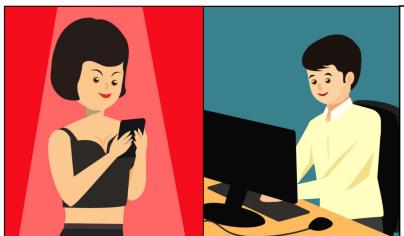
## MAHARASHTRA

## SOCIAL MEDIA FRAUDS

Story 1: Sympathy Fraud



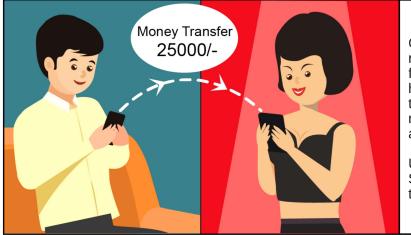
Santosh likes to surf the internet and has many friends on his social media profile.

One day he receives a friend request from a beautiful young woman named Aparna. He accepts the friend request as he likes her profile picture.

Santosh and Aparna start chatting and talking on call all day.

Soon, Santosh begins to like spending time with Aparna. He starts to trust her completely.





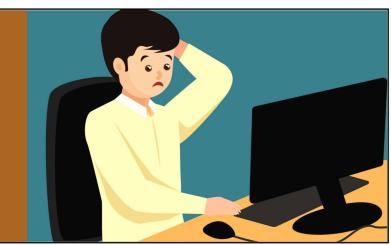
One day, Aparna requests for ₹ 25,000 from Santosh stating that her brother is admitted to the hospital and she needs to deposit the amount urgently.

Unaware of reality, Santosh gives the money to Aparna.



Aparna flees, never to be seen again.

Worried about her whereabouts, Santosh decides to report the same to the Police Station.





Santosh files a missing complaint at Police Station.

The Inspector explains that this is a very common crime and he has been a victim of sympathy fraud.

The Inspector investigates the matter and catches Aparna. Santosh realizes that Aparna was a fraud.

He regrets trusting a random stranger on social media and giving such a large amount of money to her,



- Be careful while accepting friend request from strangers on social media.
  Cyber criminals often create fake social media profile to befriend potential victims with an intention to harm them.
- Do not share personal details or get into financial dealings with an unknown person whom you have met on social media platform.
- Keep family/friends informed, in case you plan to meet a social media friend. Always plan such meetings in public places.