



## Alert: Protect Yourself Against **IMPERSONATION SCAMS** Guidance from Telangana State Cyber Crime Bureau

Cyber fraudsters employ various tactics, including creating fake social media profiles or using WhatsApp display pictures of your acquaintances, such as friends, relatives, employers, bosses, or colleagues. They then proceed to impersonate these individuals and contact you, often claiming to be in urgent need of money for emergencies like hospital bills.

### Precautions to Take:

- Always verify the identity of the person reaching out to you through alternate means, such as calling them on a known phone number or contacting their family members or friends to confirm the request.
- Enable privacy settings on your social media accounts and messaging apps to ensure that only saved contacts or friends can view your display pictures.
- Consider using avatars or non-personal images as your display picture instead of real photos to mitigate the risk of impersonation.
- Do not succumb to the sense of urgency created by the fraudster. Take your time to validate the request and do not rush into transferring money without proper verification.
- Your safety and security are paramount to us. By remaining vigilant and adhering to these precautions, we can collectively combat impersonation scams and safeguard ourselves and our community from falling victim to such deceptive schemes.

If you encounter any suspicious activity or believe you have been targeted by impersonation scams, please report it immediately to the **Telangana State Cyber Crime Bureau**.

**Stay vigilant, stay safe.**

Best regards,



Telangana State  
Cyber Security Bureau

Reporting Portal  [cybercrime.gov.in](https://cybercrime.gov.in)

Toll-free number  1930

Cyber fraud registry  8712672222