OPTIV

Meri Digital Suraksha

DSCI
PROMOTING DATA PROTECTION

THE ONLINE FRAUD FILES

A cyber awareness infographic series designed to help senior citizens stay safe online.

The series highlights some of the most common online scams affecting individuals today, explaining each fraud in simple language, outlining key warning signs, and sharing practical steps to prevent fraud and protect your money and personal information.

THE MONEY MULE SCAM

WHAT IS A MONEY MULE SCAM OR MONEY LAUNDERING FRAUD?



A money mule is a person whose bank account or payment account is used to receive and transfer money obtained through fraud or other illegal activity.
Some people knowingly participate for a commission.
Others may be unaware that the money they are handling is connected to fraud. Either way, allowing your account to be used to move someone else's money can put you at serious financial and legal risk.

WHY DO FRAUDSTERS USE MONEY MULES?

Fraudsters may use third-party accounts to **receive, move or layer illicit funds**, making it harder to directly connect the proceeds of a fraud to the person behind it. They may lure people with promises of:

- Easy commissions
- Work-from-home opportunities
- Quick income for receiving or transferring money
- Investment or trading opportunities
- "Payment processing" or other seemingly legitimate services

RBI has specifically warned that money mules may be recruited through social networking sites, instant messaging and online advertisements.

HOW DOES THE SCAM WORK IN PRACTICE?





A person contacts you through social media platforms (Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc) or an online advertisement with an attractive offer to earn money.



You are asked to provide your bank account, UPI ID or another payment account to receive money on someone else's behalf.



Money is credited to your account. You are instructed to transfer it to another account, withdraw it, or otherwise move it often in return for a commission.



The money may actually have been obtained by defrauding another person.



When the fraudulent transaction is reported, your account and the associated transactions may be investigated. Your account may be restricted or suspended, and you may face questioning or other legal consequences depending on the circumstances.

RBI has warned that money mules can face account suspension, financial loss and possible legal action.

THINK TWICE IF SOMEONE

- Offers money simply for receiving and forwarding funds.
- Asks you to use your bank account or UPI ID for their transactions.
- Promises a commission for every transfer.
- Says you don't need to know where the money comes from.
- Pressures you to transfer money immediately after receiving it.
- Asks you to withdraw cash and hand it over to someone else.
- Contacts you through social media or messaging apps with an unsolicited "easy income" opportunity.



WHEN YOU RECEIVE SUSPICIOUS MONEY, WHAT TO DO?

Stop
Do not transfer, withdraw or spend the money.

Contact Your Bank Immediately
Inform your bank about the suspicious transaction and follow its instructions. Do not attempt to "return" the money to an account or person suggested by the unknown sender.

Report Cyber Financial Fraud
If you believe you have been involved in or affected by a cyber financial fraud, report it immediately by calling **1930 or through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal: cybercrime.gov.in.**

Preserve The Evidence
Keep the original chats, messages, phone numbers, profile details, transaction IDs, UPI details, bank statements and screenshots. Do not delete the conversation.

Cooperate With The Bank / Authorities
Provide accurate information about how you were contacted, what you were told, and what transactions took place.



Your bank account is for your transactions. Don't let someone else use it to move their money. RBI's consumer awareness guidance specifically warns against allowing others to operate your account for movement of their funds.

For more cyber safety tips, visit
www.dsci.in/content/meri-digital-suraksha
You can also download the cyber safety guide in English, Hindi & Kannada and share it with your parents and loved ones.

Follow us to stay updated

DSCI_Connect | dsci.connect | dsci.connect | dscivideo | data-security-council-of-india