

A CYBER AWARENESS STORY :

A Common Man's Journey and Safer Internet Day

“In a digital age where a single click can open the doors to both opportunity and danger, Raju’s journey from everyday user to cyber defender reveals how you can secure your online world—starting this Safer Internet Day”

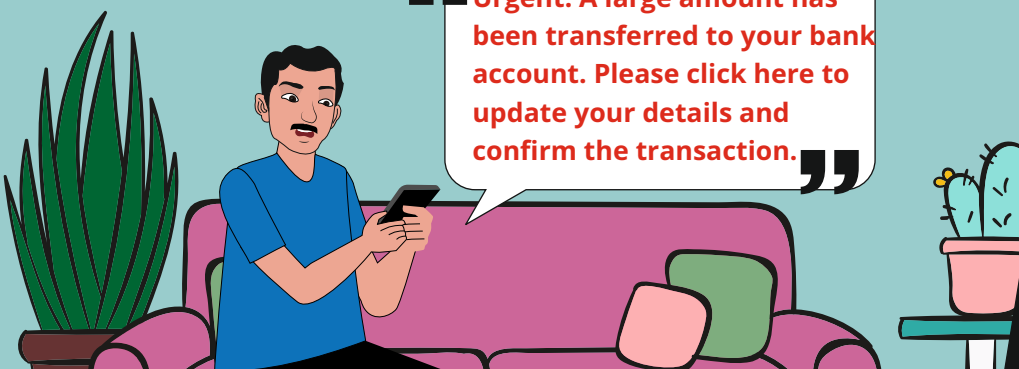


Raju was an ordinary man living with his family in a small neighborhood in Delhi. He worked at a small store, and his life was simple. Every day, he woke up early, went to work, spent the day at the shop, and returned home to spend time with his family. While he wasn't a heavy internet user, he occasionally checked social media and used online banking. He knew just enough to get by, but he wasn't very tech-savvy. Raju never thought much about the risks of using the internet—until one day, when everything changed.

Raju's Cyber Journey – A Friend's Quick Thinking

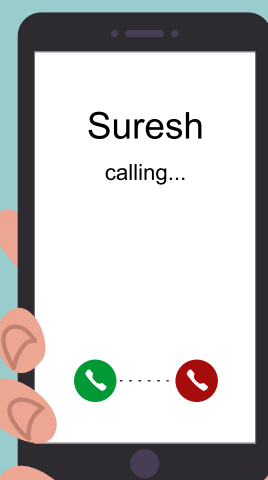
One day, Raju was sitting at home when he received a WhatsApp message from an unknown number. The message had a link attached to it and read:

“Urgent: A large amount has been transferred to your bank account. Please click here to update your details and confirm the transaction.”



The message appeared to be from his bank, and the urgency in the tone made Raju pause. It seemed suspicious, but Raju had recently made some large transactions and thought it could be a legitimate message.

Unsure but still curious, Raju was about to click on the link when he received a call from his friend, Suresh, who lived nearby.



After Raju explains about the link to Suresh, He says -

"Hey, Raju! I saw a similar message about account updates today. Don't click that link! It's a scam," Suresh warned. "I got the same message, and after looking it up, I found out it's a phishing attempt."



Raju was confused.

Phishing ?
What's that ?



"**Phishing** is when scammers trick you into giving away your personal information, like your bank details or passwords, by pretending to be a legitimate service. They use fake links or messages that look official. If you click on them, they can steal your information and drain your bank account."



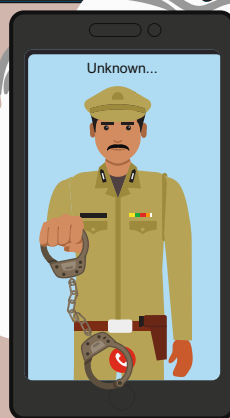
Dear Customer your Credit Card PIN has been redet to 9999. [Click here to activate](#)

Raju immediately felt a sense of relief but also guilt for almost falling for it.

"Thanks for saving me, Suresh. I didn't even know about phishing."



Suresh continued,



"Digital arrest? I had no idea. I was getting calls from unknown numbers and was about to pick them up".

"But that's not all. There's something called **digital arrest** too. It's when scammers contact you through call and impersonate as police or law enforcement officials and mention that a parcel has been found under your name with packets of drugs in it, and claim that you are under digital arrest. The scammers then ask you to pay large amount in rupees."



Don't pick such calls!!

Thank you for your support!
Now we are giving higher returns
for your investments
click the link, invest small amount
and gain maximum amount of
returns at very low risk.



And then there's **investment frauds**. Scammers often send fake messages about 'unbelievable' investment opportunities, promising high returns with little risk. They try to lure you into transferring money or investing in fake schemes. It's just another way they steal your money.

So, they can steal my money in multiple ways, like hacking my bank account, locking me out, or even pretending to offer me investment opportunities?

Yes !!

That's why you have to be extra cautious. Always verify anything that seems too good to be true. Don't click on links or share personal details unless you're completely sure of the source.

Raju now fully understood the gravity of the situation.

"I'm really lucky you called. I almost clicked that link, and who knows what could've happened!"

"Don't worry, Raju,.. "Just remember: Always verify any message that asks for personal information or offers that sound too good to be true. If in doubt, reach out directly to the service or bank through their official contact."

Raju felt thankful for his friend's timely intervention but also more aware of the growing dangers in the digital world. He promised himself he would be much more cautious going forward, especially when dealing with emails, messages, or offers that seemed suspicious or unreal.

Learning About Safer Internet Day

Suresh also gave Raju information about **“Safer Internet Day,”** which was just around the corner. Suresh said “Safer Internet Day is an annual event celebrated globally to raise awareness about the importance of online safety and digital well-being.

Cyber hygiene is a set of practices that help individuals maintain the safety of their devices and personal information. Just as you wash your hands to avoid germs, cyber hygiene involves cleaning up your online habits to protect your digital life. Good cyber hygiene can prevent things like phishing, hacking, and malware from affecting your personal accounts and devices.

Raju learned that cyber hygiene includes practices such as:



Setting strong, unique passwords:
Avoid using easy-to-guess passwords like “123456” or “password.” Instead, create strong passwords with a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.



Enabling two-factor authentication (2FA):
2FA adds an extra layer of security by requiring you to verify your identity through a second factor, like a code sent to your phone.



Set Strong Screen Lock and Biometric Authentication:
Make your device more secure by using biometrics (fingerprint or facial recognition) or a strong PIN/password.



Download Apps Only from Trusted Sources: -
Only download apps from official app stores. Apps from unofficial sources may contain malware or be designed to steal your data.



Using secure connections:
When using public Wi-Fi, avoid accessing sensitive accounts like online banking.



Avoiding suspicious links:
Always verify the source before clicking any links



Updating software and apps regularly:
Regular updates fix security vulnerabilities that bad people can exploit.

Report cyber frauds at  1930  www.cybercrime.gov.in

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