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Cybercrime victims can complain online

Home Ministry set to launch web portal which will accept online abuse cases too

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The Ministry of Home Affairs is set to launch a web portal where people who have faced online abuse and victims of cybercrimes like financial frauds can register complaints on a real-time basis. The Centre also plans to give access rights to banks on the portal to address cases of fraudulent transactions online.

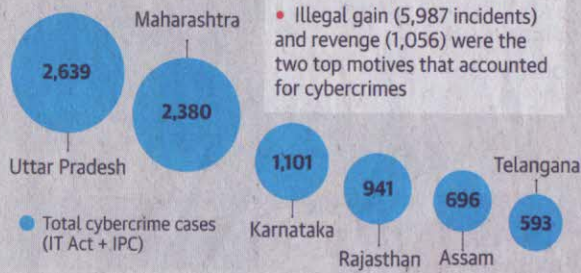
Home Minister Rajnath Singh said last week that according to India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), there was a 21% increase per year in incidents of cybercrime.

Panel's directives

The portal has been readied on the directives of a com-

Rising numbers

Only in 30% of cybercrimes in 2016, police or the investigating agency filed a chargesheet. A look at the top six States



mittee appointed by the Supreme Court to check circulation of child pornography and sexual violence videos on the Internet.

In December, the court asked the Centre to set up a cell in the Central Bureau of

Investigation or the Ministry of Home Affairs to report and take down such videos and messages.

On October 27 last, a Bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and U.U. Lalit said it "expected the government

and social media platforms and Internet service providers, including Google, Yahoo, Facebook, WhatsApp and Microsoft, to abide by the recommendations on which there is consensus and to try and implement them at the earliest."

The portal will be operational from January 10.

"If money has been fraudulently withdrawn through someone's credit or debit card, the person can log on to the portal and register a complaint. Since banks would be given access rights, the bank concerned would receive the complaint and take action immediately," said a senior official of the Home Ministry.

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He explained that though the Supreme Court had framed guidelines to set up a centralised portal for reporting of complaints against child pornography and rape videos, they would enable the portal for victims of online abuse, cyber frauds and other financial frauds.

"There are jurisdictional issues when it comes to trans-border crimes so the portal will have the provision of real-time reporting of such crimes. This will be helpful in cases where women face online abuse: they can simply upload screenshots of objectionable messages, videos and audios. The team in MHA will do the preliminary enquiry and forward the complaint to the concerned police station for necessary action," said the official.

The SC gave the order af-

ter NGO Prajwala moved a plea highlighting the availability of child porn and rape videos online.

As per the court guidelines, there will be a separate section on the website where child pornography content and gangrape videos could be uploaded anonymously for action.

"The current law requires that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should investigate cases registered under the Information Technology Act. Since there is an increase in number of such cases, we will write to the IT ministry to amend the Act to enable Sub-Inspector level officials to investigate the cases," said the official.

The MHA has also asked the States to set up cyberforensic laboratories with training facilities to boost their forensic capabilities.