NCA-02.041024: NCERT Advisory – Use of Online Matrimonial Apps and Sites By HIAs

<u>Introduction</u>. Hostile Intelligence Agencies (HIAs) are using online Matrimonial apps and sites for spotting, data collection and trapping of Government / Armed Forces individuals. One such app is **Rishta** - *Pakistani Matrimony* (an android app available on Google Play Store) and website is *shaadi.org.pk*. Technical analysis of the app and web site is as under:

a. Android App: Rishta – Pakistan Matrimony

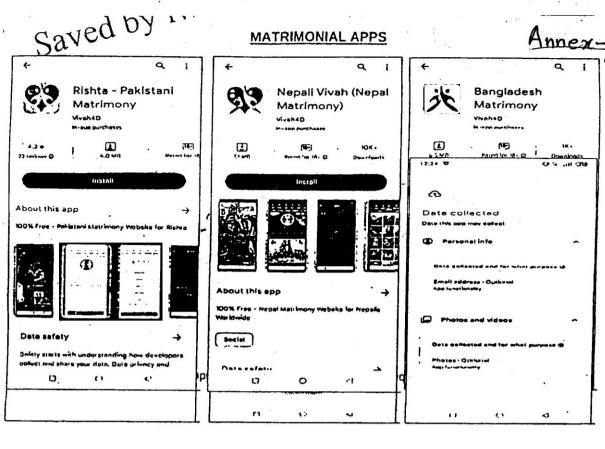
- (1) Developed by Vivah4D (Released on 18th December, 2020) and is downloaded 5000 + times so far.
- (2) Vivah4D has also developed 2 x other apps i.e. Nepali Vivah and Bangladesh Matrimony (both available on Google Play Store).
- (3) Collects Following data of users (Screenshots attached as **Annex-A**:
 - (a) <u>Location</u>. Access approx. location (network-based),
 - (b) <u>Storage</u>. Read, modify or delete contents on SD card.
 - (c) Advertising *ID* permission.
 - (d) Run foreground services.
 - (e) Google Play billing services.
 - (f) Send sticky broadcast.
 - (g) Have full network access.
 - (h) View network connections.
 - (i) Prevent phone from- sleeping.
 - (j) Play install Referrer API.
 - (k) Receive data from internet.
 - (I) Read Google service configurations.

b. Web Site: Shaadi.org.pk

- (1) Collects personal information (Age, city, education, community, career and marital status), which is displayed for site visitors and also passed on to third party / service providers. Third parties can use personal information as per their own privacy policy.
- (2) This site also provides chat rooms, instant messaging and mail content facility to users, any information disclosed by users in these areas becomes public information.

 Screenshots attached as **Annex-B**.
- (3) HIAs have created accounts on the above mentioned apps and site for spotting and trapping of Government / Armed Forces individuals (Screenshots of IDs identified so far are attached as Annex-C.
- 2. In order to counter the above mentioned HIA's traps, ensure strict compliance of the following aspects:
 - a. Using any online matrimonial apps / sites be avoided as these services provide suitable cover to HIAs to spot and access their data even under Google Play store security checks.
 - b. Individuals who have already downloaded Rishta Pakistani Matrimony app and have been approached by HIAs should immediately report to senior management / concerned HR as per procedure in vogue.
 - c. Rishta Pakistani Matrimony app may be treated as banned app.





Annex B

MATRIMONIAL SITE

