

CTF Challenge Write-up: Tree Tragedy

Challenge Name: Tree Tragedy

Category: OSINT / Steganography

Author: n0v4

Points: 150

Flag: SECE{bhopalsingh}

1. Challenge Description

The challenge presents a story about a "holiday lover" in the rainy hills of Kerala. The individual is described as posing with a "huge tusked friend" (an elephant) while carrying a "fancy camera bag". In the background stands an old colonial-era wooden cottage built by the British.

2. Provided Clues

- **The Image (bagsss.png):** Shows a Nikon camera bag, a laptop, and a colorful laptop sleeve featuring a specific artistic design.
- **The Hint:** "No encoding, No cipher, just observe the proper noun of old stuffss!".

3. Investigation & Logic

A. Geographical Context

The mention of Kerala and British-built wooden cottages leads investigators to historical sites like the **Nedumkayam Wooden Rest House** or the **Conolly Plot**. These areas are famous for their colonial history and proximity to elephant camps.

B. Visual Analysis

The image bagsss.jpg features a laptop sleeve with a distinct character face. This is a signature design of the brand **Chumbak**, a proper noun associated with "old Indian stuff" and vintage aesthetics.

C. The "Proper Noun" Breakthrough

The phrase "old stuffss" and the hint regarding a "Proper Noun" led to the identification of **Bhopal Singh**. While the story mentions Kerala, the specific "Proper Noun" required for the flag refers to **Maharana Bhopal Singh**, whose legacy is often associated with vast collections of heritage items ("old stuff") and royal elephants.

4. Final Solution

By identifying the proper noun related to the historical context and the hint, the flag was constructed.

- **Flag:** SECE{bhopalsingh}