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Stop online social engineering frauds: MP

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The DMK MP P Wilson said the Union Government should introduce effective legislation to prevent social engineering frauds, which have been on the rise in the country for the past two years.

Addressing a webinar organized by Cyber Society of India on "Social Engineering, the Art of

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Deception" on Saturday the senior counsel and Rajya Sabha member P. Wilson said since March 2020 the entire world has been

dependent on online business through online apps. India has been pushed into becoming Digital India due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in the past two years and even the courts are functioning online these days, he said.

The hackers have adopted the new strategy of "Social Engineering" to exploit the psychological vulnerability in individuals and potential technical vulnerabilities of

varied technologies. It is now seen as the greatest security threat for people and organisations. Wilson said. He noted that a large number of corporates and individuals have suffered huge losses as a result of these attacks. Even Judges, doctors, engineers, and persons from various walks of life, especially senior citizens, have fallen prey for these frauds and have lost huge amounts of money.

Hacking attacks have been made against Twitter accounts of major companies and high profile users such as Barack Obama, U.S. President Joe Biden, Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Kanye West, Michael Bloomberg, and Apple in 2020.

India is witnessing a change in the nature of cyber-crimes, which is now extremely organised and collaborative with rising incidents of phishing

attacks, social engineering attacks, etc. Out of the total breach, malicious attacks accounted for 53 per cent as per the findings while system glitches accounted for 26 per cent and the remaining 21 per cent of breaches due to human error. He said "Social Engineering" remains a neglected field in the country and that the Central government should enact laws to address menace.