™ (ETA)
A Board-Level Governance Framework for Autonomous Enterprise AI Ecosystems. Featured executive white paper — submitted to ISACA, under review. Developed by Dr. Leela Lella.

A Comprehensive Framework for Application Security in Modern DevSecOps Environments: A Risk-Driven Approach
Published on SSRN | Visible through Google Scholar. A risk-driven approach to integrating application security into modern DevSecOps environments.

Executive Trust Governance Framework for Autonomous National Cyber Defence Systems
Research in development — executive trust, governance, accountability, and strategic oversight for autonomous cyber defence systems.

Cybersecurity Leadership Maturity Model for AI-First Enterprises
Research in development — how cybersecurity leadership capabilities evolve in AI-driven environments.

Executive Cyber Trust Framework
Original framework in development (Version 1.0) — connecting cybersecurity governance, leadership accountability, enterprise resilience, risk management, and AI readiness.

Executive Insights
Cyber Risk Is Business Risk; Application Security Is Business Security; Identity Is the New Perimeter; Data Is the Real Target; Supply Chain Is the Silent Risk; Automation Without Context Is Risk; Cloud Is a Power Shift; DevSecOps Is Often Misunderstood; SOC Fatigue Isn't About Alert Volume.

HONORS & AFFILIATIONS

IEEE Access Peer Reviewer — IEEE · May 2026
Recognized for peer review contributions in AI and cybersecurity research, verified through Web of Science and ORCID.

Web of Science Verified Reviewer — Clarivate · May 2026

ORCID Researcher — orcid.org/0009-0005-2699-1775

Professional Member — Professional Speakers Association of India (PSAI) · May 2026 – Present
Leadership communication, public speaking, cybersecurity awareness, AI security discussions, and industry transformation initiatives.

LINKEDIN RECOMMENDATIONS

> **Malcolm McPhedran**
> Cybersecurity Director
> CAPGEMINI

"I worked with Leela over many months on a very large and complex project and was always impressed by her professionalism, dedication to her work and in the way she handled service improvement, innovation and issue handling. A good strategic thinker and able to adapt quickly to changing environments. As cyber services manager she was a key person within the team and a fantastic role model to her team members and a great mentor to many of them. Leela always ensured she was up to date with latest cyber news and technical developments and is a firm advocate of training and continuous personal development. Her relationships with clients are excellent. She is measured and honest when delivering information, and maintains the technical know-how to back up her statements, or to understand complex situations or issues. I would have no hesitation in working with Leela again."

View recommender on LinkedIn

Udhayakumar Vijayan

Cybersecurity · Cloud Security

CAPGEMINI

"Working with Dr. Leela at Capgemini was a great experience. Her proficiency in SOC operations, incident management, and advanced cybersecurity strategies is top-notch. She brings analytical precision, dedication, and domain knowledge to every challenge. She would be an invaluable addition to any enterprise security or SOC leadership initiative."

View recommender on LinkedIn

RAJA NUNNA

I.S. Engineer · CEH v.13 (Master) · CISM

COLLEAGUE

"Working under Dr. Leela Lella was an invaluable experience. She possesses deep expertise across cybersecurity domains and consistently makes well-informed decisions that balance security with business objectives. She empowers her team, encourages innovation, and ensures everyone understands the bigger picture behind every initiative. Her professionalism, technical depth, and commitment to quality make her an outstanding leader whom any organization would value."

View recommender on LinkedIn

Ramesh Babu G

Senior Lead

GLOBALLOGIC

"I worked with Leela Lella at GlobalLogic and was impressed by her strong ownership and cybersecurity expertise. She handles complex situations with confidence and consistently delivers high-quality results without any operational backfire. A dependable and valuable professional."

View recommender on LinkedIn

VSR Krishna

Colleague

SAME TEAM

"Dr. Leela Lella is a strong cybersecurity leader with a strategic and enterprise-focused approach to security. Her ability to connect cybersecurity strategy, technology, governance, and business priorities reflects a mature leadership perspective. I have been impressed by her professional depth, executive mindset, and commitment to advancing cybersecurity through continuous learning and knowledge sharing. She is well positioned for senior cybersecurity leadership and strategic advisory roles."

CONTACT

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