

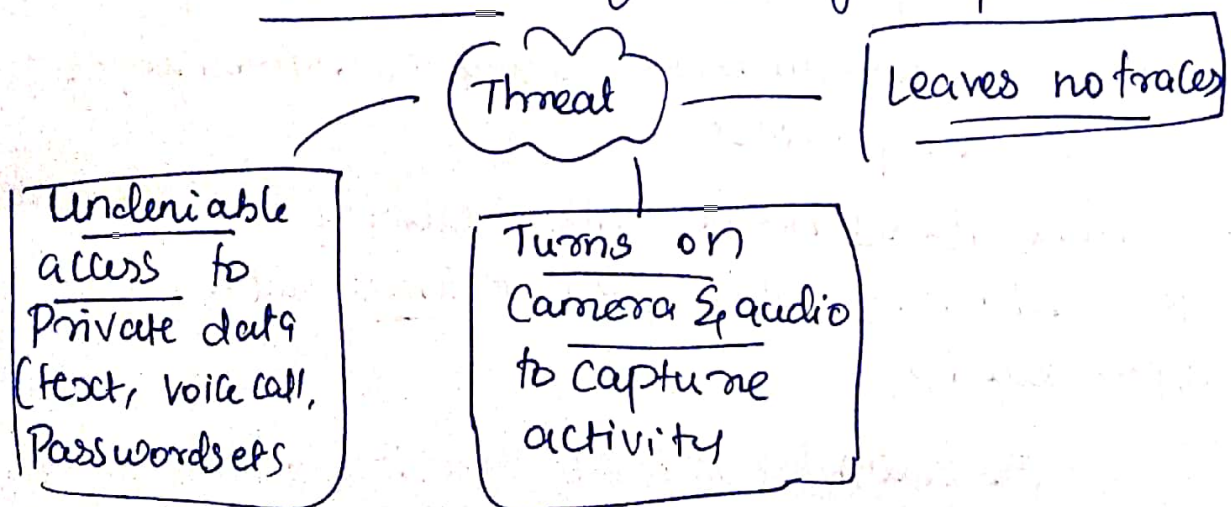
In what ways does the spyware Pegasus poses a serious threat to the Govt. of India & data privacy of citizens? How should the Govt. respond to such threats & prevent them in future?

Recently WhatsApp filed a lawsuit against Pegasus, a spyware tool, from Israeli firm NSO for compromising the target's mobile phone without their knowledge and the targets including Indians from civil society, activists & lawyers etc.

Pegasus: A cyber Thanos (devil)

Pegasus, a spyware tool, sends a 'exploit/link' to the target.

- If clicked, Pegasus software is installed without target's knowledge / permission
- Once installed, it receives & sends operators command
- It can access data from target's phone



Pegasus Claims: that it is cyber-surveillance company and provides services only to Govts. & its agencies to fight against crime & terrorism

Concerns for users of Electronic devices

- Mass Surveillance $\Rightarrow$ gives away data/information including location, movement etc
- Right to Privacy $\Rightarrow$ Targets activists, lawyer, Civil Society people
- Zero-day exploit $\Rightarrow$ Completely unknown vulnerability of a Software, that even the Software developer does not know. Pegasus find it & exploit the device.

For Cyber-secured India

- * The fact that information provided by WhatsApp to CERT-IN, a govt agency, could not be understood by them tells the situation we are in.
- Collaborate CERT-IN with Software companies to understand & rectify the vulnerability
- Make amendment to Cyber Security Law of 2013 to create Cyber-security wing in all govt. departments
- Creating cyber-awareness among the common people by Software providers
- Conduct Hackathons for cyber-security to improve the environment, Skill & private investment for Cyber-security

The claim by Pegasus that it provides services only to govt. agencies is a cause of concern for Govt. of India as it means Govt. surveillance. Govt. must investigate into such claims as Pegasus is not that easily affordable for all.