



गृह मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
HOME AFFAIRS



Indian  
Cyber  
Crime  
Coordination  
Centre  
समृद्धि के साथ  
• Working Together With Vigour

**CYBER CRIME  
STORIES**

**49 PAGES**

**PART 01**

**BE HOSHIYAR,  
CYBERCRIME!**

**STOP**



**GAMING SCAM**

**INVESTMENT SCAM**

**QR CODE SCAM**

**SCAM?**

**CALL  
1930**



**YOUTUBE**



**INSTAGRAM**



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# Mr. Bhola and the Digital Arrest Trap

Mr. Bhola is working on his laptop at home. Suddenly, he gets a video call.



Hello? Who's this?

Inspector  
**FARZI LAL**

Hello, this is Inspector Farzi Lal speaking from the CBI. Are you Mr. Bhola?

Yes, I am. what is the matter?

Mr. Bhola, We have information that you're involved in sharing obscene content. We need your statement right away.

While giving the statement, Keep your camera on at all times, and don't move or talk to anyone.

But I haven't done anything!

That's for us to decide, not you.  
For now, you must pay an online fine of  
**₹5,00,000**  
if you want to avoid being arrested.  
We'll also need your Aadhaar and PAN Card details for verification.

Can I get my wallet?

Stay on screen.  
Be quick.



Bhola ji, scared by the thought of getting arrested and bringing shame to his family, gets ready to pay the money.



Just as he turns to get his wallet, he sees his friend Hoshiyaar Singh standing at the door with a box of sweets.



Looks like Hoshiyaar Singh ka beta is living up to the name! But why do you look so tense?

Namaste Bhola Ji, here's some sweets. My son has scored well in his board exams.



Mr. Bhola is too stunned to speak. Hoshiyaar glances at his phone screen and instantly senses a scam.



This is clearly a scam!  
**DO NOT TRANSFER ANYTHING**  
and hang up the call immediately.

**SCAM SCAM**  
**SCAM**

Mr. Bhola ends the call and avoids the transfer just in time.

These scammers create fake police stations and arrest warrants, preying on fear. They leverage on the fear and emotional pressure to trap people into sending money online.

**FARZI**

But what should I do in such situations?

Remember, an authentic government agency will neither digitally arrest you nor ask for money online.

**DIGITAL**  
**ARREST**  
**SCAM**



Thank you, Hoshiyaar Ji! I'll be more alert next time.

**BEAWARE**

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**STOP. THINK. TAKE ACTION**

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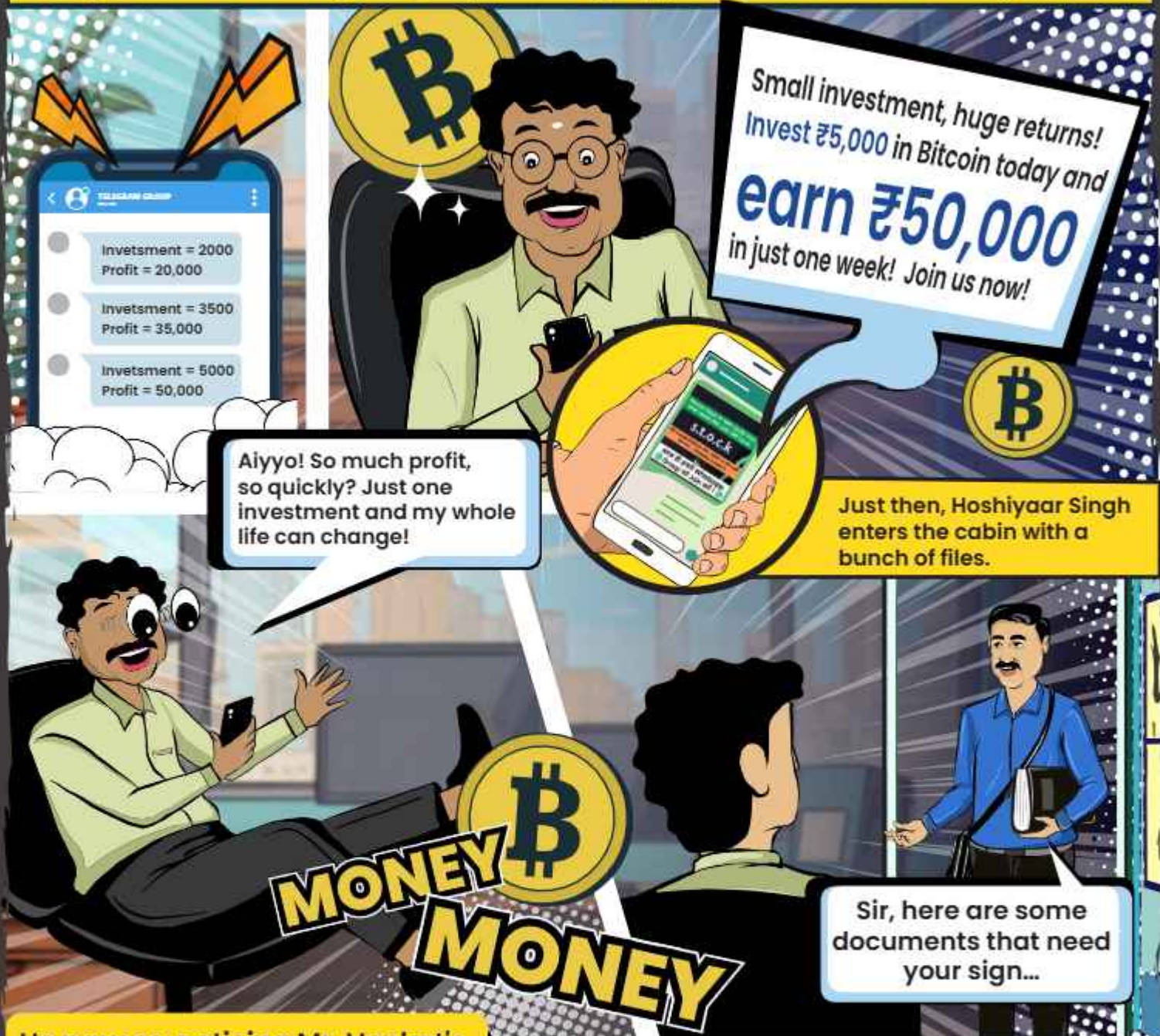
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# Mr. Venkat and the Get-Rich-Quick Scam

Mr. Venkat (Senior Manager) is sitting in his cabin, scrolling through his phone. He gets added to a Telegram group. On the group, he sees a series of messages:



He pauses, noticing Mr. Venkat's excitement.

Today's my lucky day!  
At this rate, I'll become  
a Slumdog Millionaire  
in no time!



Oh wow, sir!  
What's the  
lottery? Do  
tell me too!

Hoshiyaar Singh, you came  
at the perfect time! Look at  
this- someone added me to  
a investment group.  
These tips are amazing!

He shows him the group and  
the messages.

Apologies, sir... but this group  
and the messages look fake to  
me. It's most likely the work of  
a scammer.

What?! A scam?  
With me??



**SCAM**

Yes, sir. No kind of investment  
can make you rich overnight.  
In fact, these people can empty  
your bank account! You should  
report this number immediately  
on the 'Check and Report' tab  
at [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in).

 **1930**

Very good,  
Hoshiyaar Singh.  
Thanks to your  
alertness, I've been  
saved from falling  
into this trap.  
Thank you  
very much!

Just don't forget this  
moment when it's time  
for my increment, sir!

**HA HA HA HA**



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# SCAM?

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# GURPREET TRAPPED IN FAKE LOVE

Hoshiyaar Singh and his junior Gurpreet were having their lunch meal together. Gurpreet was seen being more involved in his phone than his lunch and was smiling while looking at the phone.





She's very shy, Sir. That's why she avoids video calls. But just look at her profile picture. She's so beautiful. We did speak on the phone once, though.

**SCAM**

**SCAM**

**SCAM**

**SCAM**

Be careful, Gurpreet! Just call her once from my phone.

Scammer (in a gruff voice)

Hello, who is speaking?

Now do you get it, Gurpreet?

I do, Sir...

Block the profile right now, and report it on [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) under "Check and Report Suspect".

Thank you for saving me from this trap, sir.

Always be careful when talking to strangers on dating apps and social media.



Don't let cybercriminals turn your love into a weapon to scam you.

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# SCAM?

## REPORT 1930

### STOP. THINK. TAKE ACTION

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# Ghosh Babu and the Digital Deception

Ghosh Babu, a retired elderly gentleman, is sitting comfortably on a chair outside his home. Suddenly, he receives a WhatsApp notification on his phone.

**WARNING**

You have been accused of involvement in child pornography, cyber pornography, and circulation of obscene material. If you do not pay a penalty of ₹5,00,000 within 24 hours, you will be arrested. Click the link below to pay the fine immediately.



The document has an official-looking seal and what appears to be an official signature

Udi Baba! How can this be happening?

Hello, Hoshiyaar Ji.

I'm in a bit of trouble. Look at this WhatsApp message I've just got.

They're accusing me of watching child pornography. But I've done no such thing!

Yes, but it isn't real. Scammers use fake letterheads and forged stamps to scare you into making quick payments.

But look! It has an official seal and a signature. It looks real!

Hello, Ghosh Babu! How are you doing?

Just then, Hoshiyaar Singh, who happens to be strolling across the street at the time, notices Ghosh Babu's worried face and stops.

Ghosh Babu, this looks like a fake notice. No real government body – police, CBI, or any other – ever sends such messages or links via WhatsApp, email, or SMS.

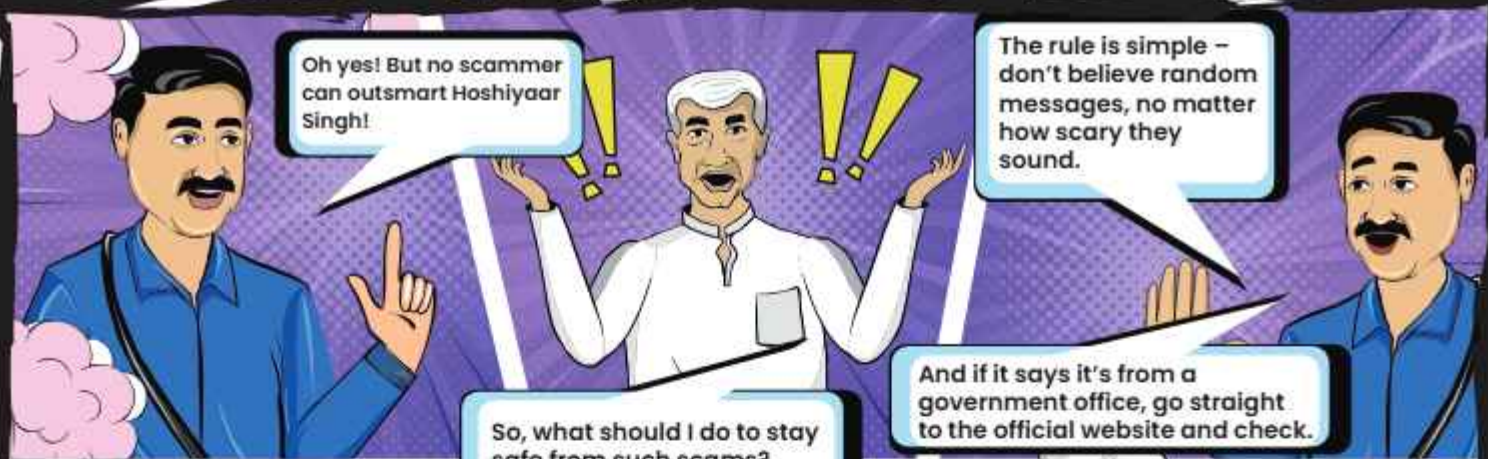
Ghosh Babu shows his phone to Hoshiyaar Singh.

Udi Baba! This actually happens??

**UDIBABA**

# SCAM





## STOP. THINK. TAKE ACTION

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# Mr. Patel and the Fake Officer's Trap

Mr. Patel and Hoshiyaar Singh are enjoying steaming cups of tea.

Mota Bhai, this tea is just perfect!  
You've brought me to a real gem  
of a spot.

Patel Bhai, Hoshiyaar Singh  
always serves smart choices  
- chai included!

TEA STALL

Suddenly, Patel Bhai's  
phone rings.

Hello, Patel Bhai here. May I  
know who's speaking?

Mr. Patel, I'm Inspector  
Thageshwar Singh from  
the local police station.

INSPECTOR  
THAGESHWAR

Uh...yes, officer?  
What's the matter?

SCAM

INSPECTOR

SCAM

SCAM

THAGESHWAR

SCAM

We've arrested your son, Bunty Patel,  
in a serious case... sexual assault.

WHAT? No, no! My son would  
never do such a thing!

We're about to file the chargesheet.  
If you want to save him, you need to pay

**₹50,000**

for his bail - online.  
If not, your son is going to jail.



₹50,000

... bail... online?

Patel Bhai! Hang up the call, right now. This is a scam.

Patel Bhai cuts the call immediately.

A scam? But... Hoshiyaar Ji, he said he was from the police station.

**THIS IS TRAP**

Still... how did they know my son's name?

Real police officers don't ask for bail money online. This is how scammers operate, scaring you into sending money.

So what do I do now?

First, stay calm. Call Bunty and confirm his whereabouts.

Scammers often pull personal info from social media. They use it to sound convincing.

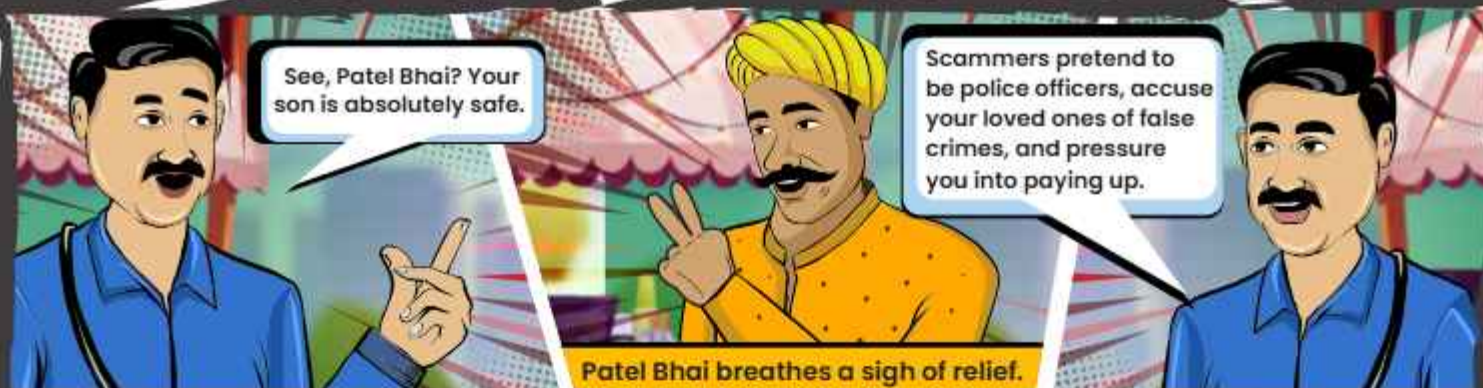
Patel Bhai calls Bunty immediately.

**STAY ALERT**

Bunty, son... where are you right now?

Papa, I'm at college. Just finished with practicals. Heading to the café with friends.





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# Deepti versus the Online Trickster

Hoshiyaar Singh is at home, reading the newspaper and listening to old songs on the radio. Just then, his sister Deepti walks in, returning from college. She looks a little anxious. Hoshiyaar notices.



Deepti freezes for a moment. A nervous sweat breaks out on her forehead. Hoshiyaar senses something is off.






Deepti, sit down. Tell me what's actually going on



Okay... so... a friend from London sent me a gift. But customs stopped it, and they want ₹30,000 to release it.

Hoshiyaar Singh looks a little worried after hearing this.



Wait, what friend? What gift?




He's a Facebook friend... Farzi Mehta. He lives in London and works for a big company.



We've been chatting for 1-2 months and last week, he has shipped me a gift parcel with an iPhone and a diamond necklace.

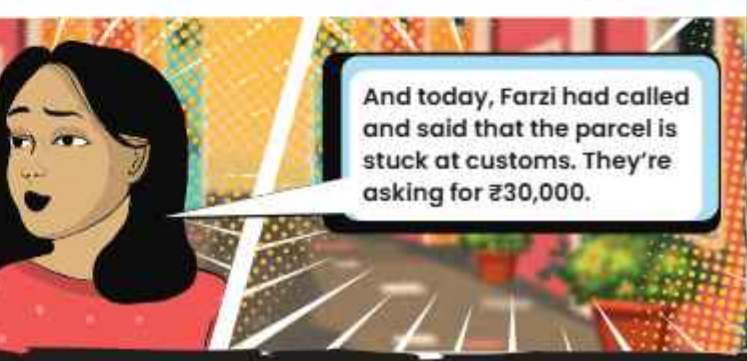


# SCAM?




How do you know what exactly is in the parcel?

Bhaiya, he did send me a video of him packing it!



And today, Farzi had called and said that the parcel is stuck at customs. They're asking for ₹30,000.






Deepti, are you sure he's really your friend? What if he's a fraud?

Yes, Bhaiya. He's even promised to visit me soon. He gave me the account number to send the money. Since his bank server is down right now, he asked me to pay for now. He said he'll return the amount when he comes to India next month.

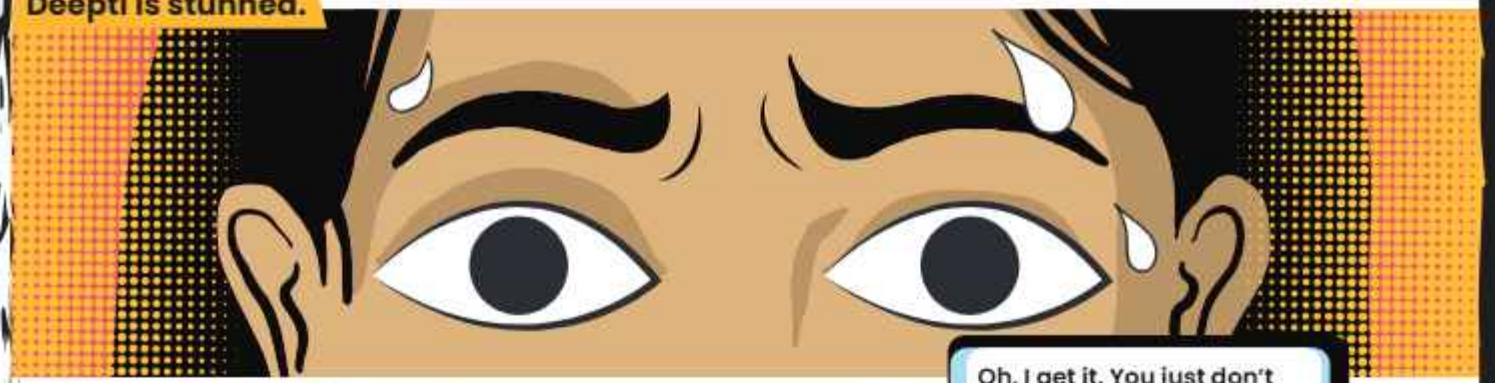
Hoshiyaar listens quietly and calmly connects the dots.




Deepti, he's not who he claims to be. He's a cyber criminal, part of a gang that scams people like this.

**CYBER CRIMINAL**


Deepti is stunned.



Deepti gets a little annoyed.



What? But... why would you say that, Bhaiya?



Oh, I get it. You just don't want to give me the money! You think I'm being stupid, don't you?

**ALERT!**



Hoshiyaar picks up the newspaper and shows her an ad from I4C – about dating and impersonation scams. Deepti reads it, her face drops.



But Bhaiya... why me? We had such nice conversations...

That's exactly how they work. They earn your trust first, then exploit your emotions for money.

What do I do now?

Block the profile immediately. Report the number on [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) under "Check and Report" tab.



Okay, I'll do it right away.



I'm sorry, Bhaiya...

But next time, don't hide anything. Always speak the truth. And stay far away from shady profiles.

Yes, Bhaiya I promise.





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# Bholaram and the 2-Minute Loan Trap

Just like every evening, Hoshiyaar Singh stops by Bholaram's cart for his evening veggie haul. Bholaram is cheerfully humming a song about fresh vegetables as he arranges his cart.



What's this, Bholaram? Singing songs about tomatoes... but no tomatoes in sight?

This cart is too old, Bhaiya ji. It's broken and I can't fit all my veggies anymore.



I'm thinking of taking a small loan to buy a new one. What do you think?

Why not! You should definitely get one.

Bholaram starts imagining his shiny new cart...



It's been a long time with this old cart. It's falling apart. Now's the right time to upgrade!

So, which bank are you planning to get the loan from?

Uhh... it's not a bank. It's an app. My son installed it on my phone. It says I can get ₹50,000 in just 2 minutes!

Bholaram looks puzzled.



Watch out, Bholaram. These quick loan apps are often scams. They steal your personal data... and instead of giving you money, they end up taking your money.

What?! Are you serious, Bhaiya ji?

Bholaram stiffens in surprise.

SCAM


SCAM

**₹50,000 in 2 minutes**

SCAM


SCAM






Yes, Bholaram! And worse. These apps can hack your phone, tamper with your photos and videos... and use them to blackmail you.

Bholaram looks visibly scared.




Bhaiya ji, now I'm really worried.


# FAKE




Exactly! Don't ever trust unknown apps or take loans from them. They're nothing but cyber fraud traps.



Then what should I do now?




Delete that app right now. And ask your son to report it on the "Check and Report" section of [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)




You're absolutely right, Bhaiya ji. Thank you so much for saving me!

Bholaram lets out a sigh of relief.



No problem, Bholaram. From now on, take loans only from banks or authorised institutions. And don't forget the tomatoes tomorrow!



Hahahaha! Done deal, Bhaiya ji!

Both laugh heartily



Don't let Cybercriminals use your greed as a weapon to scam you.

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For more information  
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# Arjun and the Trap of Sextortion

Hoshiyaar Singh and his son Arjun are sitting on the sofa watching TV. Arjun looks visibly disturbed. He's tense, staring at his phone anxiously.



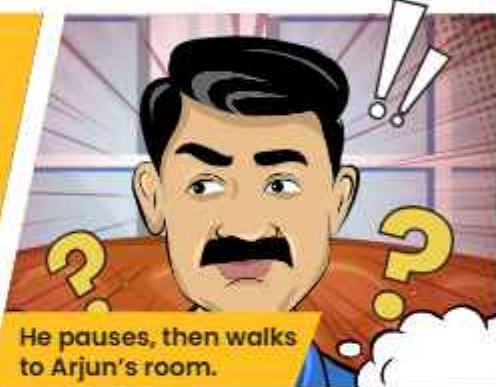
What's wrong, Arjun?  
You look really worried



It's nothing, Papa...  
Really, it's nothing.



Arjun gets up  
and walks straight  
to his room.  
Hoshiyaar Singh  
senses something  
unusual in his  
behaviour.



He pauses, then walks  
to Arjun's room.



Arjun, you don't need to hide  
anything from me. I'm your  
father. Whatever it is, you can  
trust me.

Arjun hesitates. His eyes well up. After a pause,  
he speaks, struggling to get the words out.



Papa... I'm being blackmailed.



## FLASHBACK

Arjun is chatting with a girl on  
Facebook. He finds her profile  
attractive.





She sent me a friend request first... then we started chatting.

Within a few days, she video-called me.

But as soon as I answered... An obscene video started playing.

Friend Request Accepted

VIDEO CALL Incoming

Then the call got disconnected.

Moments later, he receives a threatening message

BACK CONTACTS

Your video has been recorded. If you don't send ₹30,000, we'll upload it everywhere and send it to your friends.

Arjun is drenched in fear and sweat. He imagines the shame and embarrassment it could bring at college and home.

**FLASHBACK**  
END

Back in the room, Arjun sits with his head down and tears in his eyes.

Papa, I'm trapped... What should I do?

Arjun, there's no need to panic. This is a scam. Good that you told me. You're safe now!

So... I shouldn't send them money?

Absolutely not! In such cases, go to [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) and file a report under the "Check and Report" tab — without hesitation.

These scammers create fake profiles to trap innocent people. Their only goal is to scare you and extort money.

[www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)



Hoshiyaar Singh and Arjun are now filing a complaint on the cybercrime website.

Now there's nothing to worry about. We've reported it. Next, send out a status message to all your contacts telling them not to believe any links or videos that may be shared.

Thank you, Papa! From now on, I'll always be alert.

Arjun now looks more confident than before.

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# Bapu ji and APK File Clickbait

Buddhimaan Singh, an elderly man, is on his morning walk. Suddenly, he receives a message on his phone.

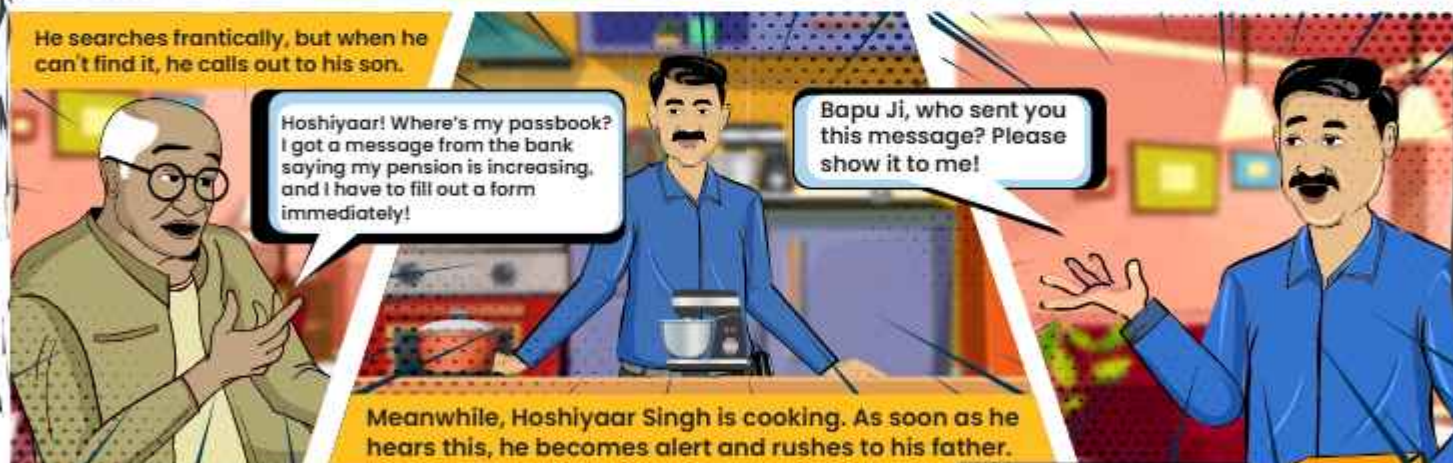


Buddhimaan Singh returns home, excited.

He immediately starts looking for his passbook and bank details.



He searches frantically, but when he can't find it, he calls out to his son.



Meanwhile, Hoshiyaar Singh is cooking. As soon as he hears this, he becomes alert and rushes to his father.



He looks at the message on the phone.



Hoshiyaar Singh begins to explain.

**Bapu Ji, this is called an APK fraud.** Scammers send you fake links to download apps, but in reality, it's a malware app that steals your bank details and OTPs from your phone.

**NOTE**

**Malware App:** A dangerous app disguised to look genuine, but once installed, it can steal your personal information, track your activity, or harm your device using spyware or viruses.

## MALWARE APP/APK FRAUD

So if I had downloaded that app...I could've lost all the money in my bank account?

Exactly! These fraudsters trap people by offering tempting benefits.

Thank you, son. Good thing you warned me. I would've lost all my wisdom today!

# FRAUD SCAM GREED

Bapu Ji, just remember these 3 rules:

- ★ Never click on links from unknown sources
- ★ Always check details only on the bank's official website
- ★ Never download APK files from unverified senders

Absolutely. Now I'll also warn my friends about this scam.



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as weapons.

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cybercrime, Call 1930 or  
visit [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)  
to report it.

And if you want to be as smart  
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# SCAM ?

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# Nadaan Nautiyal and the QR Code Con

Hoshiyaar Singh and his friend Nadaan Nautiyal are enjoying some chaat-papdi together. Hoshiyaar Singh pulls out his wallet to pay, but Nadaan stops him.



They finish eating and walk toward home. On the way, they spot a poster stuck to a pole.



Nadaan Nautiyal lights up with excitement.





Nadaan starts scanning the QR code. An attractive website opens, prompting him to download an app.



Hmm... it's asking me to download an app. Maybe I'll get even more discounts!

Never download apps from unknown websites, Nautiyal.

Why? What could go wrong?



This could be a cyber scam

# FAKE WEBSITE

Huh? How?



- ★ Scammers often use fake QR codes to trick people.
- ★ They create fake websites to steal your personal information.
- ★ They might grab your bank details and UPI PIN too.
- ★ Some QR Codes can even steal data directly from your phone.

I had no idea about this!

Always verify before scanning any random QR code.

You're right, Hoshiyaar. I need to be more careful.





Now go ahead and report this fake website at [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) under the "Check and Report" tab.



Done! Thanks for saving me, Hoshiyaar!



Thanks" isn't enough. You need to treat me with Banke's jalebi now!



Haha, alright, let's go!

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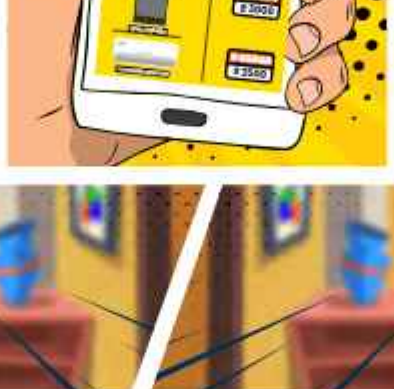
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# Jagrukta Devi & the Online Shopping Racket

Hoshiyaar Singh's wife, Jagrukta Devi, is extremely fond of online shopping. Every day, she browses different websites looking for the latest sales. One day, while scrolling through Facebook, she finds a shopping ad.









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# SCAM ?

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# Masoom Maqsood & his Fake Online Job

It's early morning. Hoshiyaar Singh is standing outside his house, waiting for a cab.








Wow! And then?

Hold on, brother  
That's a major  
scam!

Now they've asked me to  
deposit £1000, and they'll  
return £1500 to me! Sounds  
like a great deal — I was  
planning to do it right after  
dropping you off.


A scam? Sahab, you've  
got it all wrong! Scams  
take your money — they  
don't pay you!



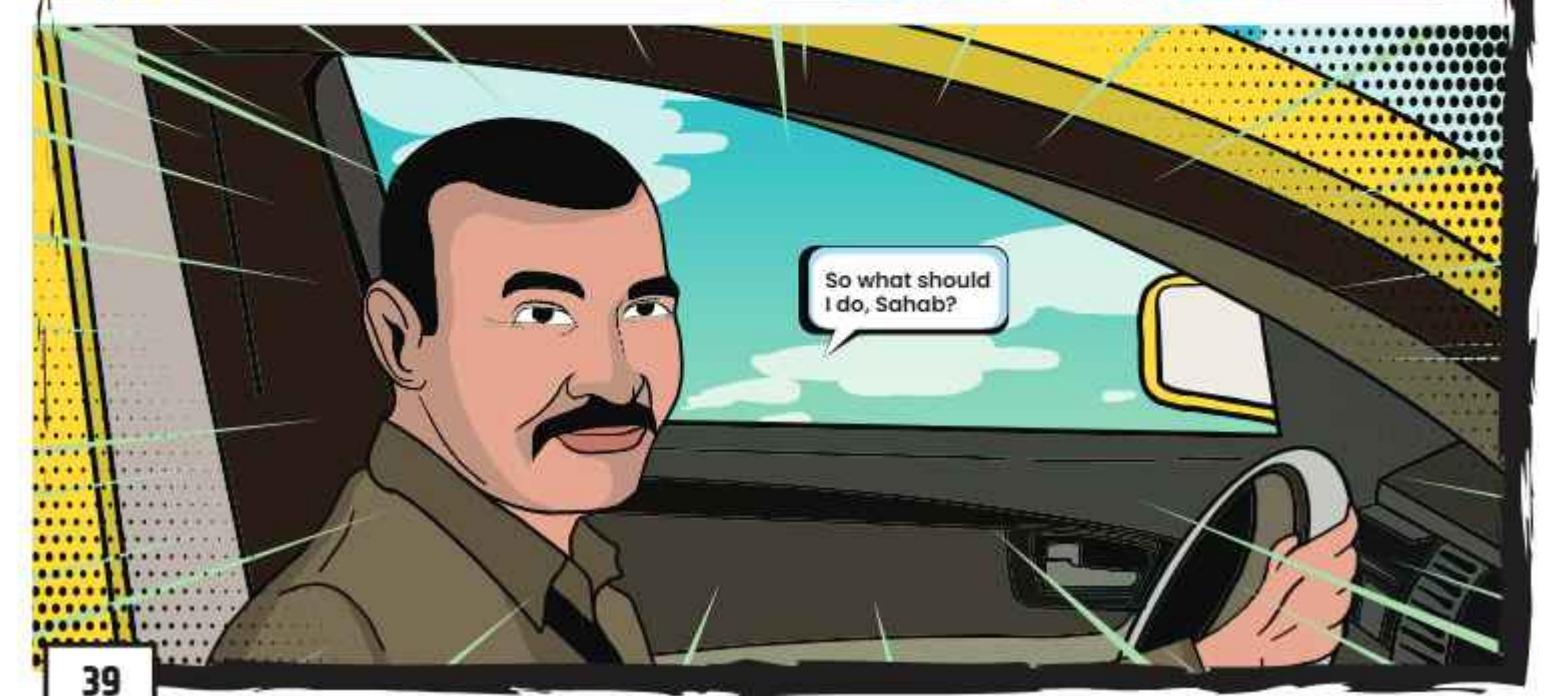
Exactly! That's the trick!  
First, they win your trust by  
paying small amounts.  
Then they lure you with bigger  
returns — and that's when they  
trap you!

So... if I send them  
the money, I won't  
get it back?

Not at all! And not just you, many  
people have lost thousands in this  
exact scam.



Masoom Maqsood suddenly  
gets worried.



So what should  
I do, Sahab?





**It's simple! Just remember a few things:**

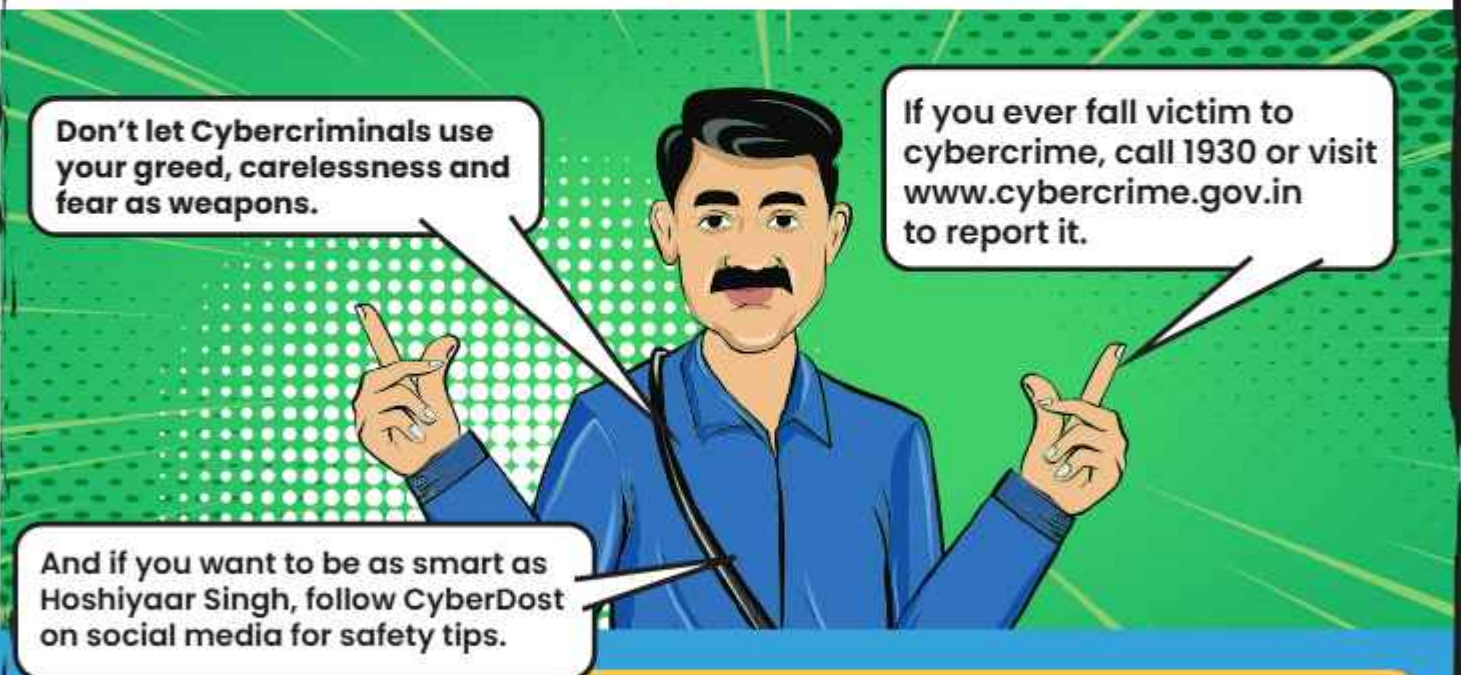
- Carefully verify job offers you come across on social media ads.
- Always do a background check on the company.
- If the offer seems too good to be true — it probably is.
- Report such frauds immediately at 1930 or visit [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in), under the "Check and Report" tab.



Thank you, Sahab  
If it weren't for you, I  
would've sent the  
money by now!



Remember— never fall  
for the lure of easy  
money or free jobs!



Don't let Cybercriminals use  
your greed, carelessness and  
fear as weapons.

If you ever fall victim to  
cybercrime, call 1930 or visit  
[www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)  
to report it.

And if you want to be as smart as  
Hoshiyaar Singh, follow CyberDost  
on social media for safety tips.

# STOP. THINK. TAKE ACTION

Report your complaint at

**[www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) or Call 1930**



For more information  
follow CyberDost





# Hoshiyaar Singh & the Lure of Fake Money Transfer

Hoshiyaar Singh is sitting in the room with his uncle, Shatir Singh. Suddenly, Hoshiyaar receives a call from an unknown number.



Ghanshyam? Who Ghanshyam?

Namaste Bhaiya, I'm Ghanshyam.

I'm Ghanshyam from Ranchi. Your uncle, Shatir Singh, and my father, Pappu Pocketmaar, used to be good friends.



Hoshiyaar Singh pauses to think.

Bhaiya, I just wanted to say—My father borrowed ₹5,000 from your uncle.

Hoshiyaar Singh is in doubt.

He wanted to return it, but doesn't know how to use UPI. So I thought I'd just send it to you online.

Oh, really? Okay, go ahead and send it.



The scammer hangs up. Hoshiyaar thinks for a moment and turns to his uncle.

Uncle, do you know any Pappu?

Pappu? Doesn't ring a bell. Why?

His son just called. Said he wants to return ₹5,000 that his father borrowed from you.

A loan? I don't really remember...but at this age, how much can one remember? Anyway, if he's returning money, just take it!



A few minutes later, Hoshiyaar gets a message on his phone

Immediately, the phone rings again.

HUBARA BANK  
Bank Acct XX194  
credited with  
**Rs 50000.00**  
Ghanshyam  
UPI:420420

+000123456789  
CALL Incoming...

Hello Hoshiyaar Bhaiya,  
I accidentally sent you  
₹50,000 instead of ₹5,000.  
Check your phone!

Please send back  
₹45,000 to this number.

Hoshiyaar gets alert and cautious.

# FAKE CALLS

Just give me  
two minutes.

He quickly checks his bank app.  
He observes that no money has been  
credited.

**NO MONEY  
CREDITED**

This guy is trying  
to scam me.  
Let me teach  
him a lesson.

Yes, yes Ghanshyam,  
hold on! I'll send it right  
now.

Hoshiyaar quickly visits  
[www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) and reports the  
number under the "Check and Report" tab.

You'll get your money  
in just a little while!



He hangs up and blocks the number.



What happened, Hoshiyaar?  
Did you settle everything?



Yes Uncle, I  
settled it  
completely.

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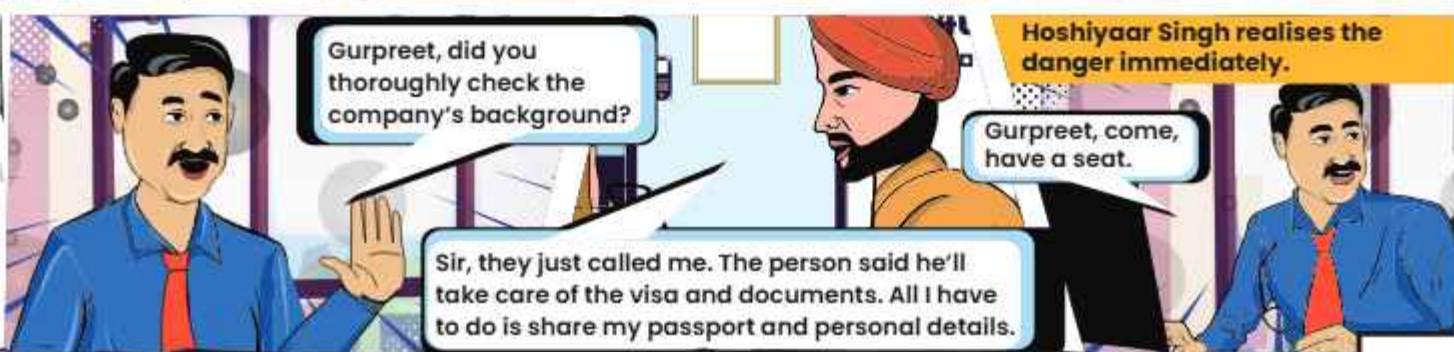
For more information  
follow CyberDost





# Gurpreet and the Overseas Job Trap

Hoshiyaar Singh is working in his office cabin when Gurpreet walks in.





How do you know this job is real? You don't know the company, and you don't even know the person who called you.

This is a job scam!

Job scam? What's that, sir?

Scammers lure people with promises of high-paying jobs in foreign countries, mostly in Southeast Asian nations.

Once you're there, they take away your passport, and force you into cybercrime activities — trapping you for life.

SCAM

SCAM

Oh no! What should I do now?

Don't worry, Gurpreet. Go to [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) and report the number under the "Check and Report" section.

# JOB SCAM

Gurpreet reports the number.

I don't know why this always happens to me!

It's better to learn from regret than to never learn at all.



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# Karan and the Game of Deceit

Karan is lying on the sofa playing a game on his phone. Just then, Hoshiyaar Singh enters the room.







**DOWNLOAD  
VERIFIED APP  
ONLY**



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