19/07/2021 UPSC MAINS ANSWER WRITING

Q. What are zero-click attacks? Explain the measures that are required to prevent users from the possible threats.

Ans:- A zero-click attacks helps spyware like Pegasus gain control over a device without human interaction or human error. All awareness about how to avoid a phishing attack on which links not to click are pointless if the target to the system itself.

Some of the prevention for users is as follows:-

(i) Zero-click attacks are hard to detect given their nature and hence even harder to prevent.

(ii) Detection becomes even harder in encrypted environments where there is no visibility on the data packets being sent or received.

(iii) For prevention to ensure all operating systems and software are up to date & so that they would have the patches for at least vulnerabilities that have been spotted.

(iv) Also, it would make sense to not

Side-load any app and to download only via Google play or Apple's App store.

(v) one way to go is to stop using apps altogether and switch to the browser for checking mails or social media, even on the phone, Yes, this is not convenient but it is more secure, I suggest experts.

(vi) Since zero-click action attacks which do not require any action from the phone's user. This had made what was without a doubt the most powerful spyware out there, more potent and almost impossible to detect or stop.

(vii) iphone ios 13, this become a vulnerability allows remote zero click attacks too.

(viii) The vulnerability allows remote code execution capabilities and enables an attacker to remotely inject a device by sending emails that consume a significant amount of memory.

Thus we can say this type of spying is illegal in condition given. But for safety of device, you this need to update own system.