



MY KOLKATA

EDUGRAPH

The Telegraph *online*

Friday, 12 May 2023

[HOME](#) [OPINION](#) [INDIA](#) [MY KOLKATA](#) [EDUGRAPH](#) [STATES](#) [WORLD](#) [BUSINESS](#) [SCIENCE & TECH](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [SPORTS](#)[Home](#) / [Business](#) / IT ministry to send notice to WhatsApp on international spam calls issue: Chandrasekhar



IT ministry to send notice to WhatsApp on international spam calls issue: Chandrasekhar


The government will respond to every instance of alleged misuse or alleged breach of users' privacy, says the minister

PTI | New Delhi | Published 11.05.23, 03:57 PM



Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar
File picture

 The IT Ministry will send a notice to WhatsApp on the issue of spam calls from unknown international numbers, Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Thursday said, asserting that the onus of ensuring user safety lies with the  digital platforms.

 The digital platforms are responsible and accountable for ensuring the safety of 'digital nagriks', the minister said, adding that the government will respond to every instance of alleged misuse or alleged breach of users' privacy.

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

The minister's comments assume significance as WhatsApp users in India have reported a massive surge in incoming international spam calls over the past few days. Many users complained on Twitter that a major chunk of these spam calls had country codes belonging to Indonesia (+62), Vietnam (+84), Malaysia (+60), Kenya (+254) and Ethiopia (+251).

Chandrasekhar on Tuesday said the ministry is taking note of the matter and will send a notice to WhatsApp on the issue.

"The Ministry is taking note of it, they will send them a notice," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI).

He also said that the government is mulling guidelines on what should be permissions for preloaded apps. The minister made it clear that the platforms are responsible for ensuring the safety and trust of users.

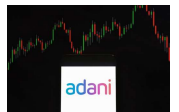
ADVERTISEMENT

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

CCPA directs 5 e-tailers including Amazon to permanently delist car seat belt alarm stopper...



Adani Total Gas, Adani Transmission to move out of MSCI India Index with effect from May 3...



Will Reserve Bank of India's green push help India meet climate change goals?



Rupee slips 3 paise to 82.12 against US dollar in early trade





"I ha

respo

If the

any r

Sensex falls over 244 points in early trade, Nifty declines to 18,219



ADVERTISEMENT

"Government will respond to every alleged misuse or alleged breach of privacy," he said.

One of the problems being examined at this point is also how these numbers are accessed by scammers.

"How are they able to identify which numbers are on WhatsApp...are they doing it blindly...is it some database they have got? If there is a database it is a violation of privacy, or if not are they are doing it through a bot... sending messages to random numbers... But that is certainly something platforms will be asked to look at," he said.

Chandrasekhar tweeted on Wednesday that the government will investigate a claim that WhatsApp accessed the microphone of smartphone users while the phone was not in use.

In a tweet, the minister had said the government will examine the alleged breach of privacy even as the new Digital Personal Data Protection Bill was being readied.

This followed a claim that WhatsApp accessed a user's microphone while he was sleeping.

WhatsApp responded saying it has been in touch with the Twitter engineer over the last 24 hours, who posted an issue with his Pixel phone and WhatsApp.

"We believe this is a bug on Android that misattributes information in their Privacy Dashboard and have asked Google to investigate and remediate," WhatsApp said in a tweet.



The company also claimed that users have full control over their mic settings.

To a question on some online gaming platforms opposing any idea of the self-regulatory organisation (SRO) backed by the association IMAI, the minister said it has already been clarified during the consultation process that no existing industry organisation can be an SRO.

"SRO has to be notified by the Ministry, which means SRO has to be approved by the Ministry as meeting criteria laid down in online gaming rules. There will be SRO that will be formed...100 will apply, and three will be selected based on who is most transparent, inclusive and who represents most stakeholders and who is more credible," the minister said.

On the draft digital personal data protection Bill, Chandrasekhar said he is hopeful that it will be introduced in the coming session of Parliament.

Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by The Telegraph Online staff and has been published from a syndicated feed.

RELATED TOPICS

[Rajeev Chandrasekhar](#)[WhatsApp](#)[Information Technology Industry](#)

Follow us on:



ADVERTISEMENT

Add a 'Dr.' to your name

Eligibility: Master's or Bachelor's Degree with 5+ years of work experience

Golden Gate University | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

Belly Fat Removal Without Surgery In Delhi: The Price Might Surprise You

Thanks to the latest technology

Affordable Liposuction | Sponsored

Learn More

Stop AI from Taking Your Job

Eligibility: Minimum 1 Year Work Exp + Bachelor's Degree with Minimum 50%

upGrad | IIIT Bangalore | Sponsored

Learn More

Plan Your Swiss Holiday! Package Starting at ₹84679

Thomas Cook | Sponsored

Born B/W 1975-1995? Get 2Cr Life Cover at ₹876/month*

Online Discount Upto 10% & Save Tax U/S 80C

Term Insurance - Get Free Quote! | Sponsored

Get Quote

More People Switching to VoIP Phones (Take a Look at the Prices)

90% discount is available for this month (More Details)

VoIP Phone | Search Ads | Sponsored

Search Now

Born B/W 1975-1995? Get 2Cr Term Life Cover at ₹876/month*

Online Discount Upto 10% & Save Tax U/S 80C

Term Insurance - Get Free Quote! | Sponsored

Get Quote

Put a clove of garlic inside the toilet at night for this brilliant reason!

Good To Know This | Sponsored

Read More

Delhi Budget-Friendly SUVs for Seniors: The Price Might Surprise You

Mid Size SUV | Search Ads | Sponsored

Click Here

HDFC Home Loans Now at Low EMI Rate

Quick and Easy Processing, Easy Documentation at Attractive Interest Rates. *T&C Apply

HDFC.COM | Sponsored

New Senior Apartments Near Delhi (Take A Look At The Prices)

Senior Living | Search Ads | Sponsored

Search Now

Delhi: Unsold Emergency Generators Now Almost Being Given Away (Search Prices)

Emergency Generator | Search Ads | Sponsored

Search Now

Delhi: Reduce Fat With Laser Liposuction (See Total Prices)

Liposuction | Search Ads | Sponsored

Video of young couple kissing inside Delhi metro goes viral on social media

Telegraph India

New Town authorities readying New Town to face cyclone Mocha

Telegraph India

Write Impressive, Native-Level Articles

QuillBot | Sponsored

Try Now

Get in Touch With Top Indian Psychologist

India's top clinical psychologist is ready to help you deal with Depression, Anxiety, and other psychological issues.

HopeQure | Sponsored

Book Now

Villas In Dubai (See Prices)

Villas In Dubai | Search Ads | Sponsored

Write Emails like a Pro with This New App

Correct All Grammar Errors and Enhance Your Writing. Start Writing Better and Clearer Instantly.

QuillBot | Sponsored

Try Now

Electric Bike Prices In 2023 Might Surprise You!

E-Bike Deals | search ads | Sponsored

Congress feels BJP has lost ‘morally and legally’ after SC judgement on Maharashtra political crisis

Telegraph India

Bangalore's MG Road ranks first in top 30 high street locations in India, Calcutta's Park Street and Camac Street at fifth position

Telegraph India

Knee Pain Relief

Nveda Joint Support is a dietary supplement designed to support joint health and flexibility. It contains a blend of natural ingredients such as Collagen Type 2, Glucosamine, Calcium, MSM, known for their anti-inflammatory and lubricating properties

NVEDA | Sponsored

Shop Now

House Market - New 2023's Offers May Surprise You

House Market | Search Ads | Sponsored

USA Is Hiring Experienced Roofers (See Salaries)

What are you waiting for? Apply today and get the job soon.

Roofing Jobs In US | Search ads | Sponsored

Search Now

News[Opinion](#)[States](#)[Nation](#)[World](#)[Entertainment](#)[Business](#)[Sports](#)[Science & Tech](#)[Health](#)**More**[Gallery](#)[Video](#)[Horse Racing](#)[Culture](#)**My Kolkata**[News](#)[Places](#)[People](#)[Lifestyle](#)[Events](#)[Food](#)[Try This](#)**Edugraph**[News](#)[Career](#)[Campus](#)[18 Under 18](#)**Company**[About](#)[Contact Us](#)[Terms of Use](#)[Privacy Policy](#)**Download the latest Telegraph app****Follow us on****Websites**[আনন্দবাজার অনলাইন](#)

Copyright © 2023 The Telegraph. All rights reserved.