



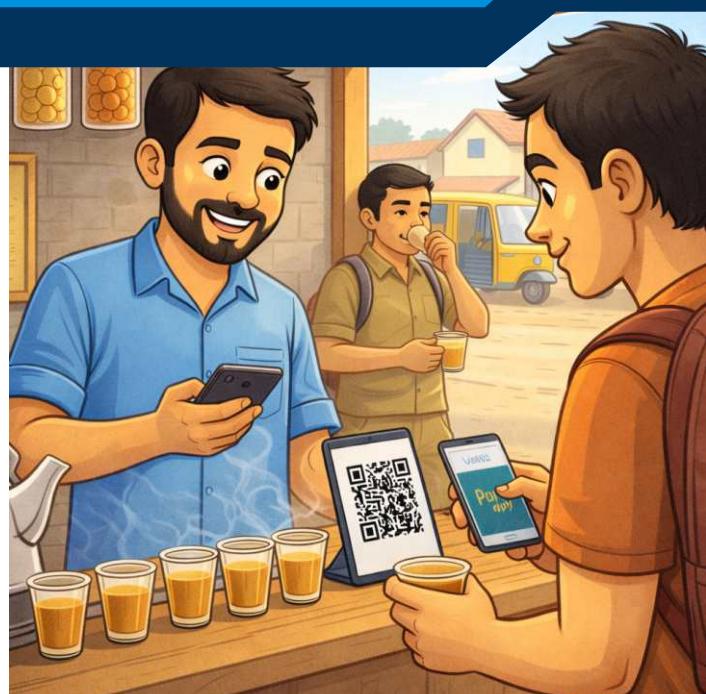
An AI Awareness Story

A Tea Shop Owner's Journey and Staying Safe from AI-Related Frauds

"In an age where artificial intelligence makes life smarter, faster, and more efficient, it can also make deception more convincing than ever before. Mohan's journey from an ordinary tea shop owner to an AI-aware citizen shows how understanding AI-related risks can help protect not just one individual, but an entire community."

Mohan lived with his parents in a modest neighborhood of a small town. He was well known in the area as a friendly and hardworking tea shop owner. From early morning till evening, his small tea stall remained busy with customers—workers, students, auto drivers, and shopkeepers.

He accepted UPI payments, checked transaction messages on his phone, and used WhatsApp to communicate with suppliers. He trusted technology because it made business faster and easier.



Artificial Intelligence, to Mohan, meant helpful things – voice assistants on phones, spam filters that blocked unwanted calls, and smart payment apps that kept records automatically.

Like many people, Mohan believed frauds were easy to identify.

What he didn't realize was that AI had changed everything.



Mohan's AI Fraud Encounter – When Familiarity Becomes a Trap



One busy morning, while serving tea to customers, Mohan received a WhatsApp voice message. The number was unfamiliar, but the profile photo looked real. Curious, he played the message.

His heart skipped a beat.

The voice sounded exactly like one of his regular suppliers, Mr. Verma, who provided milk and tea powder.



Mohan, there's an urgent issue, I need money urgently. Please transfer the pending payment immediately to a new account I'll send. We'll settle everything later."

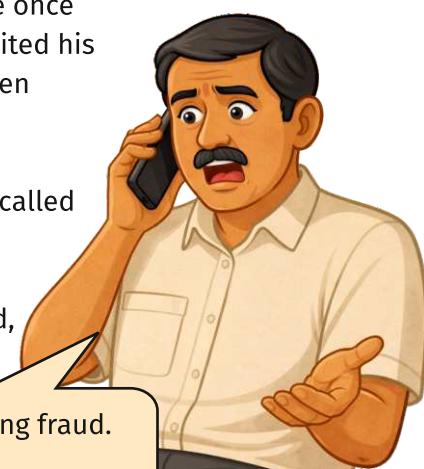
The voice sounded real and urgent. Mohan felt nervous. He didn't want any supply problems. He opened his payment app, his fingers hovering over the screen.

But something made him pause.

A Moment of Awareness That Changed Everything



Mohan suddenly remembered a conversation he once had with Rakesh, a school teacher who often visited his tea shop in the evenings. Rakesh had once spoken about how AI could be used to fake voices.



Trusting his instinct, Mohan closed the app and called Rakesh.

After listening to the voice message, Rakesh said,

Mohan, this could be an AI voice-cloning fraud. Don't send any money yet. First, verify.



Mohan immediately called Mr. Verma on his known phone number.

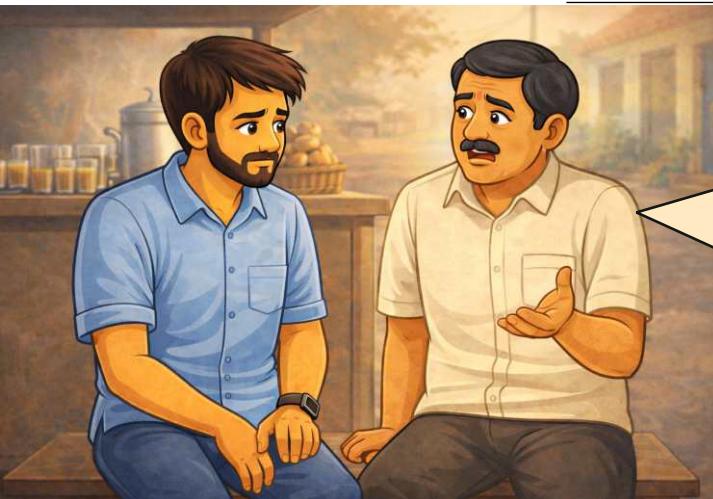
Hello Mohan !

I didn't send any voice note.
Please do not transfer any money.

Mohan felt shocked. What had sounded so real moments ago was completely fake.



Understanding the Reality of AI-Powered Frauds



Later that evening, Rakesh explained calmly

Scammers now use AI tools to copy voices using just a few seconds of audio—from phone calls, videos, or social media. Once trained, the AI can sound exactly like the real person

He went on to explain other common AI-based frauds:



AI Voice Cloning Fraud:

Fake voices of suppliers, teachers, relatives, or closed ones demanding urgent action



Deepfake Video Scams:

AI-generated videos showing familiar faces asking for money



AI Chatbot Impersonation:

Fake customer support pretending to be banks or apps



AI-Generated Phishing Messages:

Perfect-looking messages containing fake links to deceive people



Fake AI Investment Promotions:

Celebrity images and videos used to promote scams.

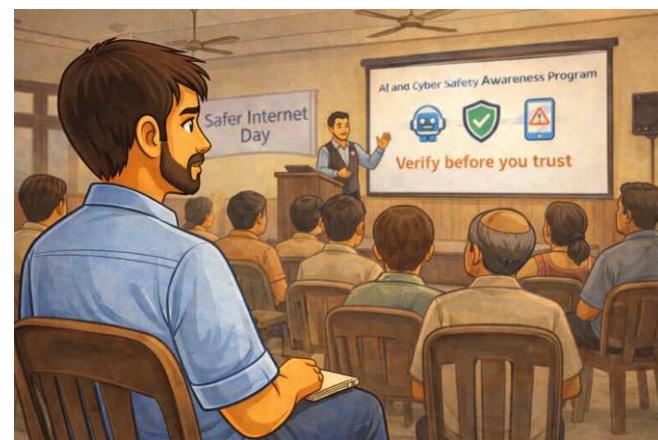


Learning Through Safer Internet Day Awareness

Soon after, an AI and Cyber Safety Awareness Program was organized in the local community hall as part of Safer Internet Day. Mohan attended the session eagerly.

Experts explained that AI itself is not dangerous, but blind trust is. The key lesson was simple: **“Verify before you trust.”**

They introduced the idea of **AI Safety Hygiene**—habits that help people stay safe in an age where machines can imitate humans.



AI Safety Hygiene: Practices Mohan Adopted

	Always verify urgent payment requests through a known phone number		Never act under pressure or urgency		Never share OTPs or confidential details		Question voice notes, images, and videos
	Avoid oversharing photos, videos, and voice notes online		Use privacy settings on apps and social media		Download apps only from official stores		Stay updated through awareness programs and official alerts

A Safer, Smarter Mohan—and a Safer Community



By the end of the session, Mohan felt confident and empowered. He realized AI was a tool—how people used it made the difference.

At his tea shop, he began warning customers about AI frauds. He explained the risks to his parents, neighbours, and regular visitors. With Rakesh's support, he helped spread awareness in the local community.

His message was simple and clear:

“Don’t act in a hurry. Don’t trust voices alone. Always verify.”

Mohan's journey showed that even an ordinary tea shop owner can become a protector of the community. In the age of artificial intelligence, awareness is the strongest shield—and one informed decision can prevent a major loss.

Social Media Presence



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