

BEWARE OF FAKE STOCK MARKET INVESTMENT WEBSITE / APPs

With increasing adoption of digital communication platforms like Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and Telegram, there has been an alarming increase in complaints of fake stock market investment. Cybercriminals exploit these platforms to lure unsuspecting citizens to invest in these fraudulent financial instruments, leading to significant financial losses.

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- **Sponsored Advertisements** featuring deep fake videos and images of prominent individuals are currently being disseminated across platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Google, which are redirecting users to fraudulent WhatsApp/Telegram groups operated by cyber fraudsters, falsely presented as legitimate trading groups, investment advice platforms, or financial advisors.
- **Promises and Recommendations:** Within these groups, cyber fraudsters disseminate information regarding Stock Market, Stock Tips, Live Classes, and lure citizens to open Institutional Accounts with them to gain maximum profit through confirm Initial Public Offering (IPO) allotments.
- **Fake Application / Website:** Cyber criminals share Playstore / Appstore links or apk files of fake trading applications with potential victims for trading purposes.
- **Deposit of Money:** Indian mule bank accounts are given to potential victims for depositing money, initial payouts are made to gain trust, and after a significant amount is deposited, fraudsters stop communication and the citizens become victim of cyber financial fraud.



PRECAUTIONS

- Be extremely **cautious of sponsored ads** on Facebook, Instagram, or Google promoting investment groups on WhatsApp or Telegram, as these may be fraudulent.
- **Be alert to impersonation** by fraudsters as FIs/FPOs, financial advisors, or reputable institutions.
- **Avoid sharing** sensitive financial information like bank details or login credentials with unknown entities.
- **Stay aware** of common investment scams and remain sceptical of offers that seem too good to be true like promising unrealistically high returns.
- **Report cyber frauds** immediately at www.cybercrime.gov.in or by calling 1930.
- For **cyber safety tips**, follow @cyberdost on social media.

IMPORTANT

- **SEBI** urges investors to exercise caution and to steer clear of any social media messages, WhatsApp groups, Telegram channels, or apps claiming to facilitate stock market access through FPIs or FIs registered with SEBI. Such schemes are fraudulent. <https://shorturl.at/filHM>
- Before engaging with an **Investment Advisor (IA)**, check whether it is registered with SEBI, the regulatory authority for the securities market in India. <https://shorturl.at/hinuA>