Satark Banking: सतर्क बँकिंग

What is a Money Mule scam?

A Money Mule is someone who unknowingly gets involved in a financial crime by allowing fraudsters to use their bank account to move stolen or illegal money. In most cases, scammers pose as employers, acquaintances, or online contacts and promise easy commissions for "receiving and forwarding" funds. Money mules are often than not, victims who receive and move illegitimate money acquired on behalf of someone else. Some money mules know they are assisting with criminal activity, while others are unaware that their actions are helping fraudsters. Acting as a money mule is illegal and punishable, even if you aren't aware that you're committing a crime.

What are the consequences?

Getting involved in such scams, even unknowingly can have serious consequences:

- Legal action and police investigations
- Freezing of your bank account by the bank by order of law enforcement agencies
- Permanent impact on your financial credibility
- Loss of access to legitimate banking services

How to stay protected?

Protect yourself and others by recognising these warning signs:

- **Ignore suspicious emails or messages:** Do not respond to emails, messages, or posts asking you to share your bank details or receive money on someone else's behalf.
- **Be cautious with job offers**: Verify the identity and contact details of any employer, especially for overseas jobs or work-from-home opportunities that involve handling money.
- Think twice about 'easy money' offers: If someone offers you a commission to receive or transfer funds, it is likely a scam. Do not let anyone misuse your bank account.
- **Monitor your account regularly**: Review your bank statements to ensure no unauthorised or suspicious transactions have taken place.

Where and how to report?

If you suspect that someone is trying to involve you in a Money Mule scam or if you have already shared your details or you have fallen victim to such Money Mule scam then:

- Report cyber fraud at <u>www.cybercrime.gov.in</u> or call <u>1930</u>
- Notify your nearest <u>branch</u> immediately or contact our customer care at +91-9552512724

Be alert. Stay secure. Do not let fraudsters turn you into an unknowing accomplice.