

Beware of Hoax / Fake WhatsApp International Calls and Messages

Popular Instant Messaging Applications like WhatsApp, Telegram are mostly used by every user for personal interactions and business purposes. Nowadays, scammers are exploiting these widely used instant messaging applications, to target users and attempt to deceive them for financial gain.

In recent days, individuals are receiving missed calls, messages, or calls from international numbers, particularly from countries like +84(Vietnam), +62(Indonesia), +223(Mali), GizChina etc. It is important to be cautious as unscrupulous elements may attempt to steal sensitive / financial information & may further lead to identity theft / financial loss.

How does the scam work?

- ⇒ Scammers initiate "cold-calls" to WhatsApp users, typically offering fake job opportunities to defraud individuals
- ⇒ They may prompt users to message them, leading to the initiation of a scripted conversation through automated bots with the intention of luring & deceiving the users
- ⇒ While answering / returning to the calls, if sensitive / financial information / user credentials is shared by the user, money may be siphoned off from user's Bank Account

How do scammers get your number?

- ♦ Online quizzes and surveys that request personal information
- ♦ Random & insecure websites
- ♦ Clicking on malicious links & Pop-up Ads
- ♦ Harvest information from social media platforms

How to avoid such Scams ?



Do's

- ✓ If a call or message claims to be from reputable organization, verify the authenticity through alternate & trusted communication such as by visiting organization's official website / apps, direct communication through phone calls, physically contacted to nearby Branches / Offices etc.
- ✓ Block and report suspicious numbers in instant messaging platform to avoid potential scams.
- ✓ Regularly update devices, operating systems & Apps to ensure the latest security patches are in place.
- ✓ Enable Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) to add an extra layer of protection to your account.



Don'ts

- ✗ Entertain calls from unknown international numbers particularly from countries like +84 (Vietnam), +62(Indonesia), +223(Mali), GizChina etc.
- ✗ Share personal / sensitive / financial information to unknown callers
- ✗ Respond to Online quizzes, surveys, unknown forms/documents that request personal information.
- ✗ Reveal your information on random websites / Apps
- ✗ Overshare your information on Social Media Platforms
- ✗ Click on suspicious links from unknown messages, Emails, random Pop-up ads etc.

Report Cyber fraud Incident to <https://www.cybercrime.gov.in>

or Call **1930** for assistance