



# BE CYBER SAFE

Weekly digest of cyber scams to help you stay ahead



## What Is 'Digital Arrest', A New Form Of Cybercrime?

In what could possibly be a movie script, scammers held a woman, a resident of Noida, under 'digital arrest' over a Skype call for an entire day by pretending to be cops. The result: they duped her of Rs 11 lakhs. The scammer told the woman that her Aadhaar card had been used to buy a SIM card, which is connected to a money laundering case in Mumbai. They told her that an arrest warrant had been issued in her name.

Digital Arrest involves the virtual restraint of individuals. These suspensions can vary from restricted access to the account, and digital platforms, to implementing measures to prevent further digital activities or being restrained on video calling or being monitored through video calling.

## A former MNC MD lost Rs 4.8 crore to online fraudsters impersonating CBI officials

In a recent case of online fraud, a former managing director (MD) of a multinational company (MNC) in Thane, India, lost Rs 4.8 crore to scammers posing as officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The 67-year-old victim was targeted through a sophisticated scheme that began with a phone call.

The scammers claimed to have intercepted a package addressed to Taiwan containing illegal items such as MDMA, passports, and credit cards. They already had some of the victim's personal details, including his phone number, which they used to fabricate a case against him at a Mumbai police station. They threatened him with arrest for money laundering and drug trafficking unless he cooperated.

To further deceive the victim, the scammers convinced him to download a video calling app, usually Skype, for a supposed investigation. Pretending to be CBI officials, they coerced him into revealing sensitive information such as bank account details, debit card numbers, and CVV codes. They also pressured him into disclosing details of his property holdings. The fraudsters then manipulated the victim into transferring Rs 1 crore to his wife's account, claiming it was necessary to prove his innocence.

## Delhi businesswoman loses nearly ₹1 lakh after an automated call from food delivery app

The victim received an automated call purportedly from a food delivery platform, which led to the deduction of ₹ 97,000 from her Lazy Pay account linked with the app. The criminals used interactive voice responses (IVR) to trick victims into divulging account information. They then exploited this information to transfer money from the victims' accounts to order items from the app. The duo avoided suspicion by using random addresses for delivery in Gurgaon.

## Cyber thugs create fake websites of Manali hotels to dupe tourists

Cyber fraudsters are doing fraudulent online booking of hotels in Kullu and Manali and they are defrauding tourists by creating fake websites. On reaching hotels, tourists come to know that there is no booking in their name. The police have appealed to tourists to remain alert regarding the fraud.

They charge customers a fee using various online methods and the hotels concerned are not even aware about it. Manali being a popular tourist destination witnesses a huge footfall throughout the year. To avoid inconvenience, most people prefer to book hotels in advance, usually online. In view of this rising trend, cybercriminals have become active and are cheating tourists by creating fake websites.

## IT Engineer from Kalyani Nagar falls victim to cybercrime, lost 13 lakhs

The victim was currently without a job back then and was looking for a job. He therefore applied for a job-based in New Zealand on an online website. The fraudster then asked for money from the victim from time to time.

The fraudster took money saying that the money was needed for several formalities for the victim to come to New Zealand such as visa, passport, character certificate verification, etc. The fraudster took money from the victim for straight 25 days and took a total of 13 Lakhs.

## West Bengal for bank job fraud

Several Rajarhat resident were duped out of more than Rs 2 lakh, while the woman lost Rs 2.62 lakh. The fraudsters took money from them posing as representatives of a private bank and promising them jobs in the bank.

The men running the job racket had also provided appointment letters to the complainants in order to gain their trust. "They had given them appointment letters. The letters bore a logo similar to the one used by the bank. The letterhead and the signatures, too, looked genuine to the complainants. But they turned out to be fake.

## A 77-year-old physician lost 3 lakhs in fake electricity bill scam

A 77-year-old physician recently became a victim of an online scam, resulting in a loss of approximately Rs 3 lakh. The scam involved an individual posing as a representative from the electricity provider, who specifically targeted the elderly doctor by alleging outstanding bills.

The doctor received a threatening message from an unfamiliar number claiming to represent BSES. The message warned of immediate disconnection of power unless overdue bills were settled on the same day. Feeling pressured, the doctor dialed the provided number and was coerced into paying Rs 10 under the guise of an upgrade. Subsequently, he was directed to click on a link where he inadvertently disclosed his debit card details.