Workshop on Cyber Safety and Positive Internet

The workshop on Cyber Safety and Positive Internet was conducted on 9th August 2019 by Mr Rakshit Tandon, an Expert to Cyber Crime Unit of Uttar Pradesh Police at Agra and Cyber Crime Cell of Gurgaon, Haryana Police.

The workshop addressed the Cyber Congress members and the students of class 9th regarding various threats being posed by social media.

The session began with Mr Rakshit Tandon addressing the Cyber Congress members about the growing threats of social media followed by making them understand their responsibility towards the school as a cyber congress representative. He advised the students to have a more optimistic approach towards children who are misusing the cyber space by positively motivating them to rectify their cyber actions. He also advised the Cyber Congress to be addressed as 'Cyber Friends' instead, as a mark of positive internet. He was of the strict opinion that things need to change and cyber actions like body shaming, sexting, stalking and image morphing need to be stopped immediately. He clearly defined the role of a cyber friend in working from the grass root level beginning with highlighting the positives of internet and how social media can be used for the better of the society and gradually building a strong foundation towards a pleasant internet experience for the future.

The sessions for class 9th covered pertinent points regarding cyber safety starting from the minimum age that is necessary to be able to be on social media and then covering the potential risks of online behaviour with regards to mediums such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat to name a few. He guided the students on ways to beware of cyber bullying and to not become prey to cyber pranks. He informed the students regarding the laws pertaining to cyber crimes in India so as to enable them to understand the severity of the situation. He also shared the startling statistics relating the number of cases of cyber bullying reported and the extent of the danger posed by them and motivated students to refrain from wasting time on games such as PUBG, Team Fortress and so on. In the end he pointed out the threats caused by the cloud internet and app permissions which get access to the user's personal information which if hacked can pose serious security threat.

The sessions were extremely engaging and children asked questions and gained clarity on whatever queries they had in their mind. Many children also reported bullying cases which will be taken up by the Cyber Congress in coordination with Mr Rakshit Tandon.