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## Cyber risk increases along with rising trend of webinars (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/cyber-risk-increases-along-with-rising-trend-of-webinars/>)

Published: May 06, 2020 10:08 am On: [Business](https://thehimalayantimes.com/category/business/) (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/category/business/>).

**ARPANA ALE MAGAR**

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**Kathmandu, May 5** Cyber risk increases along with the rising trend of webinars

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The trend of working from home has increased tremendously in the country during the lockdown period. With the nationwide lockdown in place, internet usage has also surged by 50 per cent as compared to normal times. And the trend of holding video conferences, meetings and online classes has surged significantly

But this increasing practice of utilising digital platforms has also given rise to various cyber risks.

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In recent times, webinars are being targeted by spammers with the sole intention of disturbing the sessions. For instance, Girls In Tech had organised a webinar on April 26 through Google Meet application.

During a session they found that a spammer was creating disturbances. However, they continued with the session by removing the spammer.

On April 29, Girls In Tech terminated its webinar after an anonymous user was detected disturbing its session. “We tried to track the spammers but they are a group of people and we were unable to track all of their addresses.

So we dropped that session,” said Astha Sharma, managing director of Girls In Tech – Nepal.

Thereafter issuing a statement on May 3, Anjani Phuyal, CEO of Genese Cloud Academy and founder of Girls In Tech – Nepal, shared, “After we faced such disturbances, we tracked down some users through their e-mails and we came to know they were doing it in an organised way.”

According to him, spammers have formed a private Facebook group to track down webinars being conducted in the country and abroad. And as soon as the webinars begin, they start creating disturbances through spams.

In another incident, a session being hosted by Robotics Association of Nepal on April 27 also faced problems due to spams. As per the statement, a few spammers posted vulgar comments in the chat thread of the session's live video. On the same day, Nxt- Gen, a non-profit organisation under Pulchowk Engineering Campus, also faced a similar problem. During the online session, the organisers noticed that some participants were using fake e-mail addresses thus violating cybersecurity laws. However, Nxt- Gen was able to immediately fix the security issue on its platform that the spammers were exploiting and promptly began working with law enforcement agencies.

As the spammers were found to be college students who didn't know about the consequences of such activities they were let off with a warning, Phital added.

Meanwhile, Sachin Thakuri, a cyber security expert, mentioned that users usually are not aware about cyber security. "Due to the lockdown, there has been a surge in number of virtual official meetings and online classes but the people organising them do not have proper knowledge of cyber security," he said, adding that cyber risk is increasing due to lack of awareness among general users and anyone can easily enter such webinars if proper security measures are not adopted.

Previously, before the lockdown, only corporate houses were organising virtual meetings and that too in rare instances, however, such meetings have become popular these days. As a result, security vulnerability and threat on privacy have increased.

"It's true that monitoring and regulation are needed but people also need to have knowledge about digital platforms," Thakuri said, adding, digital awareness must be a priority among internet users in the coming days.

Lok Raj Sharma, information officer at the Department of Information Technology, claimed that the government is aware about increasing cyber risk, especially during the lockdown period.

"Nobody was prepared for this coronavirus impact," he said, "All of a sudden the lockdown was imposed to prevent the virus from spreading and all regular activities were halted due to which internet usage increased."

Sharma added that the government has to come up with longterm solutions by learning from the current situation. "We have realised the need for our own digital platforms," he said. "When we use platforms like Zoom, Skype and Messenger, our data is transferred outside the country which has threatened our privacy."

He further said that the government is interested in working with entrepreneurs who want to develop digital platforms. "And to regulate cybercrimes we have prepared an IT Bill which is currently stuck in the Parliament due to several reasons," Sharma said.

"For the moment the government cannot do anything else besides take action against the culprits based on the complaints."

A version of this article appears in e-paper on May 6, 2020, of The Himalayan Times.

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GULMI: Two persons died after they were buried under the debris of a landslide in Isma Rural Municipality-2 of Gulmi on Monday night. A joint team of Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force personnel recovered the bodies of locals Prem Bahadur Kumal (39) and Safal Kumal (5) from under t Read More... (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/two-killed-in-gulmi-landslide/>)



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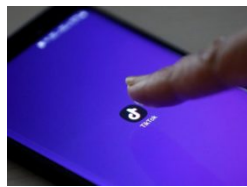
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### Dr KC taken to Trauma Centre upon return from Jumla (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/dr-kc-taken-to-trauma-centre-after-his-return-from-jumla696763/>)

KATHMANDU: Dr Govinda KC who had been staging a hunger strike in Jumla was taken to National Trauma Centre after he landed in Kathmandu on Tuesday. Dr KC took Buddha Air flight from Nepalgunj to the capital city to continue his strike in Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), Maharajgunj. Read More...

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### TikTok says removed over 104 million videos in first-half for violating guidelines (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/science-technology/tiktok-says-removed-over-104-million-videos-in-first-half-for-violating-guidelines/>)

ByteDance-owned video-streaming app TikTok said on Tuesday it removed over 104 million videos from its platform globally in the first half of the year for violating guidelines or terms of service. "Of those videos, we found and removed 96.4% of videos before a user reported them, and 90.3% were r Read More... (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/science-technology/tiktok-says-removed-over-104-million-videos-in-first-half-for-violating-guidelines/>)



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### India trials for Russia's 'Sputnik-V' vaccine could start in next few weeks: exec (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/lifestyle/health/india-trials-for-russias-sputnik-v-vaccine-could-start-in-next-few-weeks-exec/>)

BENGALURU: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd could begin late-stage Indian clinical trials of Russia's potential coronavirus vaccine in the next few weeks, an executive at the Indian drugmaker said on Tuesday. Indian trials of the Sputnik-V vaccine candidate, being developed by Russia's sovereign w Read More...

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### 1,356 new cases push Nepal's Covid-19 tally to 66,632 on Tuesday (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/1356-new-cases-push-nepals-covid-19-tally-to-66632-on-tuesday/>)

KATHMANDU: Nepal's coronavirus tally moved to 66,632 as 1,356 new infections were reported in the last 24 hours. Read Also: Covid shows no signs of slowing down in Kathmandu valley, 647 infections logged today As many as 823 people that had earlier contracted Covid-19 tested negative for the Read More...

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### Two Covid-19 fatalities reported Tuesday, death-toll stands at 429 (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/two-covid-19-fatalities-reported-tuesday-death-toll-stands-at-429/>)

KATHMANDU: Two fatalities from coronavirus infection were reported in the last 24 hours after which Nepal's Covid-19 death-toll stands at 429. This is after long that a relatively low number of deaths from the disease has been reported in the country. Both the deaths were registered in the Bag Read More... (<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/two-covid-19-fatalities-reported-tuesday-death-toll-stands-at-429/>)

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