

# → Introduction

**PUBLIC ADVISORY**

## The Dark Side of Digital Wealth

The rise of digital finance and the promise of quick wealth have fueled a surge in online investment scams. Fraudsters pose as legitimate advisors or platforms, using social media, messaging apps, and fake websites to lure victims with high-return, low-risk.

## From Fake Gains to Real Losses

Once trust is built, victims are lured into investing through fake but professional-looking platforms. Initial fake returns boost confidence, prompting more investment. When victims try to withdraw, scammers disappear or demand bogus fees, blocking access to funds.

## → How The Scam Works

- **Scammer Contacts Victim**

Poses as a successful investor via social media or messages.

- **Fake Investment Offer**

Promises huge returns in crypto, forex, AI trading, etc.

- **Fake Profits Shown**

Victim sees small gains, allowed withdrawals to trust.

- **Push for Bigger Deposits**

Scammer urges larger investments for VIP access or higher returns.



PUBLIC ADVISORY



### Red Flags

- Guaranteed returns
- Urgent limited-time offers
- Unregulated apps or websites
- Requests for payments in crypto



### Protect Yourself

- Verify platforms with official regulators (SEBI, SEC, FCA)
- Never invest based on social media advice
- Use strong security on financial accounts

## → Real-World Examples

01

### Crypto Investment Scam

Victim joins a fake crypto group, sees bots flaunting profits, invests more, then loses everything.

02

### Pig Butchering Scam

Scammer builds a fake relationship, tricks victim into investing, then vanishes with their money.

03

### Fake Stock Trading App

Fake trading app lures users with reviews and ads, shows bogus profits, demands fees, then vanishes with their money.



PUBLIC ADVISORY



## → Preventive Measures



### FOR INDIVIDUALS

**Verify Legitimacy:** Ensure the platform is registered with financial authorities.

**Research Reviews:** Check independent sources, not just glowing testimonials.

**Avoid Hype:** Be wary of guaranteed returns or urgency to invest.

**Protect Data:** Never share personal or financial info with unknown sources.

**Use Secure Platforms:** Stick to reputable sites with encryption and two-factor authentication.



### FOR SOCIETY & INSTITUTIONS

**Public Awareness:** Educate people on scam detection and reporting.

**Stronger Regulations:** Tighten rules on online investment ads and influencers.

**Collaboration:** Governments, banks, and tech firms must block scam networks.



### FOR PLATFORMS (SOCIAL MEDIA, MESSAGING APPS)

**AI Monitoring:** Detect and remove scam ads/groups.

**Quick Reporting:** Easy tools for flagging suspicious accounts.

**Permanent Bans:** Block repeat scammers' accounts and IPs.





# → Impact and Consequences

01



## Impacts on Individuals

- **Financial Loss** – Victims lose large sums, sometimes life savings.
- **Emotional Trauma** – Guilt, shame, anxiety, and depression follow.
- **Relationship Strain** – Trust erodes among family and friends.
- **Identity Theft** – Scammers steal personal and financial data.

## Impacts on Society

- **Trust Erosion** – Scams breed distrust in real investments.
- **Law Enforcement Burden** – Cross-border probes drain resources.
- **Platform Damage** – Social media faces blame for enabling scams.
- **Financial Impact** – Savings vanish, hitting vulnerable groups hardest.

02



PUBLIC ADVISORY

## Consequences for Victim

- **Financial Loss** – Recovery is impossible due to crypto and fake platforms.
- **Emotional Toll** – Victims struggle with guilt, anxiety, and isolation.
- **Trust Damage** – Relationships strain, future investments feel risky.

## Consequences for Society

- **Trust Decline** – Confidence in digital investments erodes.
- **Law Enforcement Struggles** – Cross-border scams evade prosecution.
- **Platform Criticism** – Social media faces backlash over scams.

## → Recent Incidents

### A 78-YEAR-OLD IN NAGPUR LOST ₹2.75 CRORE TO A WHATSAPP TRADING SCAM VIA A FAKE APP, CHC-SES

Cyber police froze accounts, recovering ₹1.07 crore. Four suspects from UP and Delhi were arrested.

### A 41-YEAR-OLD NAGPUR WOMAN LOST ₹9.85 LAKH IN A WHATSAPP TRADING SCAM

Cyber police traced ₹96.56 crore in a linked Delhi account, froze it, and recovered ₹8.22 lakh for the victim.

### A BHIWANDI TRAVEL AGENCY LOST ₹90 LAKH IN A "WHALE PHISHING" SCAM AS FRAUDSTERS POSED AS THE OWNER.

Maharashtra Cyber Police froze the funds before they could be withdrawn.

