



BE CYBER SAFE

Weekly digest of cyber scams to help you stay ahead



Pune based engineer loses ₹ 20 lakh after liking social media posts

A techie from Pune ended up losing around ₹ 20.32 lakh after liking posts on social media. The scam started when the 40-year old IT professional received a message from an unidentified number in March 2023. The unknown man offered victim an opportunity to earn more money by completing some online tasks. In the hope of earning more money, he agreed to take up a part-time job.

He was assigned tasks that involved liking social media posts, with corresponding monetary benefits. Initially, after completing some tasks, victim did receive payment, which made him develop trust in the fraudster. However, the fraudster later enticed him to join a paid task group, where he was required to invest money to earn more. Victim willingly accepted the paid job offer and ended up transferring a total of ₹ 20.32 lakh by the end of December 2023. This was when he realized that he had become a target of Cyber Fraud.

4 people duped of ₹59 lakhs in earn-from-home scam

All were duped with the lure of highly profitable earn-from-home schemes related to fake online pre-paid tasks and investments in stock trading. In an apparent bid to win the trust of targets, the fraudsters credited small amounts in their bank accounts and later enticed them into making bigger investments for reaping more profits. However, neither did they get their investments back, nor the profit.

A 38-year-old state reserve police force (SRPF) head constable in Pune has been duped of ₹ 3.75 lakh in an online task

The crooks contacted the victim on a social networking site and offered him a part-time job of rating hotels. They gained his confidence as they paid him small amounts when he completed a few tasks.

The fraudsters lured the head constable to invest and earn handsome returns. The victim transferred money online to the crooks' bank account and two e-wallets but in vain.

Pune man loses ₹ 2.1 crore after clicking on fake investment link

A clinical researcher in Pune became a victim of an intricate cyber scam, resulting in a staggering loss of ₹ 2.1 crore within a month. The scam involved a fabricated share market investment platform, deceptively using the identity of a reputed US-based venture capital fund. Spotting an advertisement on social media promoting a share market investment platform linked with a prestigious US-based venture capital fund, he clicked the link, leading to his addition in a WhatsApp group. Admins in the group encouraged investments through the platform, providing online tutorials and links.

Retired mechanical engineer in Pune loses life savings of ₹4 crore

A 59-year-old retired mechanical engineer in Pune duped of nearly ₹4 crore in an online share trading scam. The fraudsters contacted the victim in October 2023 over the phone with an online share trading offer. They allegedly assured him of huge returns on investments in online share trading.

The fraudsters gained his trust by interacting with him multiple times. As per their instructions, the victim transferred ₹3,95,85,204 from his bank account to various other bank accounts till December 9, 2023

But when he did not get the assured returns, he realized he had been cheated and approached the police.

Kolkata man attends free online course on stock trading, ends up losing ₹20 lakh in scam

The victim reportedly came across a Facebook ad promising tips and tricks for successful stock trading. However, upon joining the associated group to gain insights into trading, he was deceived of his savings.

The scammers had divided the members like him into six Telegram groups. They started investing into stocks via an institutional trading platform called 'Zoksa'. They suggested that we should sell off all their insurance policies and stocks that we were investing in and then invest in them. At that time, Zoksa account showed that the money was invested in US stocks and my investments had reached ₹ 1 crore.

when he tried to withdraw his money, he faced problems. When he raised the issue with the organizers, they only gave him ₹10,000 and asked him to pay ₹13 lakh as tax and get a tax clearance certificate before withdrawing the rest.

Man runs online search for car dealership process, loses 65L

Running a Google search on how to get a car dealership cost a businessman from Ferozepur road ₹ 65 lakh. The Ferozepur road resident said on condition of anonymity that he wanted to get a dealership of cars, including electric ones. He said that he searched for details of the process on Google and after a few days, he received an e-mail, purportedly from an agency. The "agency" also sent him a registration form for the dealership.

As the victim was interested, he asked his accountant to take the process further. The accused sent another e-mail asking me to deposit ₹ 2.65 lakh registration fee. The accountant transferred the money into the bank account provided. This way, the accused took about ₹ 65 lakh ostensibly for different formalities like NoC and other charges.

TIPS TO STAY SAFE FROM ABOVE MENTIONED SCAMS

- **Research Thoroughly:** Check the legitimacy of work-from-home opportunities before committing.
- **Avoid Unrealistic Promises:** Be cautious of offers promising high returns with minimal effort.
- **Verify Websites and Links:** Ensure website security before sharing personal information.



- **Beware of Pressure Tactics:** Avoid rushed decisions or payments pushed by high-pressure tactics.
- **Protect Personal Data:** Avoid sharing sensitive information online, especially in response to unsolicited messages.