



गृह मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS

Indian
Cyber
Crime
Coordination
Centre
सहवीर्यं करवावहै • Working Together With Vigour

**CYBER CRIME
STORIES**

PART 01

BE HOSHIYAR, CYBERCRIME!

STOP



SCAM?

GAMING SCAM

INVESTMENT SCAM

QR CODE 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

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

If you ever fall victim to cybercrime, call 1930 or visit 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

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www.cybercrime.gov.in or Call 1930



For more information follow CyberDost



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:



Small investment, huge returns!
Invest ₹5,000 in Bitcoin today and
earn ₹50,000
in just one week! Join us now!

Aiyyo! So much profit, so quickly? Just one investment and my whole life can change!



Just then, Hoshiyaar Singh enters the cabin with a bunch of files.



MONEY MONEY



Sir, here are some documents that need your sign...

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 an 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??

Small investment, huge returns! Invest ₹5,000 in Bitcoin today and earn ₹50,000 in just one week! Join us now!

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.

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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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 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

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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.

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.

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!

Ghosh Babu shows his phone to Hoshiyaar Singh.

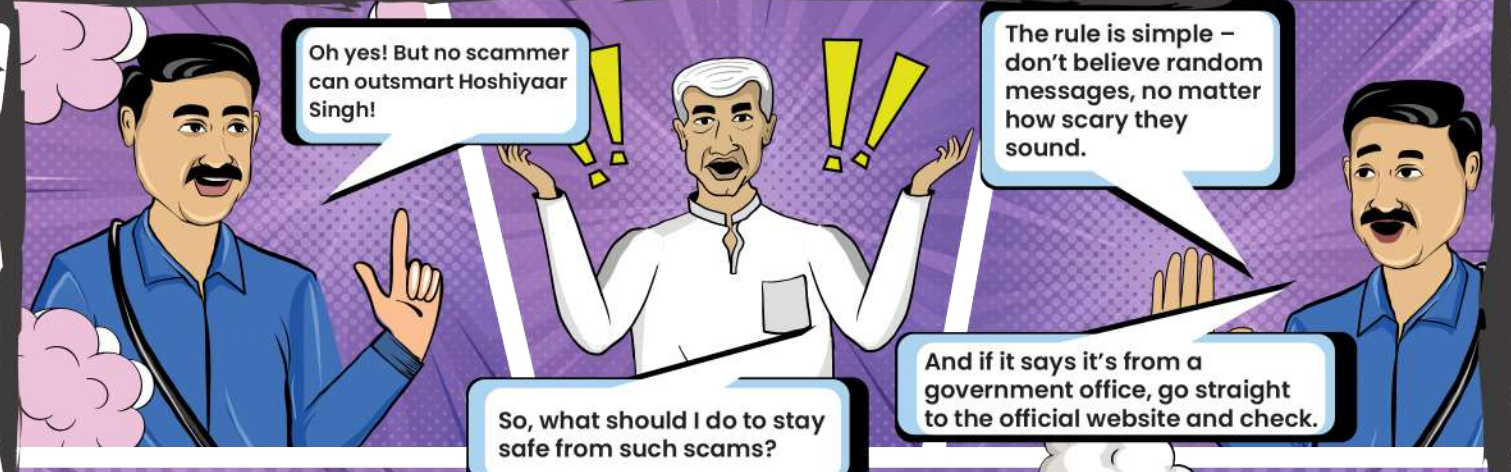
Yes, but it isn't real. Scammers use fake letterheads and forged stamps to scare you into making quick payments.

Udi Baba! This actually happens??

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

UDIBABA

SCAM




Oh yes! But no scammer can outsmart Hoshiyaar Singh!

The rule is simple – don't believe random messages, no matter how scary they sound.

So, what should I do to stay safe from such scams?

And if it says it's from a government office, go straight to the official website and check.



Thank you, Hoshiyaar Ji!
You saved me from real trouble.
I'll be more careful from now on.

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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!

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 cuts the call immediately.

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



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.



See, Patel Bhai? Your son is absolutely safe.

Scammers pretend to be police officers, accuse your loved ones of false crimes, and pressure you into paying up.

Patel Bhai breathes a sigh of relief.



Thank you, Hoshiyaar Ji. Had you not been here, I might've transferred the ₹50,000 out of fear.

You're right, Mota Bhai. I won't fall for such tricks again.

Always remember: Real police don't make calls asking for money. And never trust such calls without verifying.

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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.



So Deepti, how was college today?

Hmm... you look a little worried. Everything alright?

Yeah... I'm okay. Just wanted to ask you something important.

It was okay, Bhaiya.



Of course, what is it?

₹30,000?! What do you need it for?

It's for the next semester's college fees.

Bhaiya... can I borrow ₹30,000?



But I just paid your fees last week. Why are they asking again?



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?

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.

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

SCAM?

How do you know what exactly is in the parcel?

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

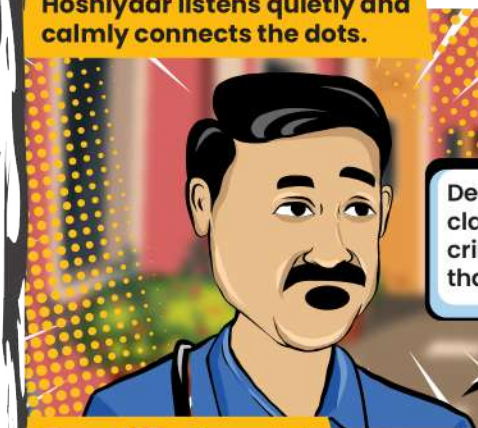
Bhaiya, he did send me a video of him packing it!



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.

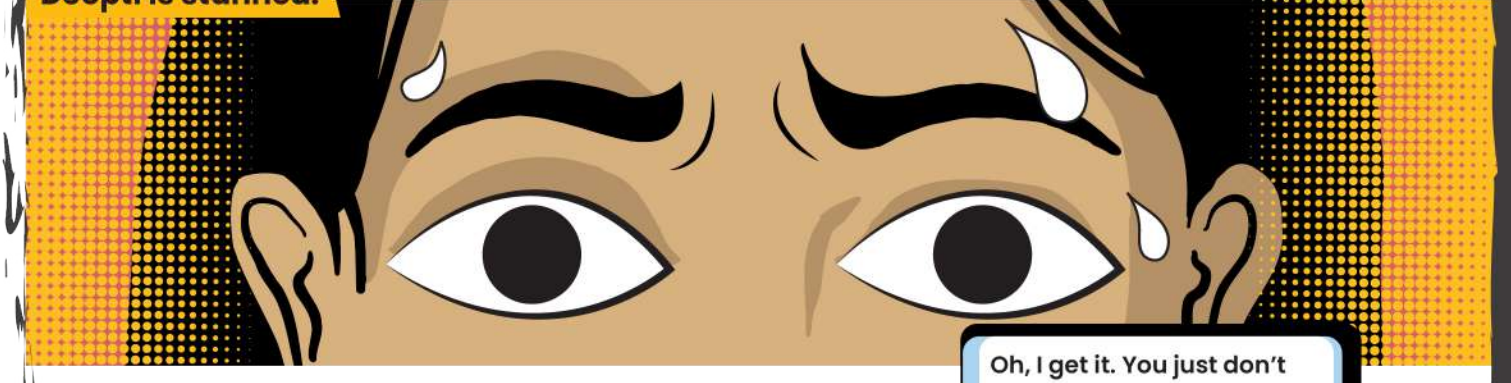
Hoshiyaar listens quietly and calmly connects the dots.



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.



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

Deepti gets a little annoyed.

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

ALERT!

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

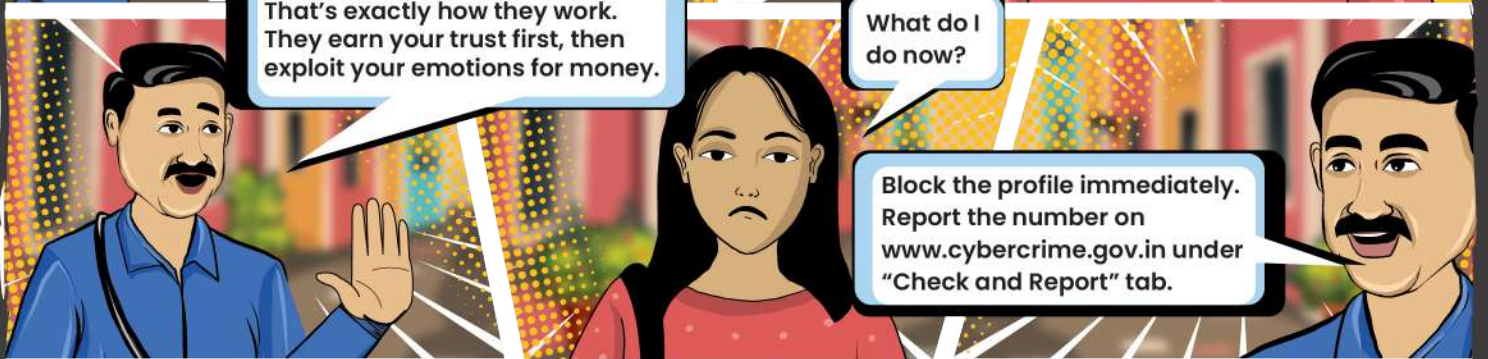


But Bhaiya... why me? We had such nice conversations...

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 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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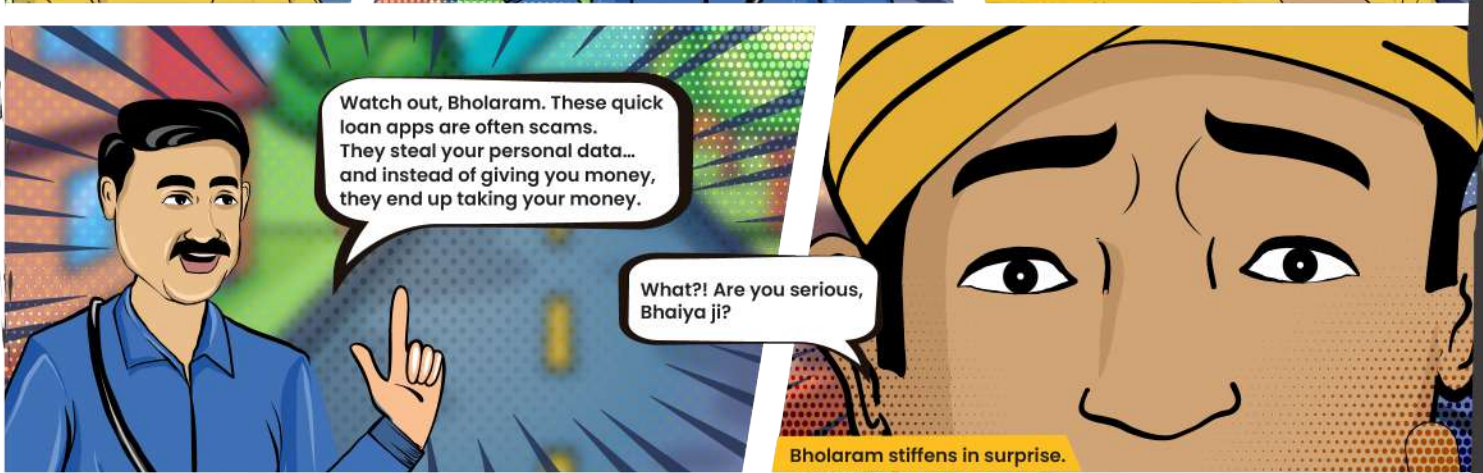


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Bholaram and the 2-Minute Loan Trap

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.



SCAM

SCAM

₹50,000 in 2 minutes

SCAM

SCAM



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.



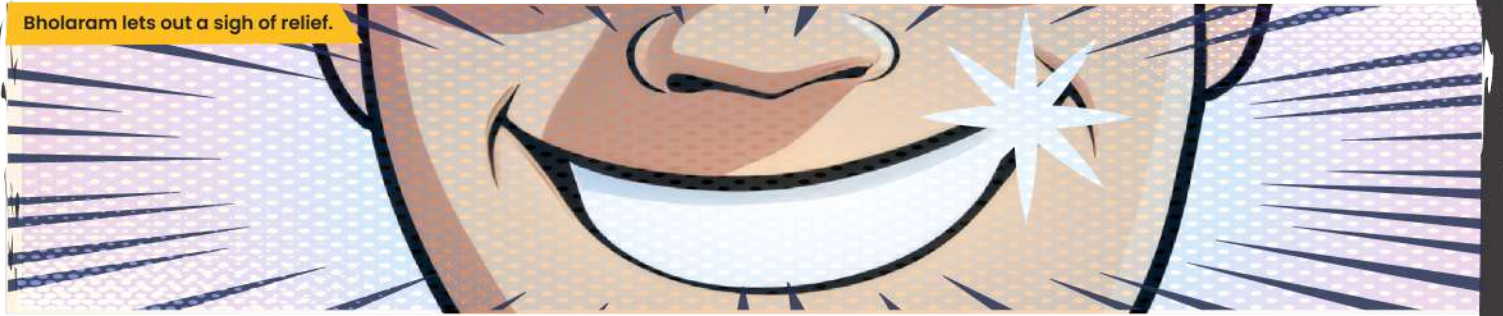
Then what should I do now?



Delete that app right now. And ask your son to report it on the "Check and Report" section of www.cybercrime.gov.in



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

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STOP. THINK. TAKE ACTION

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Arjun and the Trap of Sextortion

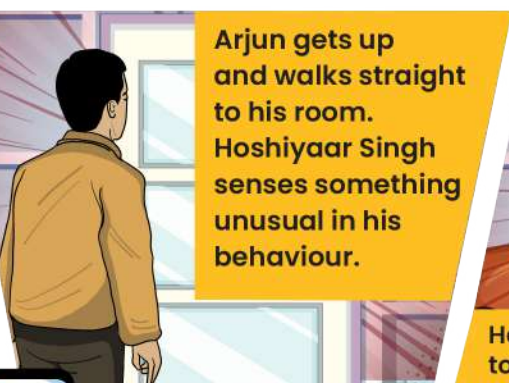
Hoshiyaar Singh and his son Arjun are sitting on the sofa watching TV. Arjun looks visibly disturbed. He's tense, staring at his phone anxiously.



What's wrong, Arjun? You look really worried



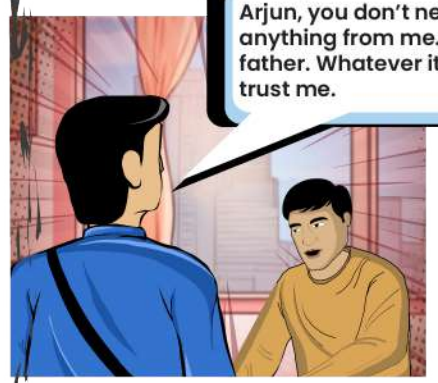
It's nothing, Papa... Really, it's nothing.



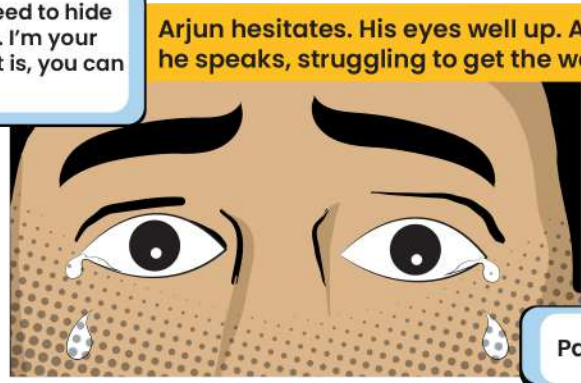
Arjun gets up and walks straight to his room. Hoshiyaar Singh senses something unusual in his behaviour.



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.

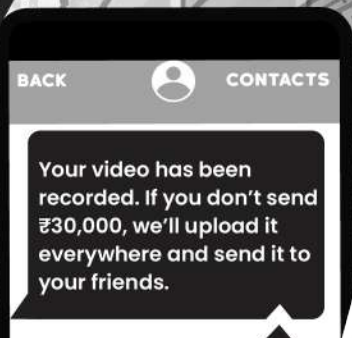


But as soon as I answered... An obscene video started playing.



Then the call got disconnected.

Moments later, he receives a threatening message



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 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

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.

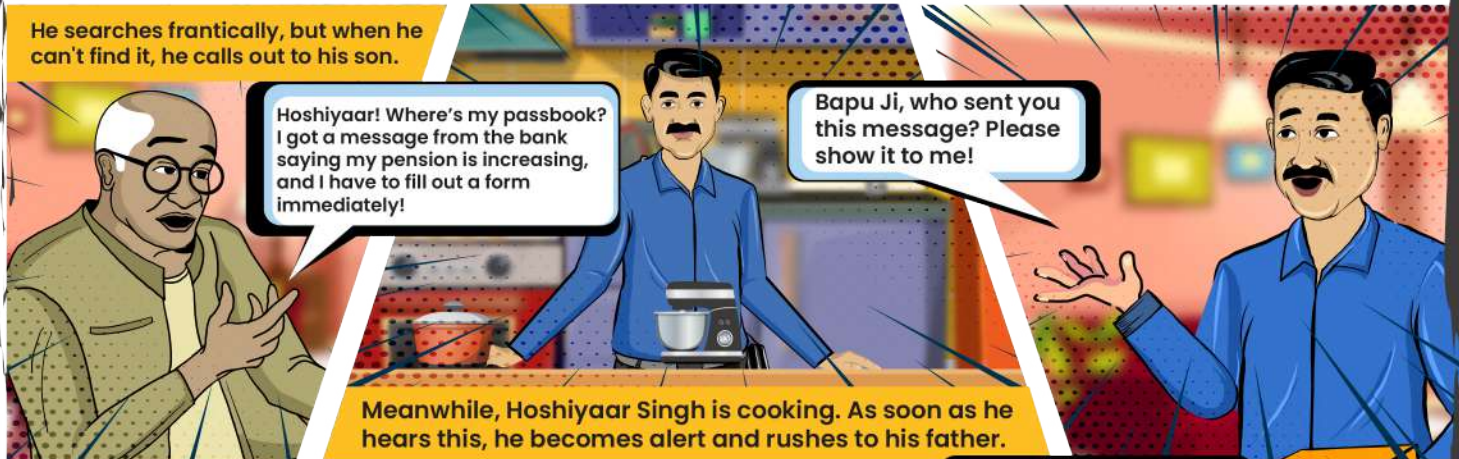


Buddhimaan Singh returns home, excited.

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.



Hoshiyaar Singh begins to explain.

Babu 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

Babu 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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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.

Oh come on! It's just a QR code scan — and I can get all this stuff at cheap prices!



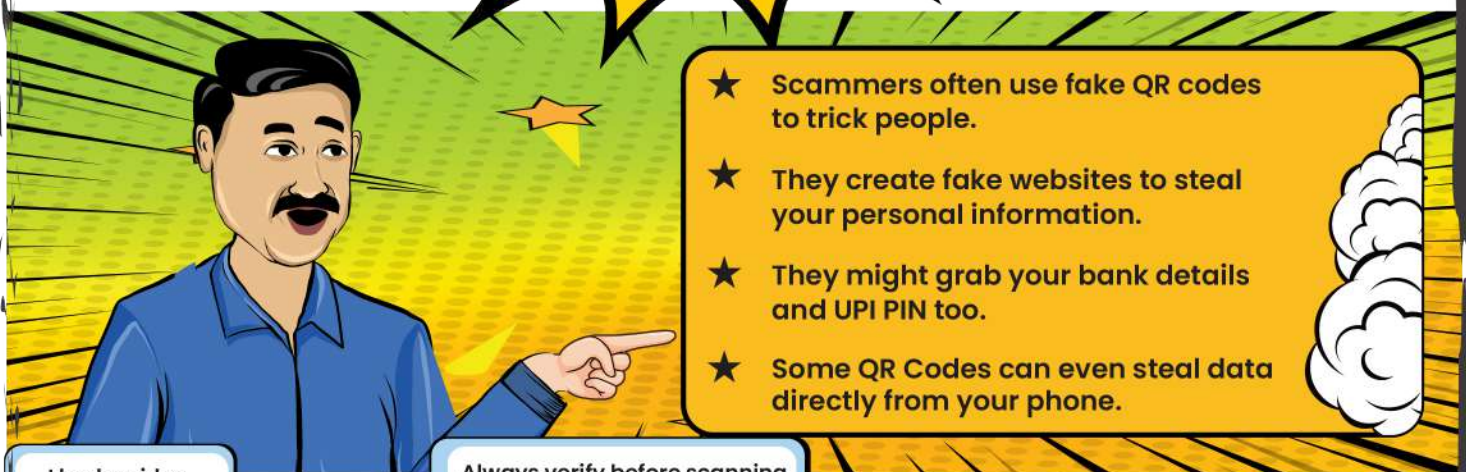
Nadaan starts scanning the QR code. An attractive website opens, prompting him to download an app.



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?



- ★ 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 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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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.



Wow! What an offer! This is enough to revamp the whole house!

There's a sale on this too... Amazing! And that too! This is great!!



Just then, Hoshiyaar Singh returns home from office. He sees his wife glued to her phone.

Jagrukta Devi doesn't respond. Hoshiyaar notices she's lost in her phone and speaks a little louder.

Are you planning to finish all the shopping for the year today itself? Please get me a cup of tea!



Jagrukta, I'm home. Can I please get a cup of tea?



She shows him the website on her phone.



Oh sorry! Look at this, Hoshiyaar! Such an amazing sale! So many expensive things at such cheap prices!



You didn't buy anything from this site yet, right?

STOP

STOP

FAKE WEBSITE

STOP

STOP



SCAM?



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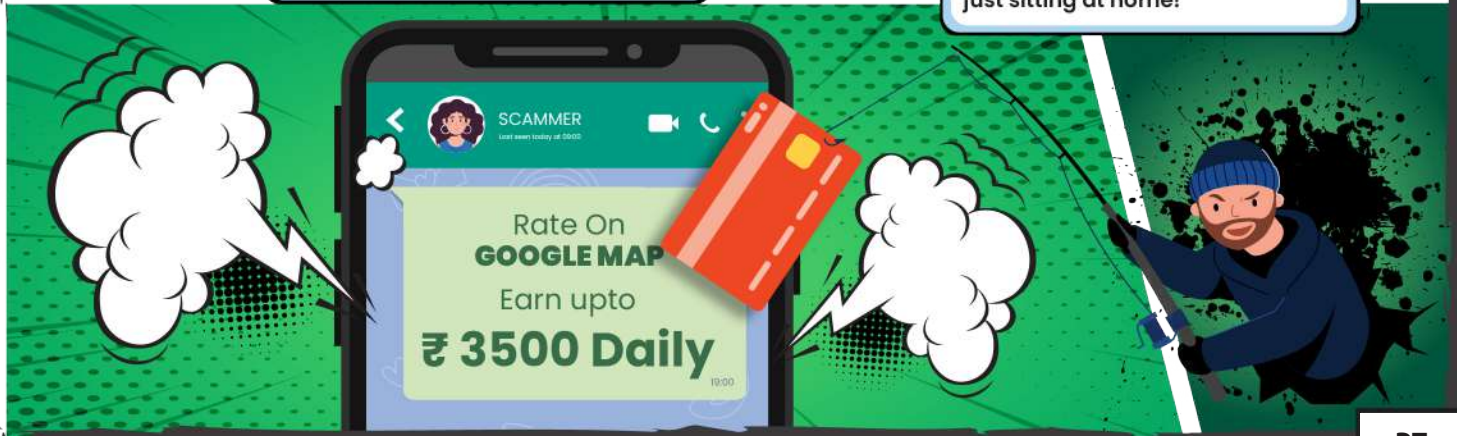


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Masoom Maqsood & his Fake Online Job

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







It's simple! Just remember a few things:

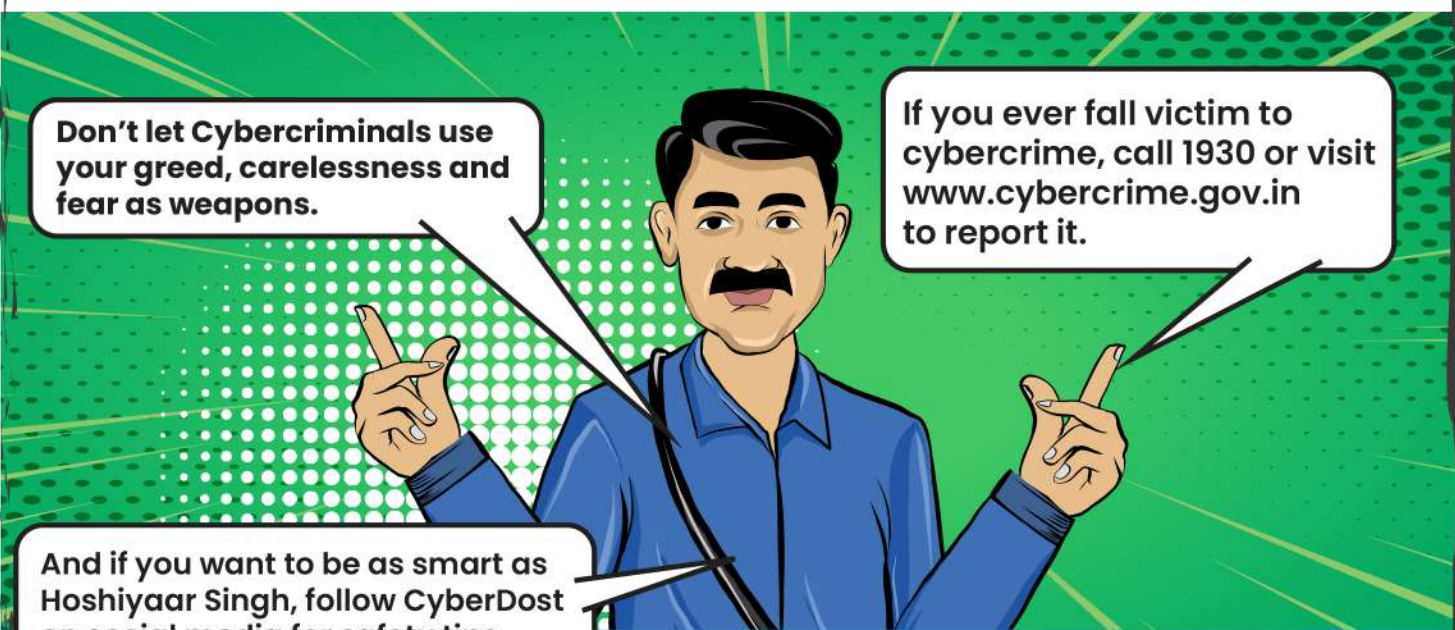
- Carefully verify job offers you come across on social media ads.
- Always do a background check on the company.
- If the offer seems too good to be true – it probably is.
- Report such frauds immediately at 1930 or visit www.cybercrime.gov.in, under the "Check and Report" tab.



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!



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your greed, carelessness and
fear as weapons.

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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.



Hello, who's speaking?



Namaste Bhaiya, I'm Ghanshyam.

Ghanshyam? Who 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.



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.



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 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.

Don't let Cybercriminals use your
carelessness as a weapon.

If you ever fall victim to
cybercrime, call 1930 or visit
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 or Call 1930



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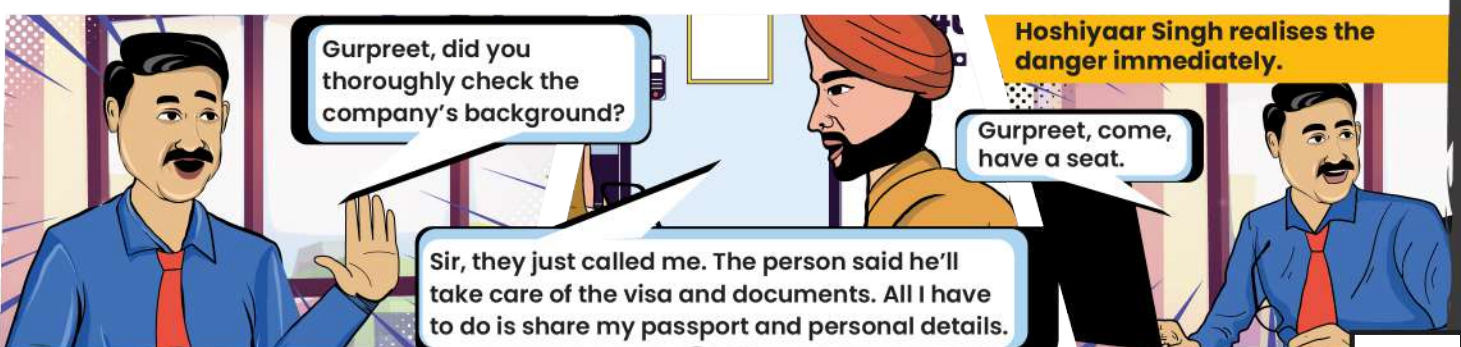


Gurpreet and the Overseas Job Trap

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



FAKE SALARY
₹ 1,00,000



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 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.

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 to report it.

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



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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.





Scam? What are you saying?

Yes, Karan. These apps lure people with the promise of money. They give small profits in the beginning...

SCAM

...and once people start investing bigger amounts, they tweak the app's programming to make you lose the game and take all your money.

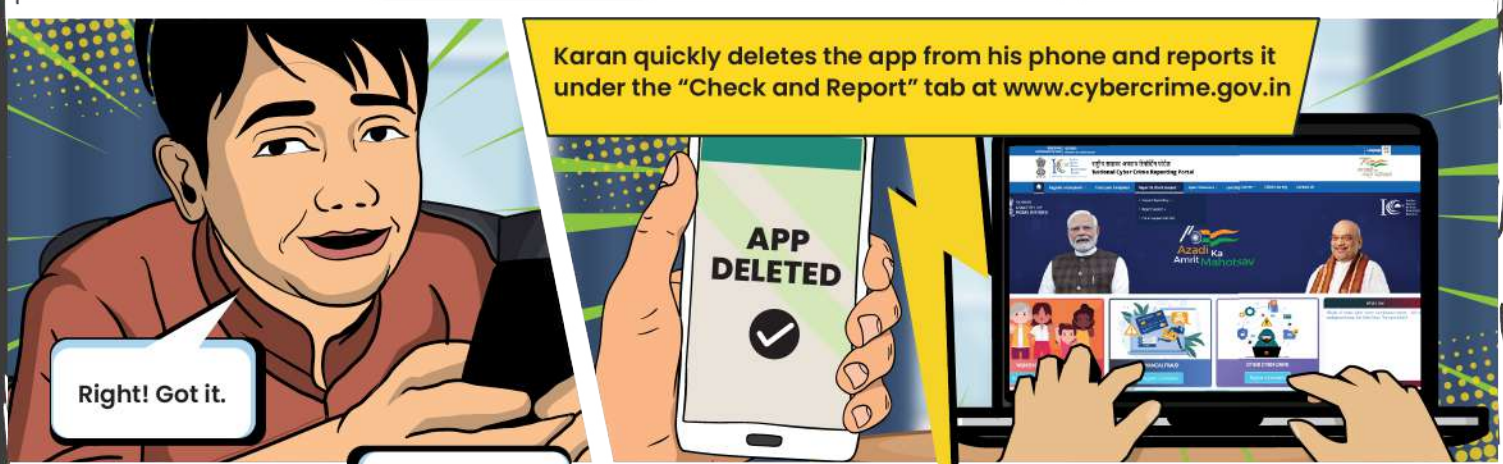


Karan is stunned.

What should I do now, Dad?

You already know what to do, Karan!

Oh no!! I would've been trapped if you hadn't come in time.



Karan quickly deletes the app from his phone and reports it under the "Check and Report" tab at www.cybercrime.gov.in

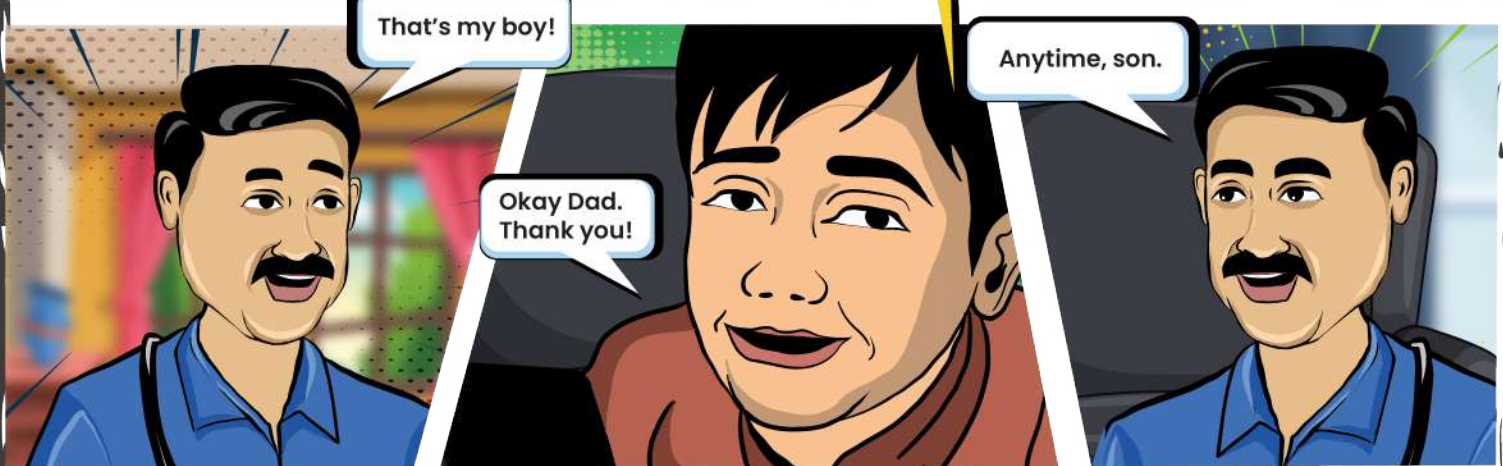
Right! Got it.

APP DELETED

That's my boy!

Anytime, son.

Okay Dad. Thank you!



**DOWNLOAD
VERIFIED APP
ONLY**

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 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 or Call 1930



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SCAN TO READ THE E-BOOK

MANTRA FOR DIGITAL SAFETY

STOP. THINK. THEN TAKE ACTION



Follow

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cyber safety tips.



Report any Cybercrime at
www.cybercrime.gov.in

or

Call Helpline
Number

1930