

CYBERSECURITY DIGEST

Bi-Weekly update by the CISO Section of Meghalaya Rural Bank



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'Cyber slavery': The new job con trapping Indian youth abroad



Cyber scams and fraud are on the rise in India. These scams typically involve spam calls, with the callers posing as government officials in an attempt to obtain Aadhar, ATM, and other sensitive infor-

mation. To evade detection, these scammers now operate from foreign countries and even use Indian mobile numbers to make their calls appear genuine. This new approach has led to the emergence of a troubling phenomenon known as 'cyber slavery.'

As indicated by its name, cyber slavery is a modern form of exploitation in which individuals are unlawfully confined and forced into engaging in cyber scams. The individuals are lured to South East

Asian nations under the pretence of securing high-paying data entry positions, only to be coerced into committing cyber fraud.

Upon arrival, their passports are confiscated, and they are coerced by fraudulent organisations to fabricate fake social media profiles featuring women in order to persuade individuals to invest in cryptocurrency apps or fraudulent investment schemes. Once the victims invest, all communication is abruptly terminated or blocked.

Thousands of individuals, including many Indians, are lured by fake job offers and find themselves trapped in brutal exploitation rings operated by Chinese syndicates in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos



How were victims recruited?

Recruit through legal, primary job matching websites:

Traffickers pretend to be regular companies (e.g. gaming companies) recruiting workers.

Recruit through private job matching groups on social media:

Traffickers use Facebook groups and other

social media to approach and lure victims.

Recruit through personal networks:

Some victims reported that they were invited by their university or high

school friends who were already working in Cambodia or Myanmar. Some victims also described that they were

assigned to the 'human resource' department in the scamming compounds and were forced to lure 5 to 10 more victims to join the company.

Traffickers pose as potential clients to lure professionals:

Traffickers pretend to be potential customers, inviting

magicians, interior designers, and tour guides to visit Cambodia and provide services.

Traffickers kidnap victims on the street:

Some victims were kidnapped during their visit to Cambodia and forced to work in the scamming compounds.



Indians trapped in Cyber slavery in South-East Asian region

How to identify red flags?

Red flags in job offers: Be wary of job offers that seem too good to be true, especially those offering high salaries for minimal qualifications.

Avoid upfront payments: Genuine employers do not demand

large sums of money in advance as a “service charge” or recruitment fee.

Check for inconsistencies: Be cautious if recruiter uses unofficial email addresses, lacks professional communication or avoids face-to-

face interactions.

Consult government resources: Use official government websites, embassies or official organisations to verify job offers abroad.

BEWARE OF
CYBER
SLAVERY
SCAM

DON'T BE LURED BY LUCRATIVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD. CAREFULLY VERIFY THE OFFER.

FOR ANY CYBER CRIME COMPLAINT REPORT TO : <https://cybercrime.gov.in>

In case of online financial fraud DIAL 1930

FOLLOW US ON : [Social media icons]

“Serious and organised crime continues to threaten our security, our economic prosperity, and the safety of the public we serve”

How to avoid getting trapped?

Research extensively: Before applying for any overseas job, conduct thorough research into the company, recruiter and job offer to confirm their authenticity.

Stay in touch with family: Share your travel plans and contact details with family members when travelling abroad for work.

Keep records of communications: Save copies of emails, contacts and conversations with recruiters in case they are needed as evidence later.

Don't succumb to pressure: Be wary of recruiters who pressure you into making quick decisions or paying large sums upfront.

Already Trapped? What steps can be taken

Contact authorities: to help report your situation to local law enforcement in the country where you are being held or contact your country's embassy for immediate help.

Find a safe way to communicate: If possible, use trusted individuals or fellow employees

Avoid participating in illegal activities: If possible, avoid participating in cyber scams you are being forced into and try to delay or

resist complying with your captors' demand.

Gather evidence of your captivity: Document as much information as possible about your captors, location and operations you are being forced into to assist law enforcement in rescuing you.

Seek help through international agencies: Contact organisations such as Interpol or NGOs that work to combat human trafficking.

Plan cautiously: Carefully plan any communication attempts to avoid further danger from your captors.