# 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 | |
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| **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** | • **Established by** - The Ministry of Home Affairs.<br>• It coordinates national efforts to combat cybercrime and provide cybercrime prevention resources. |
| **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** | • 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** | • **Launched in** - 2021.<br>• This platform allows immediate complaints reporting of financial frauds. |
| **Cyber Forensic Labs** | • 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



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