Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Government of India

certin Enhancing Cyber Security in India

ISEA Information Security Education & Awareness

Digital India Power To Empower

साइबर स्वच्छता केन्द्र
CYBER SWACHHTA KENDRA
Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre

CyberSecurity

Do's and Don'ts

An A to Z Guide

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH
OCTOBER 2026

Build a Culture of Cyber Hygiene

#CyberHygieneOurCulture



Preface

As digital technologies become an integral part of everyday life, individuals increasingly rely on the internet, mobile devices, online services, digital payments, social media, and connected platforms for learning, communication, work, and essential services. While these technologies offer significant convenience and opportunities, they also introduce cybersecurity risks that can affect personal information, accounts, devices, finances, and digital identity. Developing simple and consistent cybersecurity habits is therefore essential for staying safe and secure in the digital environment.

The **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**'s Cyber Security Do's and Don'ts: An A-to-Z Guide provides a simple and practical reference to help users understand and adopt essential cybersecurity practices. Organised in an easy-to-follow A to Z format, the booklet highlights everyday actions that can help protect against common cyber risks, from securing passwords and devices to identifying suspicious messages, safeguarding personal information, and using online services responsibly. The aim is to make cybersecurity guidance accessible, actionable, and easy to remember, enabling individuals to make safer choices in their everyday digital interactions.

This booklet has been published as part of CERT-In's National Cyber Security Awareness Month activities 2026, with the objective of promoting greater awareness of safe and responsible digital practices. It is intended to serve as a handy guide for individuals, families, students, educators, and organisations in strengthening their everyday cyber hygiene and contributing to a safer and more secure digital ecosystem.



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A



Authenticate with MFA or 2FA wherever possible.

Don't **Allow** unknown apps to access your accounts or data.

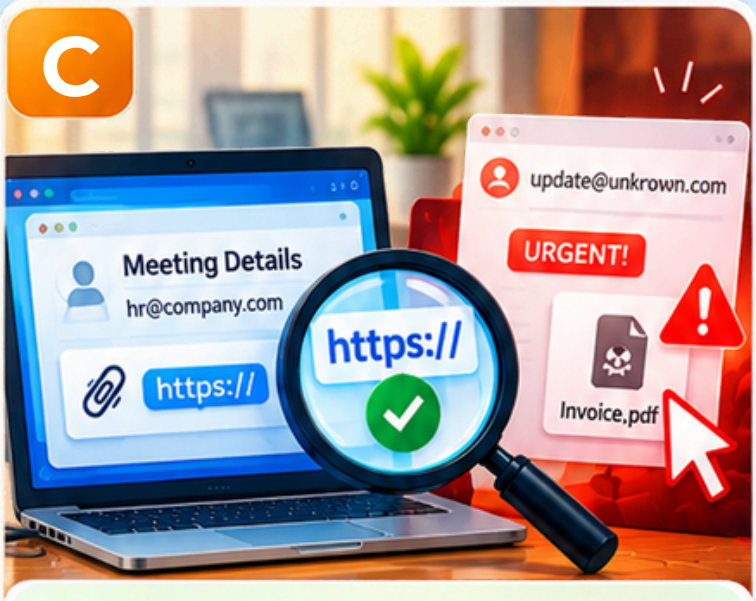
B



Back up your data regularly; keep more than one copy.

Don't **Browse** suspicious or untrusted websites.

C



Check links and attachments before opening them.

Don't **Click** unknown links or attachments.

D



Download software only from trusted, official sources.

Delete apps that you don't use

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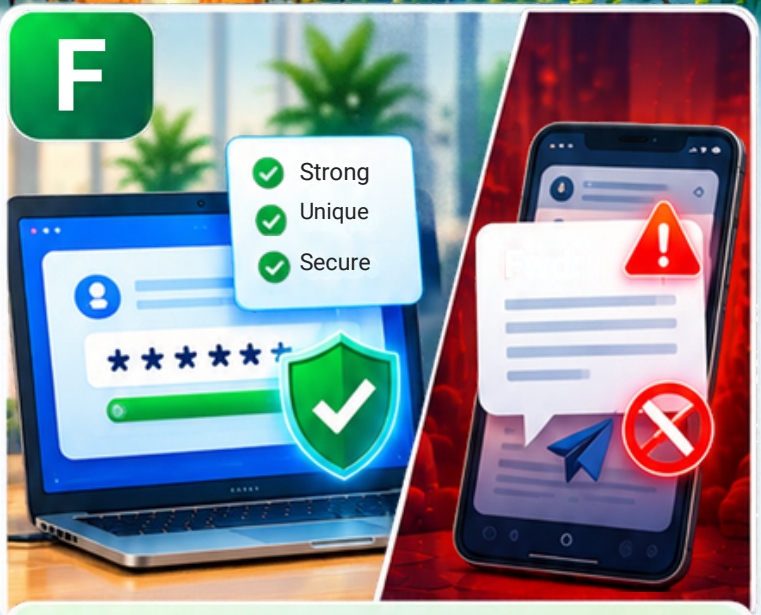
E



Encrypt sensitive data when stored or transmitted.

Don't **Expose** personal or sensitive information.

F



Fortify your accounts with strong, unique passwords.

Don't **Forward** suspicious messages or content.

G



Guard your personal information; avoid oversharing.

Don't **Give out** passwords, PINs, or OTP.

H



Handle devices securely; never leave them unlocked.

Don't **Hesitate** to report cyber security incidents.

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I



Install security updates promptly.

Don't **Ignore** security updates or warnings.

J



Judge information carefully; verify before trusting or sharing.

Don't **Join** unknown or suspicious online groups.

K



Keep unique passwords for every account.

Don't **Keep** sensitive information on shared or public devices.

L



Lock your screen whenever you step away.

Don't **Leave** your devices unlocked or unattended.

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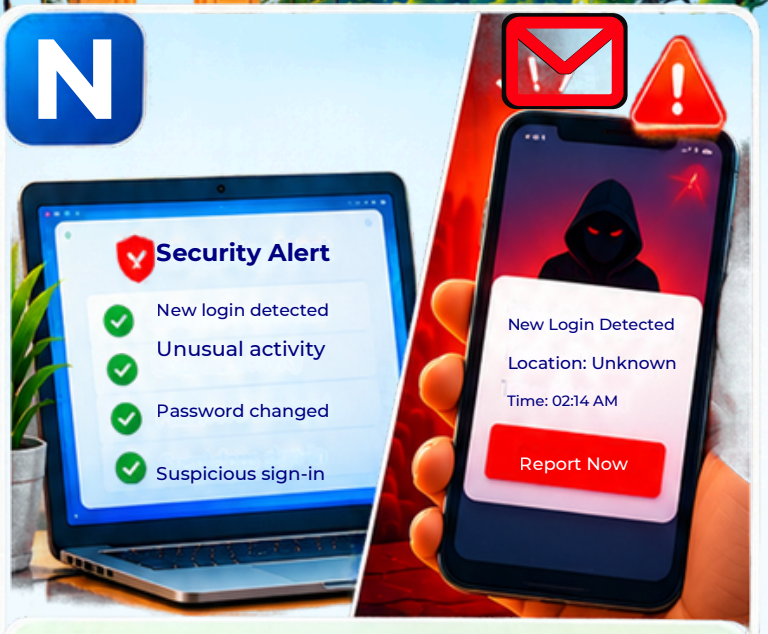
M



Minimize the personal information you share online.

Don't **Make** sensitive information public online.

N



Notice unusual activity and report it promptly.

Don't **Neglect** unexpected login or security alerts.

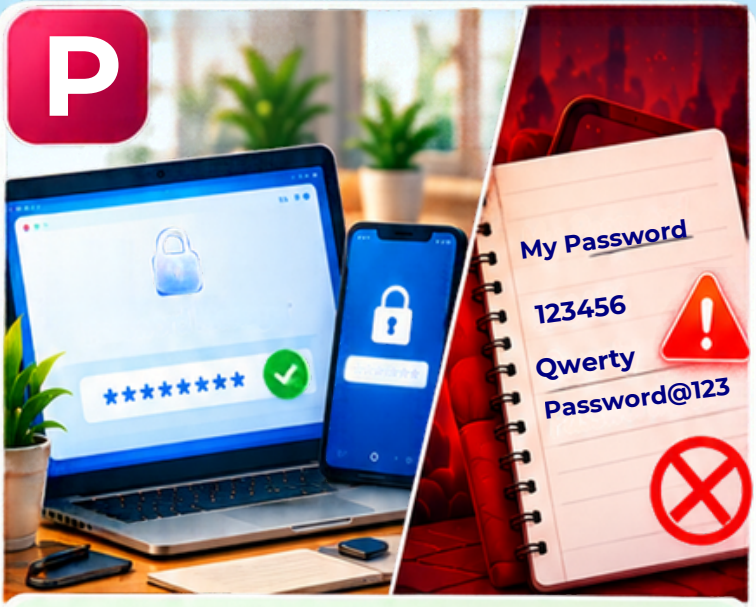
O



Observe website URLs carefully; don't trust appearances alone.

Don't **Open** unexpected attachments or files.

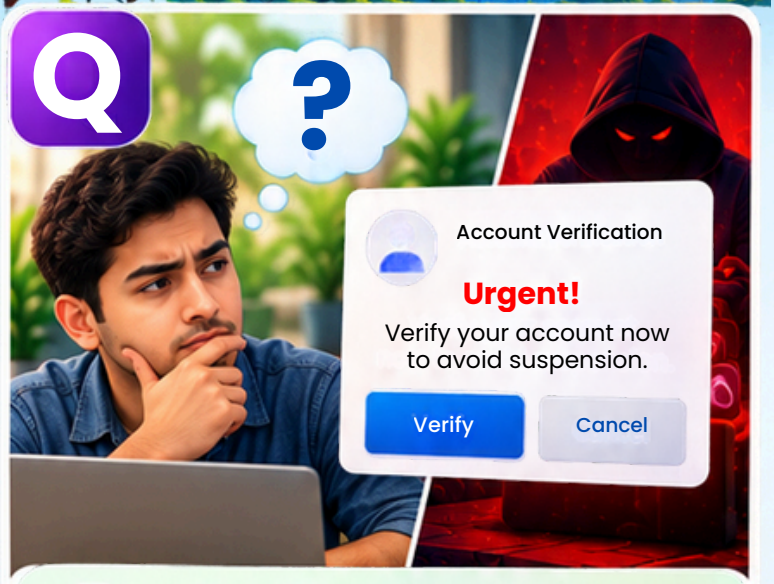
P



Protect passwords; never leave them exposed or openly written.

Don't **Post** anything online without verifying verifying it.

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Question unexpected requests; don't act under pressure.

Don't **Quickly** respond to unexpected or suspicious requests.



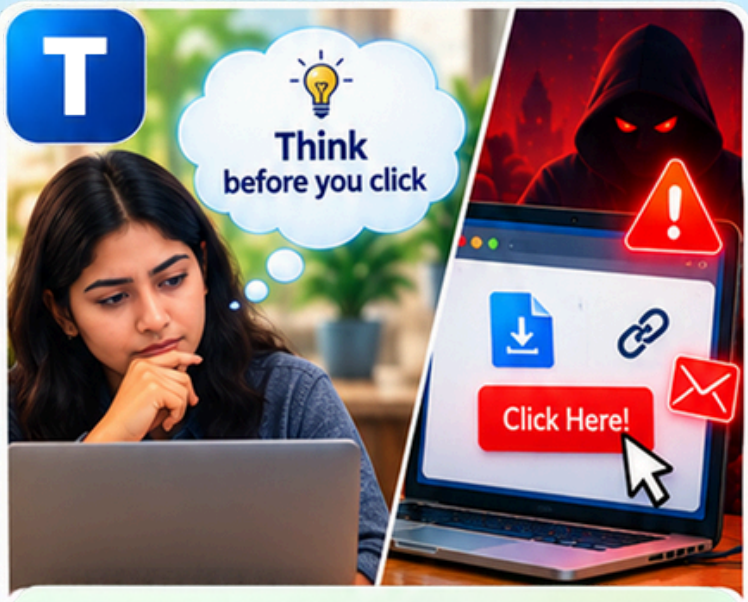
Report suspicious messages and incidents; don't forward them.

Don't **Reveal** recovery codes, security answers, or backup credentials.



Secure your devices and connections before accessing sensitive information.

Don't **Share** confidential information through untrusted channels.



Think before clicking, downloading, or responding.

Don't **Trust** unknown callers, emails, links, or messages without verification.

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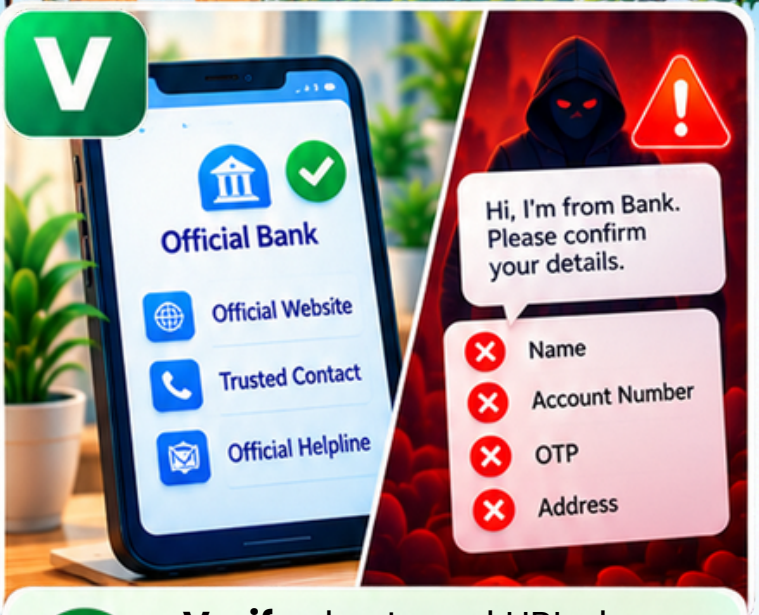
U



Use privacy settings to limit unnecessary exposure.

Don’t **Use** pirated or unauthorised software.

V



Verify shortened URLs by expanding them before clicking.

Don't **Verify** identity based solely on information provided by the requester.

W



Watch for misspelled variations in domain names.

Don’t **Write** passwords where others can see them.

X



eXamine app permissions and provide only those that are necessary.

Don’t **eXpose** unnecessary personal data through app permissions.

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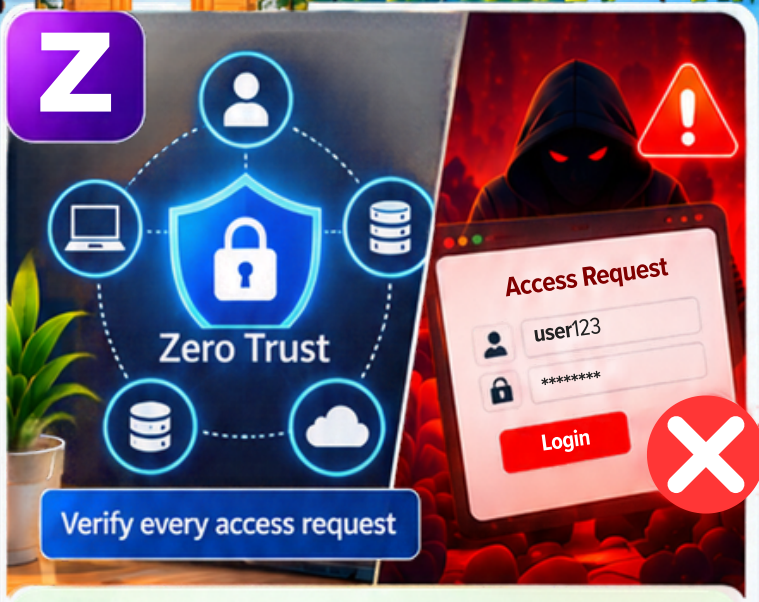
Y



Year-round, review your account security and update passwords when necessary.

Don't **Yield** to pressure or urgency when something feels suspicious.

Z



Zero Trust: verify every access request; don't trust by default.

Don't **Zero** in on a link or message without first checking its source.

Contact us

For reporting Cyber Security Incidents to CERT-In:

Visit website: https://www.cert-in.org.in
Email: incident@cert-in.org.in
Toll Free Phone: +91-1800-11-4949
Toll Free Fax: +91-1800-11-6969
Information Desk: +91-11-22902657



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Awareness Booklet
https://cert-in.org.in/awarenessbooklets.jsp

Security Tools
https://www.csk.gov.in/security-tools.html

To participate in Training and Awareness sessions, email: training@cert-in.org.in