

Advisory

Advisory regarding fake news and rumours related to Covid-19 pandemic

A brief advisory highlighting some episodes of fake news, some do's and don'ts and consequences of spreading fake news with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic



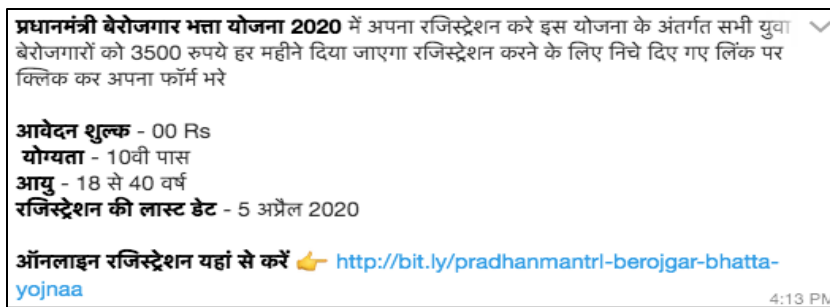
INTRODUCTION

It has been noticed that certain malicious elements are spreading fake news on social media platforms and messaging platforms amidst this Covid-19 pandemic. We urge every responsible citizen to stay informed and not further spread such unverified news. It is the duty of every citizen to be responsible about what they share on such social media platforms and messaging applications.

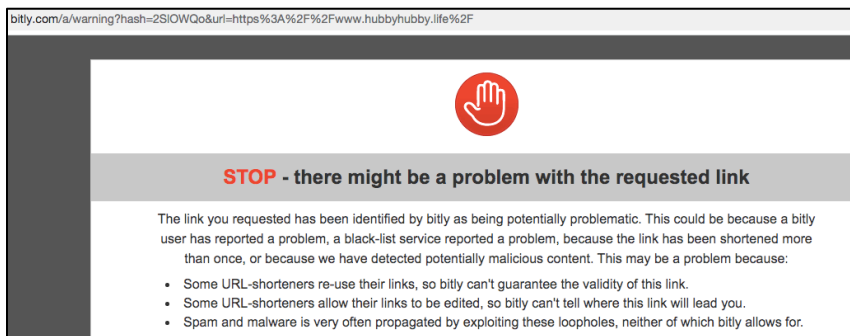
Various messages such as free recharges, benefits to unemployed youngsters by the government, etc. are being spread over the Internet, creating unnecessary panic and fake news being spread. Following are the screenshots of the fake messages being circulated.

1. Message claiming that unemployed people between the age of 18-40 years and who have passed Xth standard will be given INR 3500 per month through the 'Pradhanmantri Berojgar Bhatta Yojnaa'.

[Link: <http://bit.ly/pradhanmantri-berojgar-bhatta-yojnaa>]

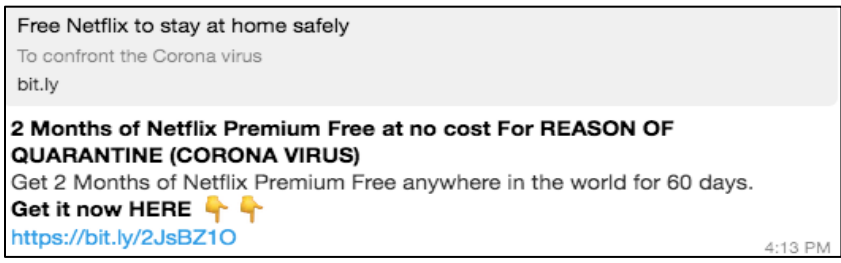


On opening the link in the message, the following page appears:

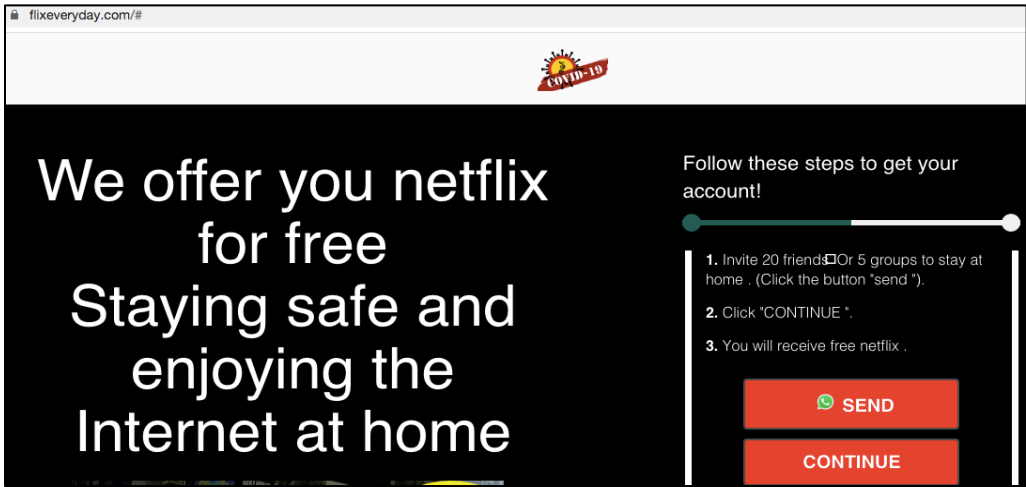


2. Message offering free Netflix access for two months during the quarantine period.

[Link: <https://bit.ly/2JsBZ1O>]



On opening the link, the following page appears, which further indicates that this is a hoax:



3. Message claiming that Jio company is giving a free recharge of INR 498 to all the Indians.

[Link: <https://jiorechargenew.online>]

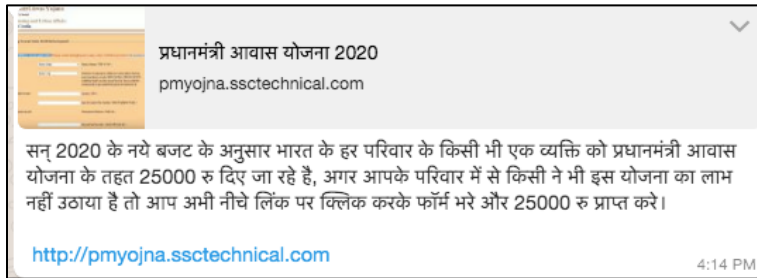


On clicking this link, the following opens up:



4. Post claiming that, one individual can apply from a single family and avail the benefit of getting INR 25,000 under 'Pradhanmantri Aavas Yojna'

[Link: <http://pmyojna.ssctechnical.com>]



On clicking the link in the message, the following unsecure webpage opens up.

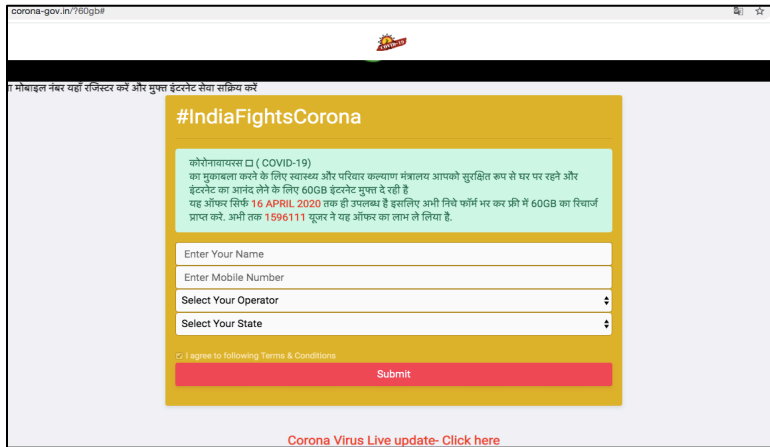


5. A fake message claiming the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has decided to give free 60Gb Internet is also making rounds on social media.

[Link: <https://corona-gov.in?60gb>]



On clicking the link in the message, the following unsecure webpage opens up, which then tells us to share the message to a minimum of 20 contacts on your WhatsApp list.



These links direct people to *malicious webpages* who have been created to collect information present on your devices along with sensitive personal information. These links harvest the data of people without their consent. The links can facilitate various phishing and malware attacks and compromise the safety of your device and the data within.

We recommend you to:

- Not click on any unknown links
- Not download any attachments from unknown links
- Keep a strong anti-virus on your system and take back-up of your important files
- Not install any applications form unknown sources
- Refrain from giving out sensitive personal information on any unsecured webpages / platforms
- Report any suspicious phishing links to www.reportphshing.in and www.cybercrime.gov.in

Billions of people today rely on social media platforms for news and these platforms are providing a fertile territory to those with criminal intentions, who want to commit fraud by circulating such links and harvesting data. You as a cyber-literate citizen are expected to not spread, share or pass on such link or immediately report it.

Stay Safe. Stay Quarantined. Stay away from cyber frauds and spread the word.

