

Centre Warns "Ghar Baithe Job" Scams"

Why In News

- The **Union Home Ministry** has taken action against more than **100 websites** that were involved in organised illegal investments and part-time job frauds, as per reports. These websites, as per an official statement, were operated by **overseas individuals**.



Fraud Detected

- The **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, a unit of the Union Home Ministry's vertical National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (NCTAU), identified and recommended the blocking of these websites.
- They were found to be engaged in **fraudulent investment schemes** and part-time job scams.



Issue Is All About

- Under the **Information Technology Act of 2000**, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) blocked these websites following the recommendation made by the I4C.



- These websites were reportedly aiding in **organised illegal investments** and fraudulent **part-time job offers**.
- The I4C, an initiative by the Home Ministry, **aims to address cybercrimes** in the country by coordinating comprehensive efforts against such illegal activities.
- The Centre said that they **launched targeted digital advertisements** on Google and Meta using keywords like "**ghar baithe job**" and "**ghar baithe kamai kaise karen**" in multiple languages from overseas advertisers.

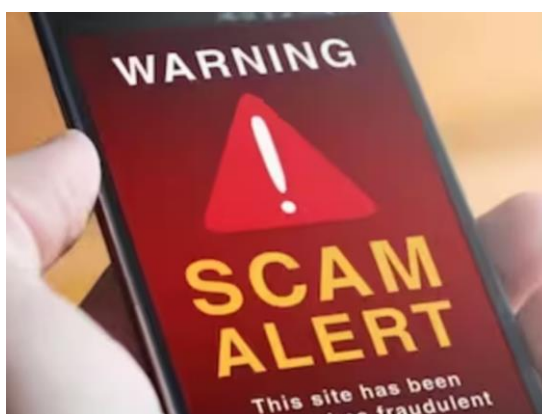


- **Targets are mostly retired employees**, women and unemployed youth looking for part-time jobs, the Centre said.

- "Upon clicking the advertisement, an agent using **WhatsApp or Telegram** starts a conversation with the potential victim, who convinces him/her to perform some tasks like video likes and subscribe, maps rating, etc," the Centre said.
- Upon completion of the task, the victim is **given some commission**, initially and is asked to invest more to get more returns against the given task.



- After gaining confidence, when a **victim deposits a larger sum**, deposits are frozen and thus victim is duped, the Centre said.
- It was learnt that they were being operated by overseas "**cyber threat actors**" and they were using **digital advertisement**, chat messengers, mule and rented accounts, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** said in an official statement.



- "It was also learnt that proceeds from the **large scale economic frauds** were seen to be laundered out of **India using card network**, cryptocurrency, overseas ATM withdrawals and international Fintech companies," the MHA said.

How To Remain Safe

- You should always **exercise due diligence** before investing in any such very high commission paying online schemes, the Centre said.
- If an unknown person contacts you over **WhatsApp or Telegram**, refrain from performing financial transactions without verification.



- You should always **verify the name of the receiver** mentioned in the UPI app and if the receiver is any random person, it may be a mule account and the scheme may be fraudulent, the Centre added.
- You should also check the source from where the initial commission is received. Centre Warns '**Ghar Baithe Job**' Scams On Rise, Explains How They Work.