

**DO YOU KNOW?**

## **DIGITAL ARREST SCAMS – SC GIVES CBI A FREE HAND**

*The Supreme Court has given the CBI a nationwide mandate to investigate—and shut down—these crimes.*

→



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# WHAT'S A “DIGITAL ARREST” SCAM? ■

- Fraudsters call or video chat, pretending to be police, income tax, CBI, or court officials. They:
  - Show forged notices and fake arrest warrants
  - Threaten immediate custody
  - Force you to stay on the call while transferring money
  - Direct funds to "safe" accounts (which they control)
- **Real Example:** “Hello, sir, this is CBI. You have *illegal transactions*. Transfer ₹5 lakhs to this account NOW or face arrest.”

# SENIOR CITIZENS ARE THE PRIMARY TARGETS

- While anyone can fall victim, scammers specifically target:
  - Seniors who trust authority
  - People unfamiliar with digital verification
  - Those with savings to extort
- **The Fear Factor:** Criminals exploit the psychology of arrest—urgency + authority + shame = compliance.



# SC'S BOLD DIRECTIONS TO CBI, BANKS & PLATFORMS

- The Supreme Court didn't just hand the case to CBI; it transformed the entire system:
  - **✓ CBI:** Pan-India unified probe + power to investigate bankers under Prevention of Corruption Act.
  - **✓ States:** Must grant consent for CBI investigations (no more turf wars).
  - **✓ Interpol:** CBI to trace foreign scam hubs.

## ...CONTD.

- **✓ RBI:** Use AI/ML to auto-flag “mule accounts” and freeze suspicious funds
- **✓ Telecom:** Tighten KYC; stop mass SIM issuance on the same identity
- **✓ IT Platforms:** Preserve device & account data; give full technical support to CBI



# HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

- **Police, courts, and tax officials will NEVER:**
  - **🚫 Call you demanding money via video chat**
  - **🚫 Ask you to transfer funds to “safe accounts”**
  - **🚫 Threaten arrest without formal written summons**
  - **🚫 Keep you on continuous video calls**

## ...CONT'D.

- **If you receive such a call:**

-  Stay calm. Hang up.
-  Call your bank directly (not the number given by the caller).
-  Verify any order through official channels.
-  Report immediately to 1930 or [cybercrime.gov.in](http://cybercrime.gov.in).
-  Preserve all evidence (screenshots, call logs, recordings).



# A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR CYBER LAW IN INDIA

- **This SC order is historic because it:**
  - Treats digital fraud as an attack on public trust & the justice system itself
  - Creates a coordinated, tech-driven response (CBI + RBI + telecom + platforms + I4C cyber centres)
  - Holds banks, telecom, and tech companies accountable for enabling scams
  - Empowers the CBI to operate pan-India without state-level obstruction

## ...CONT'D.

- **The Bottom Line:** The Court recognises that modern cyber fraud requires modern, integrated enforcement.
- **Legal Angle:** This judgment sets a precedent for how courts can direct multi-sector coordination in cyber crimes.



*Centre for Research and  
Governance on Cyber Law*

# ***Empower Yourself— Know Your Digital Rights!***

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