FAKE INFLUENCER SCAM

A fake social media influencer lures followers with giveaways and luxury brand deals. Victims pay registration fees but never receive prizes. The influencer vanishes after collecting money.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000:

Section 66D - Cheating by personation using a computer resource

Section 79 - Liability of intermediaries for hosting fraudulent content

IPC / BNS:

Section 419 / BNS 319(2) - Punishment for cheating by personation

Section 420 / BNS 318(4) - Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property

Section 468/ BNS 336(3) - Forgery for purpose of cheating

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

Section 2(47) - Misleading advertisements

Section 21 - Penalties for false endorsements

Following fake fame can lead to real fraud!

DIGITAL ARREST

A scammer posing as a police officer threatens victims with fake criminal charges. They demand immediate payment to "settle" the case. Victims panic and transfer money, only to realize there's no such legal provision.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000 :
Section 66C - Identity theft
Section 66D - Impersonation using a computer resource

IPC / BNS:
Section 170 / BNS 204 – Personating a public servant
Section 171 / BNS 205 – Wearing garb or carrying a token used by a public servant
Section 383/ BNS 308 – Extortion

Indian Evidence Act, 1872:
Section 65B – Admissibility of electronic records as evidence in fraud cases

BSA, 2023:
Section 63 – Admissibility of electronic records as evidence in fraud cases

If WhatsApp says you're under arrest,
reply with a lawyer emoji and block!

JUMPED DEPOSIT

A scammer claims to have sent extra money to a seller and fakes a bank notification. The seller, believing the transaction is real, refunds the excess amount. Later, they discover no deposit was made.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000 :

Section 66D – Cheating by personation using a computer resource

Section 43 – Unauthorized access and fraud

IPC / BNS:

Section 406 / BNS 316(2) – Criminal breach of trust

Section 417/ BNS 318/(2) – Cheating

Section 420/ BNS 318(4) – Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

Section 74 – Unfair trade practices

If it's too jumpy to track,
it's too risky to pay!

CALL MERGE SCAM

A fraudster calls a victim, pretending to be from the bank. They ask the victim to merge another call, where an accomplice requests an OTP. The scammer secretly listens, steals the OTP, and empties the victim's account.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000:

Section 66C – Identity theft
Section 66D - Cheating by personation

IPC / BNS:

Section 420 / BNS 318(4) – Cheating
Section 468 / BNS 336(3) – Forgery for purpose of cheating
Section 511/ BNS 62 – Attempt to commit offenses punishable with life imprisonment

Telegraph Act, 1885:

Section 25 – Unauthorized interception of messages

Three's not company
when the third one's a fraudster!

MALVERTISING

Clicking on an online ad for discounts or free products can install malware. The malicious ad redirects users to fake sites that steal login details. Victims lose money or have their data compromised.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000:

Section 43 – Unauthorized access and damage to computer systems

Section 66 – Hacking and fraudulent use of computer resources

Section 69A – Blocking of harmful content

IPC / BNS:

Section 425/ BNS 324 – Mischief

Section 426/ BNS 324(2) – Punishment for mischief

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

Section 89 – Deceptive online advertising penalties

Those flashy ads could flash your data too!

WATERING HOLE ATTACK

Hackers infect a trusted website frequently visited by a specific group. When users access the site, their devices get compromised. Cyber criminals steal credentials or install spyware without the victim's knowledge.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000:

Section 43 – Unauthorized access
Section 66 – Hacking with intent to cause harm
Section 72 – Breach of confidentiality and privacy

IPC / BNS:

Section 426 / BNS 324(2) – Mischief
Section 471 / BNS 340(2) – Using forged document as genuine
Section 120B / BNS 61(2) – Criminal conspiracy

Even safe-looking sites might be poison puddles – tread carefully

LLM JAILBREAK

A user manipulates an AI chatbot to bypass safety rules. The AI shares restricted information like hacking techniques. Authorities track misuse, and the user unknowingly becomes part of a cyber crime investigation.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000:

Section 66 – Hacking and system manipulation
Section 67B – Publishing harmful content
Section 69 – Government access and control over AI misuse

IPC / BNS :

Section 505 / BNS 353 – Statements conducing to public mischief
Section 120B / BNS 61(2) – Criminal conspiracy

Copyright Act, 1957:

Section 51 – Infringement of copyright through AI-generated content

Don't teach the bot to be bad
– it might graduate with honors in hacking!

FAKE NEWS

A communal rumor about a violent incident spreads rapidly online. People react emotionally and forward false information. Chaos ensues before authorities confirm the news was fake.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000:

Section 69A – Blocking of information in public interest

Section 66F – Cyber terrorism if fake news incites violence

IPC / BNS:

Section 153A / BNS 196 – Promoting enmity between groups

Section 505 / BNS 353 – Statements conducing to public mischief

Section 124A – Sedition, if applicable (This section is deleted in BNS 2023)

Press Council Act, 1978:

Section 14 – Powers of the Press Council to address fake news

Not every forwarded message is the gospel – sometimes it's gossip!

FAKE PRODUCTIVITY APPS

An app claiming to improve focus or time management secretly collects user data. Once installed, it asks for excessive permissions and starts spying on calls and messages. Victims lose privacy and sensitive information.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000:

Section 43 – Unauthorized data collection and misuse
Section 66 – Computer-related offenses
Section 72 – Breach of privacy

IPC / BNS:

Section 420 / BNS 318(4) – Cheating
Section 468 / BNS 336(3) – Forgery for fraud
Section 120B / BNS 61(2) – Criminal conspiracy

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

Section 10 – Product liability for defective digital services

If the app promises too much,
it's probably taking more than your time!

STEGANOGRAPHY

A seemingly harmless image file hides malicious code. When downloaded or opened, malware gets installed on the device. Cyber criminals use this technique to spread spyware and steal information.

IT Sections Applicable

IT Act, 2000:

Section 66F – Cyberterrorism if used for extremist purposes
Section 69 – Government's power to decrypt and monitor
Section 72 – Breach of confidentiality and privacy

IPC / BNS:

Section 201 / BNS 238 – Causing disappearance of evidence
Section 120B / BNS 61(2) – Criminal conspiracy
Section 124A – Sedition, if applicable (This section is deleted in BNS 2023)

Official Secrets Act, 1923:

Section 3 – Espionage using steganography

If a file looks innocent but acts guilty,
it's steganography in disguise!