

“DIGITAL ARREST” SCAM

Many complaints are being reported on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) regarding intimidation, blackmail, extortion and “Digital Arrests” by cyber criminals posing as Police Authorities, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Narcotics Department, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Enforcement Directorate and other Law Enforcement Agencies. Several victims have lost large amounts of money to such criminals. This is an organized online economic crime and is learnt to be operated by cross-border crime syndicates.

MODUS OPERANDI

- **IVR Calling & Impersonation:** - Scammer calls potential victims posing himself as member/representative of various Government agencies e.g. Mumbai Police, Delhi Police, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Narcotics Department, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Telecom Department or Enforcement Directorate. These numbers often spoofed.
- **Intimidation:** The scammer then alleges potential victim of involvement in illegal activities, such as sending or receiving contraband items like drugs or fake passports or SIM cards through FedEx or DHL, use of their Aadhaar card and registered mobile number in illegal activities, illegal money deposited into account from a drug dealer, involvement in Money Laundering, terrorist activities, etc. Claims may also involve a loved one supposedly caught in criminal activities or accidents.
- **Digital Confinement:** Some victims are subjected to 'digital arrest,' where they are forced to stay on video calls often over Skype and WhatsApp with the scammers until their demands are met. These scammers create a fake setup of police station to make the victim believe that they are actual law enforcement officers.
- **Demand for Money:** Criminals extort money in exchange for agreeing not to expose the false legal cases that have been constructed or to settle the issue.



PRECAUTIONS

- Scammers posing as law enforcement personnel often use threats of "digital arrest" to pressure victims. **Real law enforcement won't arrest you digitally.**
- There is no concept of Digital Arrest under any Indian Laws.
- **Never share personal or financial information** over the phone, email, or messaging apps without verifying the request.

- Always **verify the identity of the caller or sender** before taking any action, contact nearest police station directly to verify the claim / identity.
- Speak to your relatives and friends before taking any action to transfer money.
- **Report cyber frauds** immediately at www.cybercrime.gov.in or by calling 1930.
- Regularly update yourself on the latest cybercrime and prevention tips, follow **@cyberdost** on social media.

STOP, THINK, TAKE ACTION