

CYBER BULLETIN

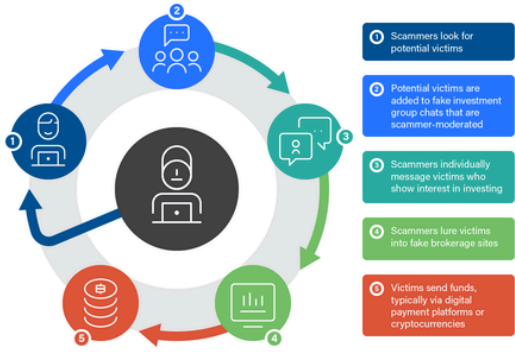


CYBER AWARENESS CLUB
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATION
INTEGRAL UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW

FEBRUARY 2026

DOI No. 10.5281/zenodo.18982913

RISE OF AI-DRIVEN VALENTINE SCAM



Pig-Butchering Scam

Scammers build trust with victims through chats or fake investment groups. They promote fraudulent investment opportunities promising high profits. Victims are asked to transfer money often through cryptocurrency. Fake platforms show artificial profits and when victims try to withdraw funds scammers disappear. Cause: Social engineering & fake investment platforms used to steal money and personal information.

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Synthetic Soulmate

AI is being used to create fake romantic partners online. These AI-generated profiles or chatbots build emotional connections with users. Scammers may use them to gain trust manipulate feelings & commit online fraud. This creates risks related to emotional exploitation & digital safety. Cause: Misuse of AI-generated profiles & deepfake content to manipulate and exploit victims for fraud or personal data.

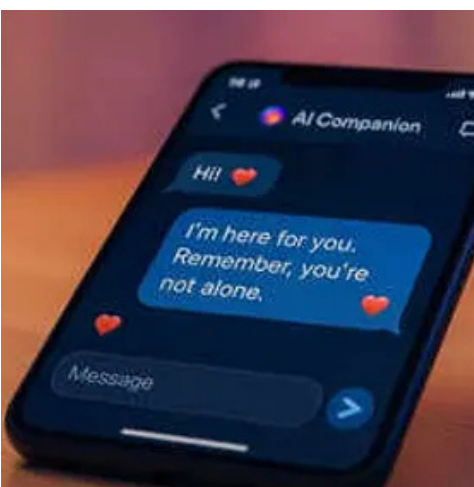
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Online Identity Fraud

A man lost ₹1.92 crore after befriending someone on WhatsApp posing as a woman. The fraudster gained trust through chats and showed fake profit screenshots to convince the victim to invest in fraudulent schemes. Later it was revealed that the identity was fake and the victim had been cheated. Cause: Fake online identity and social engineering used to lure victims into fraudulent investments..

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AI Love Bot-Swarm Scam

Scammers are using AI-generated profiles and chatbots to create fake romantic relationships online. These bots send realistic messages, photos and deepfake video calls to build emotional trust. Victims are later asked for money or personal information. Because AI profiles look very real many people fail to recognize the scam until it is too late. Cause: AI-generated profiles and automated messages used to build trust and commit online fraud.

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Romance Scam Arrest

Police arrested two suspects after an investigation into an online romance fraud scheme. The scammers used fake dating profiles and stolen photos to build relationships with victims. After gaining trust they convinced victims to send large sums of money for fake business. Once the money was transferred the scammers cut off communication and kept the funds. Cause: Fake online identities and emotional manipulation used to obtain money.

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AI Crypto Romance Scam

In 2026 romance scams are becoming more advanced with help of AI, deepfake videos and voice cloning. Scammers create fake identities to build relationships online before introducing victims to fake cryptocurrency investments. Victims are shown fabricated profits on fake platforms to gain trust when money is invested then scammers drain the funds and disappear. Cause: AI-generated identities and fake crypto investment platforms used to manipulate victims.

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BEST PRACTICE

- **Verify Online Identities confirm profiles using video calls or reverse image search to avoid fake or AI-generated accounts.**
- **Avoid Unverified Investments and do not trust high-profit investment offers shared through chats or social media.**
- **Detect AI & Deepfake and stay alert to AI-generated profiles, voice cloning and deepfake videos used to build false emotional trust.**
- **Never share bank details, OTPs or personal data with unknown online contacts to prevent identity theft and fraud.**

NEWS OF THE MONTH

Hyderabad Online Dating Scam – ₹25 Lakh Loss

A 51-year-old government employee in Hyderabad lost ₹25 lakh in an online dating scam. The victim was contacted through a Telegram bot and a fake profile, where fraudsters demanded registration and verification fees, resulting in 41 transactions between 12–27 February 2026 before the fraud was discovered.

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YOUR TRUE VALENTINE OR A SCAMMER?

“ I STEAL YOUR HEART, I STEAL YOUR MONEY ”

THE COMMON SIGNS...



They reside in another country and are 'far far' away from you.



Their profile seems too good to be true.



They are always in trouble and seek your help by asking for money to help them tide through their so-called misery.



They always avoid meeting you in person.



They often sweet talk you, pretend to care and ask for money as proof of your love.



They make empty promises in exchange for luxury gifts.



STAY ALERT, STAY SAFE, REPORT CYBERCRIME ☎ 1930

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