

Retired Indian Doctor Dies After 70-Hour 'Digital Arrest' Scam

A 76-year-old retired government doctor collapsed and died of a heart attack after cyber fraudsters held her under "digital arrest" for three days.

The scammers, who posed as Bengaluru police officials, extracted \$7,500 from her retirement account and continued sending threatening messages even after her death on September 8, 2025.

The ordeal began on September 5 when the doctor received a WhatsApp video call from a number displaying the Bengaluru police logo as its profile picture.

The callers presented forged documents stamped with fake seals from the Supreme Court, Enforcement Directorate, and Reserve Bank of India, accusing her of involvement in human trafficking.

How The Digital Arrest Played Out

For 70 hours, the fraudsters maintained constant video surveillance of the pensioner, threatening arrest under the National Security Act unless she transferred money. The doctor, living alone at her Madhura Nagar residence, was too frightened to contact family members or seek help.

On September 6, she wired \$7,500 from her Union Bank pension account to an ICICI Bank account which was discovered by investigators to be a shell company, but they did not leave her alone.

In fact, it got worse. The harassment intensified through calls from another number saved in her phone as "Jaishankar Sir," with the caller sending fake court notices and making repeated video calls. The psychological torture continued which left her isolated and terrified in her own home.

Her Family Discovered The Scam Because She Sounded Very Tired

The doctor's son told police that his mother never mentioned the harassment during their regular phone conversations. "She kept saying she was fine, but we noticed she sounded tired," he recounted to investigators.

On September 8, after nearly three days of continuous threats, the doctor collapsed with severe chest pain. Her neighbors rushed her first to Raja Nursing Home in Yousufguda, then to Apollo Spectra Clinic in Ameerpet, where doctors pronounced her dead at 12:30 PM.

The Scammers Continued to Send Her Messages

The family discovered the full extent of the scam only after the funeral on September 9, when they checked her phone and bank records. The fraudsters had sent their last message on September 10, a casual "good morning" text, apparently unaware their victim had died.

Police officials found that the scammers had saved multiple numbers in the doctor's phone under official-sounding names. Bank records showed the money trail leading to accounts registered to fake entities, a common tactic in such crimes.

The Investigation Is Underway

Police in India are investigating the case now. Investigators are tracking phone records and analyzing the fraudulent bank transactions to identify the perpetrators.

"No legitimate law enforcement agency conducts investigations through WhatsApp video calls or demands money transfers to avoid arrest," a senior police official said. These scammers specifically target elderly citizens who may be less familiar with such tactics.

There were 92,000 Digital Arrest scams in India reported last year alone. It's a crime that is sweeping the country.