

The Fake Job Scam

Our social media pages are inundated with tips and tricks of making some quick money on the side. Taking advantage of this trend, fraudsters have come up with a cunning plan to cheat you via the Fake Job Scam.

This is how they do it:

Step 1:

- The fraudster will first contact you via SMS or WhatsApp regarding a part-time job opportunity.

Step 2:

- An easy-to-do 'task' is presented to you — simply to 'like' YouTube videos and earn Rs 50 for each 'like'. YouTube links are shared to through WhatsApp/social media. They sometimes also use names of established companies such as Amazon or Flipkart to make their fake message appear authentic.

Step 3:

- A link and UPI ID/mobile number is then shared asking the potential job seeker to invest a small amount of money such as Rs. 100 to 500. They promise to assign work as soon as the starting funds are transferred.

Step 4:

- Once the job seeker transfers the funds to the fraudster's account, a 'task' is assigned through the fake link.
- After completing the task, the fraudster credits the victim's account with a fairly large sum such as Rs. 1,000 or more stating that they have earned income/commission for completing the task assigned.
- Since the job seeker has already received more than they had transferred, they believe the task/job offer to be true and fall prey to this job scam.

Step 5:

- The fraudster will then advise the victim to transfer/invest a high-value amount to move to next task to earn even higher returns.
- The job seeker is convinced and decides to take it to the next level and so transfers a high amount to the fraudster's account.
- This high value returns/balance will be shown through the fake link/app shared by the victim so they will believe that they have high value returns/balance in the link/e-wallet for completing the next level of tasks.

Step 6:

- The scamster then informs the victim that to withdraw the funds/income, the victim has to pay a further amount as GST/tax to withdraw the amount.

- Believing this to be a genuine requirement, the victim transfers more funds to the fraudster's account in order to withdraw the high-value funds from the digital/e-wallet which the fraudster is showing through the fake link.

Step 7:

- Once the victim says that they do not have any more funds, the fraudster blocks the link/Telegram/other social media ID
- It is then that the victim realises that they have been defrauded/cheated and need to lodge a complaint with the Bank/Police.

How can you be safe against frauds of this kind?

- Any message that asks you to pay an amount upfront or in order to withdraw funds should be ignored and/or reported to the right authorities.
- Do not accept the messages as genuine simply because they name well-known companies.
- Do not click on any unknown link or install any unknown app or link.
- Fraudsters may call claiming to be bank employees. They may share details such as Employee Number, the branch they are calling from and so on, to gain your trust.
- Stay alert, as NO bank employee will ask you for your sensitive bank or personal information like Credit/Debit Card details, PAN, etc.

Be aware at all times.

To report a fraud, call our toll-free number 1800 209 0000.