

# **Beware of Fake Income Tax Refund SMS**

Suspicious messages asking users to click a link for disbursement of income tax refund have been doing rounds.

## *Modus Operandi*

User receives a message containing a link which is redirecting users to a page appearing similar to income tax e-filing page where users are being asked to enter personal details for claiming income tax refund.

On clicking the link, users are asked to submit personal information such as full name, PAN, Aadhaar no, Address, Date of birth, Mobile number, Email id, Gender, Marital Status and banking information like Account no, IFSC code, Card Number, Expiry date, CVV and ATM Card PIN.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,  
your incometax refund of 35,425 INR is processed and ready for disbursement. kindly click <http://204.44.124.160/ITR> to submit a refund application to enable us make your payment at the earliest.  
Regards,  
Refunds Dept.

**ALERT**

After submission of the data, the webpage prompts user to install an app. Once installed, the app asks for device administrator rights and unnecessary access permissions, thereby taking full control of the user device.

## **Stay Alert. Stay Safe.**

- ◆ Always open banking or other financial services websites directly by typing the URL in the browser. Do not attempt to access them by clicking on suspicious link received via mail/message.
- ◆ Think twice before entering personal / financial details on the pages opened from links in unknown messages.
- ◆ Do not fall prey to traps of gift vouchers, scratch cards, lucky bonanza etc.
- ◆ Download apps from verified application stores only. Be cautious before granting permissions to apps while installing them.