

# BE CYBER SAFE

Weekly digest of cyber scams to help you stay ahead



## Traffic E-Challan Scam: A man lost INR 50,000 in online fraud

The victim runs an auto-rickshaw business, It was informed on March 12 that he had received a text message about his vehicle from an unknown number, alerting him that a traffic violation ticket had been issued against his vehicle.

The message read as, "Dear Vehicle Owner/Driver, this is to inform you that you have been issued a traffic challan for the mentioned violation. To confirm your identity and view the evidence related to this violation, please install the Vahan Parivahan app. The app will provide you with the necessary details, including the photo evidence of the violation. Sincerely, Panvel Traffic Police."

A download link for the mentioned app was included in the message. The complainant attempted to download the aforementioned application using his father's phone and the provided link to see how much fine money was outstanding on his auto-rickshaw, but the download was unsuccessful.

He then forwarded the aforementioned message to his number and downloaded the application on his phone. Once the victim downloaded the app and began receiving OTPs on his phone number. After learning about OTP texts he promptly uninstalled the app from his mobile phone. When the victim looked at his bank statement the following day, he was stunned to see that five fraudulent withdrawals of INR 10,000 each had been made from his account.

## Posing as woman on dating site, man swindles ₹ 69.4L

A 39-year-old Gujarati man was arrested by the cybercrime sleuths of the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Chennai, for allegedly posing as a woman on a dating website and swindling a man of ₹69.4 lakh. Under the guise of making FOREX investments, the suspect then transferred a total of ₹69.4 lakh in various instalments from the victim's account. Upon realizing that he was being duped, the victim filed a police complaint. Subsequently, the sleuths traced the suspect to Ahmedabad using his bank account. He was then arrested and brought to Chennai.

## A 46-year-old person was duped of by a cybercrook posing as an 07 executive of a music streaming service on the pretext of returning ₹299

A 46-year-old person was duped of by a cybercrook posing as an executive of a music streaming service on the pretext of returning ₹299, which was accidentally debited from the victim's account due to the autopay feature.

The victim contacted customer care. "The person posing as the customer service executive took the complainant's bank details.

## ₹16 lacs whipped, after victim was asked to pay ₹514 MNGL bill

Online fraudsters duped a 66-year-old citizen to the tune of ₹16 lakh after asking him to pay his pending Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited (MNGL) bill of ₹514. The fraudster had identified himself as MNGL staffer when he contacted the victim over mobile phone on March 27.

Fraudster asked the victim to pay his pending MNGL bill of ₹514 immediately. The fraudster further forwarded a link to the victim asking him to open it in order to make the payment for the latter's MNGL bill. Following the instructions given by the fraudster, the victim made the payment using his debit card. Within sometime, he started receiving messages regarding amounts of ₹49,850, ₹ 49,860 and ₹12,000 being debited from his account and transferred to some other bank account through online transactions.

The victim contacted the bank and found out that a personal loan of ₹16,22,310 was approved in his name, something he was completely unaware about. The fraudsters also managed to withdraw the loan amount of ₹7,21,845 without his knowledge and consent.

## Faridabad man borrows loans for 'part-time job', duped of Rs 14 lakh

A Faridabad resident was cheated of Rs 14 lakh in November on the pretext of carrying out tasks as part of a part-time job, police said. According to officers, the victim Shiv Kumar claimed that after he started looking for a new job, he started receiving messages from unknown numbers luring him to do jobs that would earn him extra income by simply visiting the e-commerce giant Amazon's website. He was then forced to borrow lakhs of rupees multiple times after being coerced to pay for different tasks

## A coaching class trainer duped by cyber fraudsters in an online courier scam

The victim received a call from a courier company and stated that they had intercepted a courier by the name of the victim in which they had found five passports, four credit cards, a laptop, banned drugs, shoes, and clothes. The caller informed the victim that these products were sent to Taiwan in the victim's name. As per the victim, one of the accused, posing as an officer from the crime branch department told him that former minister of Maharashtra Nawab Malik was using the victim's Adhar card for various illegal activities hence police will take action against him. The accused pretending to be the police on the next call threatened the victim to transfer ₹3 lakh by the account number given by him and duped the victim.

## Elderly man tried to call Swiggy call center, loss ₹ 3 lakh in online fraud

The victim ordered breakfast from Swiggy but never received it. Frustrated and concerned, his father decided to call Swiggy's customer service. With a simple Google search for "Swiggy call center," the elderly man dialed the first number that popped up. Unfortunately, this number was not Swiggy's official helpline. Instead, it connected him to a scammer who posed as a Swiggy representative. Falling victim to a UPI scam, the man lost ₹35,000 before he even realized what had happened.

Undeterred, the elderly man called again, hoping to rectify the situation and get his money back. But this time, he was met with another scammer who claimed to be a different person from before. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to him, the fraudsters managed to gain remote access to his phone. They exploited this access to steal a staggering ₹ 2.5-3 lakh from his credit card and gain access to his bank details.