

# An organised crime syndicate



Indian citizens lost **Rs 120.3 crore** through digital arrest scams during the first quarter of 2024



People lost **Rs 1,420.48 cr** to trading scams



**Rs 222.58 cr** was lost in investment scams



**Rs 13.23 cr** was lost in romance scams



**46%** of digital fraud cases, including digital arrests, trading scams, investment scams and romance/dating scams, were from **Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia**

## What is a digital arrest scam?

A fraudulent scheme in which scammers impersonate law enforcement, government agencies, or other authoritative entities to threaten individuals has come to be known as digital arrest. The perpetrators often demand immediate payment, personal information, or compliance under the pretense of avoiding arrest, prosecution, or legal penalties. These scams exploit fear, ignorance of legal processes, and the increasing prevalence of digital interactions to coerce victims into compliance.

## What is cyber slavery?

The exploitation of individuals through digital or online, where victims are coerced, manipulated, or forced to perform labour or services, under threat, deception, or abuse of power is known as cyber slavery. This can involve practices such as human trafficking for online work, digital labour exploitation, or control over individuals' online presence, finances, or communications through coercive technologies.



## The Golden Triangle region in southeast Asia

The Golden Triangle—typically referring to the region where Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand meet—has become a hotspot for various forms of cybercrime due to factors like weak regulatory oversight, corruption, and the proliferation of unregulated online activities.

## Countries that are hubs of cybercrime

- China • Hong Kong
- Myanmar • Thailand
- Cambodia • Vietnam
- Bangladesh



## Businesses used as fronts for cybercrime dens



Casino



Online gaming



Digital marketing

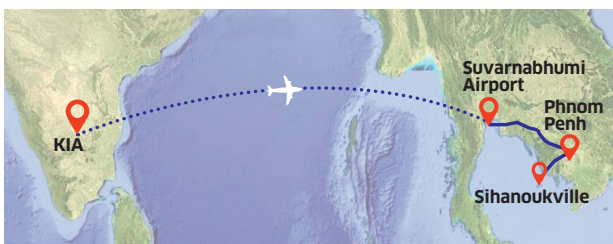


Call centres



IT service providers

## A trafficking route for cyber slavery



**Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru → Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Thailand → Phnom Penh, Cambodia → Sihanoukville, Cambodia**

## What to do if you receive a digital arrest scam call

- If you receive a call about a “digital arrest,” remain calm and do not share personal or financial information, regardless of how urgent or threatening the caller seems.
- Disconnect the call when someone seeks personal or sensitive details. Legitimate authorities will never demand payment or sensitive details over the phone.
- Avoid calling back numbers provided by the caller.
- Search online to see if similar scams have been reported, and if you suspect fraud, report the call to local law enforcement.