DESI ORANGE PILL

First Bitcoin Guide for India

A free beginner starter — money, Bitcoin, wallets, safe buying, scams, and where to learn next.

Open education · No hype · Built for Indian learners

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1. Welcome

Bitcoin can feel loud: prices, scams, apps, and conflicting opinions. This short guide is a calm starting point for people in India who want to understand Bitcoin — not trade tips or "get rich" promises.

You will learn:

- Why money matters before Bitcoin
- What Bitcoin is (in plain language)
- How wallets and self-custody work
- How to think about buying carefully in India
- How to avoid common scams
- Where to continue free lessons on Desi Orange Pill

How to use this guide

Read once for the big picture. Then open the free course online — English, Hindi, and major Indian languages. Open any level anytime.

Start learning online: https://desiorangepill.com/en/courses/

2. Money first

Before Bitcoin, understand money itself. Good money is typically scarce, durable, divisible, portable, and hard to fake. People used shells, metals, coins, paper, and now digital bank balances.

Inflation (simple)

When more currency is created faster than goods and services, each unit buys less over time. FDs and cash still matter for daily life and emergencies — but long-term purchasing power is a real question for many families.

Payments vs savings

In India, UPI made payments excellent. That is not the same as long-term savings you fully control. Bitcoin is often discussed as digital scarce money for savings — not as a replacement for daily UPI spending.

3. What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is open-source digital money with a fixed supply of 21 million coins. No company "owns" Bitcoin. A global network follows public rules to process transactions and keep a shared ledger (the blockchain).

- Send value to anyone with internet access and a Bitcoin address.
- Nobody can print more than the rules allow.
- If you hold your own keys, you control the funds — and the security.

Not a company stock

Bitcoin is not equity in a firm. There is no CEO to bail you out. Freedom comes with responsibility: backups, scams, and careful learning.

4. Keys, wallets, self-custody

Keys

A private key (or 12/24-word seed phrase) controls your bitcoin. The public address is for receiving. If someone has your seed, they can take your funds. Never share it. Never type it into random websites.

Wallet

A wallet is software (or hardware) that manages keys and helps you send and receive. BlueWallet is a common mobile starter. Download only from official app stores.

Exchange vs self-custody

- Exchange: convenient for buying; they hold bitcoin for you (custodial).
- Self-custody: you hold the keys — "not your keys, not your coins."

Many people buy on a reputable platform, then withdraw to a wallet they control for longer-term savings.

Safety rule
Never screenshot your seed. Write it on paper, store offline. Test with a small amount first.

5. Bitcoin in India (big picture)

Buying and holding bitcoin is legal for individuals in India after the Supreme Court lifted the RBI banking ban in 2020. Bitcoin is not legal tender — shops need not accept it like rupees.

Tax rules change. Crypto gains have often been taxed at high rates with TDS on some transfers. Keep records of buy date and INR price. This is education, not tax advice — consult a qualified CA.

Buying carefully

- Use well-known platforms; avoid random “agents” on social media.
- Strong account security (unique password, 2FA).
- Withdraw to your own wallet when ready — verify the address carefully.
- Start small while you learn.

India hub: https://desiorangepill.com/en/india/
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6. Scams to avoid

- “Double your bitcoin” or guaranteed returns — always a scam.
- Fake wallet apps / phishing that ask for your seed phrase.
- OTP / SIM-swap and fake customer-care calls.
- Unsolicited DMs offering “fund recovery.”
- Jobs that ask you to send crypto first.

Golden rule
No legitimate person needs your seed phrase or OTP. If pressured, stop and verify offline with someone you trust.

7. Your next steps

Suggested path online (open any level anytime):

- Levels 1–5 · Understand money (India context)
- Levels 6–12 · How Bitcoin works (history, transactions, mining, keys)
- Levels 13–16 · Practice: wallets, scams, privacy, using Bitcoin in India

Optional how-tos: set up BlueWallet, buy carefully, self-custody basics.

Free full course
Explore all 16 levels by topic — free, no paywall: https://desiorangepill.com/en/courses/

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