

Special Offer! Mint + WSJ at ₹3499

Claim Now!

Home / News / India / WhatsApp scam calls issue: IT ministry to send notice to the company, Rajeev Chandrasekhar says

WhatsApp scam calls issue: IT ministry to send notice to the company, Rajeev Chandrasekhar says

3 min read . Updated: 11 May 2023, 08:47 PM IST

Livemint



numbers over the past few days.

Taking note of the issue of WhatsApp spam calls from unknown international n [OPEN IN APP](#)
Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Thursday said that the IT Ministry will send a notice to the company.

Assting that the onus of ensuring user safety lies with the digital platforms, the minister said that the government will respond to every instance of alleged misuse or alleged breach of users' privacy.

[WhatsApp](#) users in India have recently reported a massive surge in receiving spam calls from international numbers over the past few days. Many took to Twitter stating that a major chunk of these [spam calls](#) had country codes belonging to Indonesia (62), Vietnam (84), Malaysia (60), Kenya (254) and Ethiopia (251).

"The Ministry is taking note of it, they will send them a notice," Chandrasekhar told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI). He also added that the government is mulling guidelines on what should be permissions for preloaded apps.

"I have said repeatedly that openness trust, safety and accountability are the responsibility of platforms who deliver to digital nagriks," the minister noted.

If there is an issue of spam, it is certainly an issue WhatsApp should look at or any messenger platform should look at, he added.

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

"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.

In a post on microblogging site Twitter, Chandrasekhar has stated that the government will investigate a claim that WhatsApp accessed the microphone of smartphone users while the phone was not in use. The government will examine the alleged breach of privacy even as the new Digital Personal Data Protection Bill was being readied, he said.

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.

WhatsApp is a leader among end-to-end encrypted services in protecting user safety.

We continue to provide several safety tools within WhatsApp like Block & Report, consistently build user safety education & awareness, as well as, proactively weed out bad-actors from our platform. However, bad actors find different ways to scam users. International scam calls is a new way that bad actors have recently adopted. By giving a missed call, they lead curious users to call or message back only to get scammed," WhatsApp spokesperson said in a reply.

"Therefore, we have quickly ramped up our AI & ML systems to bring down such incidents significantly. Our new enforcement will reduce the current calling rate by at least 50% and we expect to be able to control the current incidence effectively. We will continue to work relentlessly towards ensuring a safe experience for our users," WhatsApp spokesperson added.

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

[Subscribe](#)[e-paper](#)[Home](#)[Latest](#)[News](#)[Markets](#)[Elections](#)[Premium](#)[Money](#)[Mutual Fund](#)[Industry](#)[Companies](#)

(With inputs from agencies)

Catch all the [Business News](#), [Market News](#), [Breaking News](#) Events and [Latest News](#) Updates on Live Mint. Download The [Mint News App](#) to get Daily Market Updates.

[More](#)

[Subscribe](#)[e-paper](#)[Home](#)[Latest](#)[News](#)[Markets](#)[Elections](#)[Premium](#)[Money](#)[Mutual Fund](#)[Industry](#)[Companies](#)[Connect with us:](#)

TRENDING STORIES

[Cyclone Mocha Live](#) | [Twitter's New CEO](#) | [Karnataka Elections 2023 Live](#) | [Stock Market LIVE](#) | [International Nurses Day 2023](#) | [Linda Yaccarino](#) | [Royal Enfield Price Hike](#) | [Bank Fixed Deposits](#) | [Ujjivan Small Finance Bank](#) | [Nexus Select Trust REIT IPO](#) | [Zee Share Price](#)

DATA PAGES

[Petrol Prices](#) | [Diesel Prices](#) | [MCX Gold Price](#) | [MCX Silver Price](#)

POPULAR STOCKS

[HDFC Life Insurance Company](#) | [Bajaj Finserv Share](#) | [Bajaj Finance Share](#) | [Indusind Bank Share](#) | [Mahindra & Mahindra Share](#) | [Adani Power Share Price](#) | [Tata Steel Share Price](#) | [Bandhan](#)

[Global News](#)[Podcast](#)[Premium](#)[For you](#)[Get App](#)



Subscribe

e-paper

- Home
- Latest
- News
- Markets
- Elections
- Premium
- Money
- Mutual Fund
- Industry
- Companies

8.50% p.a | Why commodities shine in a time of stagflation | Multibagger logistic stock explores growth options marching towards debt free regime | ChatGPT may predict stock prices by analysing news headlines, claims study | Canara Robeco Mutual Fund-backed Vijay Kedia stock hits record high. Do you own? | CBSE Class 10, 12 exams 2024 will be conducted from THIS date | CBSE 10th Result 2023: Class 10 results out, pass percentage at 93.12 | South Indian Bank jumps 8% as post Q4 results, here are more details

DOWNLOAD APP

Download the Mint app and read premium stories

ABOUT US | CONTACT US | TERMS OF USE | PRIVACY POLICY | RSS

Copyright © 2023 HT Digital Streams Ltd All Right Reserved