

# 'Apps breaching your digital privacy, stealing data'

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**Ahmedabad:** Every 'free' mobile phone application comes with a heavy price — the applications not only learn your preferences, location, usage patterns and other applications you use, but many can also mine personal data if it's a malware or spyware.

If proper care is not taken, data breach with latest tools is child's play, said experts who participated in a national seminar on the theme of smartphone privacy and security organized jointly by Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) and Tele-

## ENSURE SAFETY

- Keep your device operating system (OS) and applications up-to-date. Security patches are released periodically to make devices safer
- Don't install any application without going through the permissions required. Ask yourself why a game would require access to your photographs and location
- Always backup your data - either in cloud or in hard drives to prevent data loss or locking down of phone or computer



- Use strong and complex passwords. If you have difficulty remembering passwords, consider using a secure password manager
- Consider enabling encryption to secure your device data. Use remote lock and locate application to safeguard your device in case of loss or theft

(Based on conference proceedings)

com Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Saturday.

Arun Ramakrishnan, cyber security expert from Re-

serve Bank Information Technology (ReBit) highlighted different applications that can steal data and harm mobile devices. He advised participants to update the devices regularly and not to allow any application without going through the permissions it seeks.

Manish Gupta, another speaker, talked about role of ethical hacking and how to secure data networks whereas Archie Jackson, director of a cyber security firm, talked about data analytics and artificial intelligence.

Dr Pradip Vaghasiya, an Ahmedabad-based psychiatrist, mentioned during his

presentation that mobile phone addiction is a major issue today. "A 2012 report mentioned that 84% of the respondents from India took their phones to bed, 56% checked phones during meals and 15% texted while driving. About 90% of the text messages were read within three minutes of delivery," he said. He also elaborated on negative effects of phone addiction.

"Purpose of the event was to highlight the issues pertaining to highly-connected world of today and understanding perils of cyberspace," said an organizer from GNLU.