

Digital Arrest

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in news?

Recently, an ex-banker in Delhi, was allegedly defrauded of nearly 23 crores in digital fraud, amid the rise in "digital arrest" cases.

- **Digital arrest** - It is a **fraudulent tactic used by cybercriminals** to extort money from individuals by falsely accuse individuals of breaking the law.
- These scammers pose as officials from organizations such as customs, income tax department or even central investigative agencies, and initiate contact with victims via phone calls.
- Subsequently, they request that the victims switch to video communication through platforms like WhatsApp and Skype.
- The scammers then threaten the victims with a **digital arrest warrant**, citing various reasons such as financial misconduct, tax evasion, or other legal violations.
- **Goal** - Intimidate victim into **paying money or providing sensitive personal details**.
- From phishing emails to financial fraud and ransomware attacks, cybercriminals use various tactics to steal data and money.
- **Modus Operandi of Scammers** - Includes fake authority claims, threat of arrest, creating panic, request for video communication, fake police station set-up, demand for money to "settle the matter" and avoid arrest.
- **Safeguard measures** - Verify the source, Be suspicious of immediate payment requests, avoid sharing personal details, Report suspicious calls, Stay vigilant.

There is no provision for digital arrest under Indian criminal law. Staying vigilant and informed is the best defense against such frauds.

Quick Facts

India's fight against cybercrime and digital arrest

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established by - The Ministry of Home Affairs.• It coordinates national efforts to combat cybercrime and provide cybercrime prevention resources.
National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated portal allows the public to report cybercrimes, with a focus on cases involving women and children, enabling swift action by law enforcement.
Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched in - 2021.• This platform allows immediate complaints reporting of financial frauds.
Cyber Forensic Labs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The National Cyber Forensic Laboratory in Delhi and the Evidence Lab in Hyderabad have significantly improved the ability of police to manage and analyze digital evidence.

References

1. [India Today | Ex-banker in Delhi, held in digital arrest](#)
2. [NITI Aayog | Digital Arrest](#)