

**PUNJAB POLICE'S CYBER CRIME DIVISION ARRESTS TWO TRAVEL AGENTS FOR ILLEGALLY SENDING PEOPLE TO CAMBODIA**

— **PUNJAB POLICE COMMITTED TO MAKING PUNJAB A SAFE AND SECURE STATE AS PER DIRECTIONS OF CM BHAGWANT SINGH MANN**

— **ARRESTED PERSONS FRAUDULENTLY SENT MANY PERSONS TO CAMBODIA, WHERE THEY ARE FORCIBLY ENGAGED IN CYBER SLAVERY: DGP GAURAV YADAV**

— **FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO IDENTIFY OTHER SUCH TRAVEL AGENTS, SAYS ADGP V NEERAJA**

— **BE WARY OF TRAVEL AGENTS OFFERING LUCRATIVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD: ADGP CYBER CRIME DIVISION CHANDIGARH, July 3:**

Amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab Police's Cyber Crime Division has arrested two travel agents for indulging in illegal trafficking of persons from the Punjab to Cambodia and other South East Asian countries, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Wednesday.

Those arrested have been identified as Amarjeet Singh, who is the owner of Visa Palace Immigration in Mohali and his accomplice Gurjodh Singh.

As per the information, the arrested travel agents were sending innocent people from Punjab to Cambodia promising them lucrative Data Entry jobs. On arrival at Siam Reap in Cambodia, their passports are taken away from them and then they were forced/tortured to work in Cyber Scamming Call centres to target Indian people to commit Cyber financial frauds.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that following the statement of the victim, who has managed to escape from Cambodia after getting in contact with the Indian Embassy in Cambodia, the State Cyber Crime Police Station had registered a first information report (FIR) and started investigations in this case. A case FIR No. 19 had been registered under sections 370, 406, 420 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 24 of the Immigration Act at Police Station State Cyber Crime.

He said preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused persons have fraudulently sent many persons to Cambodia and other South-East Asian countries, where they are forcibly made to work at centres engaged in Cyber Scamming Indians. The details of the persons, who are into cyber slavery are being obtained and contacts are being established with them and their families, he added.

Sharing more details, ADGP Cyber Crime Division V Neeraja said that Police teams from State Cyber Crime led by Inspector Deepak Bhatia conducted raid at the office of Visa Palace immigration and arrested both the accused persons.

She said that the accused have further revealed that they were doing the illegal activities in connivance with other agents belonging to different states. Further investigation is being conducted to identify other such travel agents and their accomplices to nab them, she said.

The ADGP exhorted the citizens to be aware of such fraudulent immigration activities and do not fall prey to fake promises of travel agents offering lucrative job opportunities abroad, especially in South-East Asian Countries. It is also advised that the background of the prospective employer is checked thoroughly especially when work is offered in the name of 'Data entry operator' job and to not undertake any illegal cyber activities and reach out to Indian Embassy, she added.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has also setup an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) as a single-window facilitation centre, to provide the required support services to persons desirous of going abroad for employment purposes. The OWRC at present is operating a 24x7 helpline (1800113090) to provide need based information to emigrants and their families through a toll free number. If any other person from state of Punjab has fallen victim in this alleged scam, the person may call State Cyber Crime Division, Punjab helpline no. 0172-2226258 for further facilitation through Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

-----