INTEGRAL UNIVERSITY

Fiza Afreen <fizaafreen@iul.ac.in>

Cyber Bulletin, March 2026 Edition by Cyber Awareness Club, Department of Computer Application

Communication Cell IUL <communications@iul.ac.in>
Bcc: faculty@iul.ac.in

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Dear All,

Welcome to the **Cyber Bulletin – March 2026**. This edition highlights a sharp rise in **financial cyber frauds and advanced social engineering attacks** targeting individuals and organizations.

A major **₹7 crore cyber heist** was reported in a cooperative bank, where attackers exploited a **mobile app vulnerability** to gain unauthorized system access. During the tax filing season, **ITR phishing scams** also surged, with fraudsters using fake messages and links to steal **banking details and OTPs**.

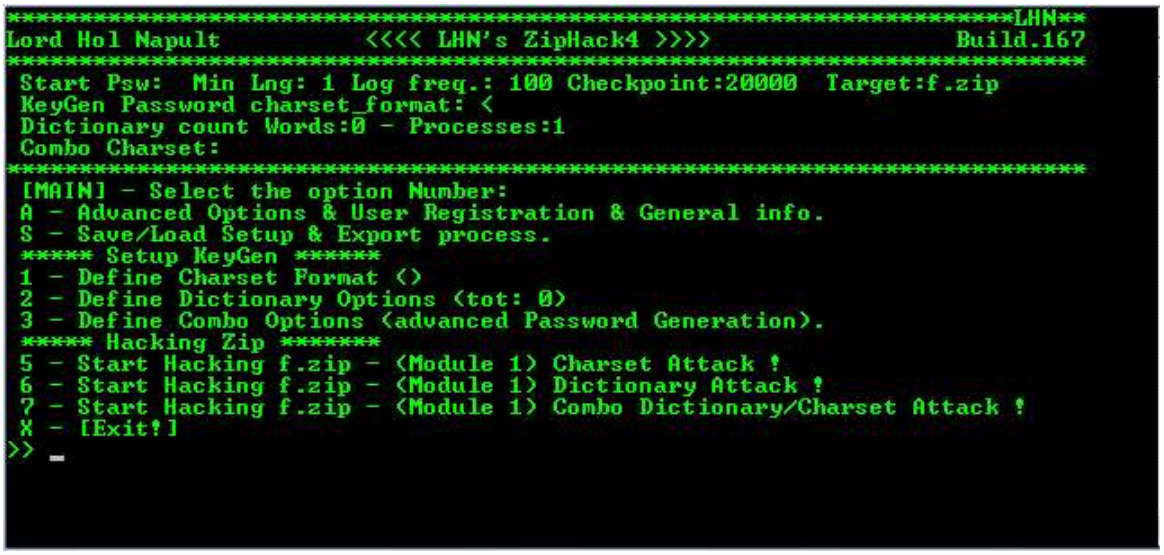
In a shocking **"Digital Arrest" scam**, an 81-year-old businessman lost **₹15.45 crore** after being threatened by fraudsters impersonating officials. **Recruitment scams** also defrauded job seekers of **₹7.80 crore** through fake government job offers.

Additionally, a **BPO firm data breach** occurred due to credential theft via **phishing and vishing**. Hyderabad also reported **multi-vector cyber attacks** combining fake apps, phishing, and impersonation, causing losses of over **₹4.4 crore**.

These incidents highlight the growing sophistication of cybercrime. The bulletin emphasizes the importance of **verifying sources**, **avoiding suspicious links**, **protecting personal information**, and **reporting cyber incidents promptly**. Staying alert and informed is essential to remain safe in the digital world.

🔐 **Stay Alert • Stay Safe • Report Cybercrime – @1930**

Stay informed • Stay secure • Stay cyber-safe



Cyber Awareness Club

Mentor

Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Faisal
Head, Department of Computer Application

Faculty Coordinators

Mr. Shubham Kumar
Assistant Professor

Mr. Faizan Mahmood
Assistant Professor

Mr. Mohd Talha
Teaching Support Staff

Student Coordinators

Anamta Ansari
BCA Second Year

Areeba Khan
BCA Second Year

Anwar Ahmad
BCA Second Year

Hashmat Zahra
BCA Second Year

Hera Fatima
BCA Second Year

Cyber Bulletin March 2026 Edition

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CYBER BULLETIN

CYBER AWARENESS CLUB
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END OF FINANCIAL YEAR CYBER ALERT

₹7 Crore Cyber Heist

Around ₹7 crore was siphoned from four branches of a cooperative bank after cybercriminals performed unauthorized system access by exploiting a mobile application vulnerability leading to a backend compromise of the core banking software. The fraud was executed on a holiday using multiple devices causing operational disruption though customer deposits remained unsafe.

Cause: Mobile app vulnerability and weak system security controls.

readme

ITR Phishing Scam

Cyber criminals targeted taxpayers during the filing season by sending fake messages, emails, and calls related to ITR filing and tax refunds. Victims were lured into clicking malicious links and sharing sensitive details like bank credentials and OTPs leading to unauthorized transactions and financial loss.

Cause: Phishing attacks using fake tax-related messages and links.

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Digital Arrest Scam

AAn 81-year-old businessman from Belagavi lost ₹15.45 crore after fraudsters impersonated officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation and Reserve Bank of India. They falsely accused him of involvement in money laundering and used fake documents to create fear. Over six weeks the victim was psychologically pressured to liquidate assets and transfer funds.

Cause: Fear-based social engineering and impersonation scam.

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Recruitment Scam

An inter-state cyber fraud racket defrauded job seekers of ₹7.80 crore by advertising fake government job opportunities. Fraudsters used posters and mobile numbers to trap victims, then demanded money for registration, training and joining. Fake documents were provided to gain trust and funds were routed through mule accounts to avoid detection.

Cause: Fake recruitment offers and social engineering using mule bank accounts.

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Data Exfiltration Attack

A major BPO service provider suffered a cyberattack where attackers gained unauthorized access to internal systems and allegedly stole massive volumes of sensitive data. The attack involved credential harvesting through vishing and phishing, allowing attackers to misuse legitimate access and remain undetected for a long period.

Cause: Vishing-based credential compromise and misuse of legitimate access privileges.

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Multi-Vector Cyber Attack

Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police reported multiple fraud cases where attackers used phishing links, fake apps and impersonation to trick victims into sharing banking details and OTPs. Once access was gained fraudsters performed unauthorized transactions through online banking systems resulting in losses exceeding ₹4.4 crore across various scams including digital arrest fake investment and gaming fraud.

Cause: Victims were tricked into sharing OTPs and banking credentials.

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BEST PRACTICE

- **Enforce MFA zero-trust access and behavior monitoring to prevent unauthorized system access.**
- **Use phishing protection domain authentication and user awareness for safe communication.**
- **Apply strict verification for jobs government claims and financial instructions via official channels.**
- **Strengthen banking security with OTP restrictions device binding biometrics and real-time fraud detection.**

NEWS OF THE MONTH

₹67 Crore Investment Scam Operation

The cyber fraud was caused by a gang operating through fake investment schemes via "Crown Pay" on Telegram. They used social engineering APK malware and identity theft to access banking data and created 700 mule accounts to laundered ₹67 crore through crypto platforms exploiting victim's trust and financial greed across states.

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Dr. Mohammad Faisal
Professor & Head
Department of Computer Application

Integral University
Kursi Road, Lucknow 226026
Email: headca@iul.ac.in
Mobile No: 9984171083

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