Workshop on Cyber Safety and Positive Internet

The workshop on Cyber Safety and Positive Internet use was conducted, on 22nd March 2022, by Mr. Rakshit Tandon for the students of grades 9 and 10. Mr. Rakshit Tandon is Cyber Security Consultant to Internet and Mobile Association of India, Expert to Cyber Crime Unit of Uttar Pradesh Police at Agra and Cyber Crime Cell of Gurgaon, Haryana Police. He has also been awarded Honorary Doctorate in Cyber Security by Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand.

The session began with Mr. Rakshit Tandon addressing the students about the growing threats of social media. He covered some pertinent points regarding cyber safety starting from the minimum age that is necessary to access social media and then covering the potential risks of online behaviour with regards to media such as Instagram, Discord etc. 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 crime in India, so as to enable them to understand the severity of the situation.

He also shared the startling statistics relating to the number of cases of cyber bullying reported and the extent of the danger posed by it. He motivated students to refrain from wasting time on games and not to join any public channels on Discord. Mr. Tandon shared many important websites like haveibeenpwned.com that can be used to check if your email id is hacked. Live checking of various students' ids and his own id was shown to the students. He quoted that technology is empowering us and is going to stay and grow. In this digital world we are having a digital diet and are consuming everything that is coming to us. Data security and privacy are two important points to be emphasized. We need to be aware of our digital footprint.

Mr. Tandon pointed out the app permissions give access to the user's personal information which if hacked can pose serious security threats. He guided the students not to take any unknown video calls and think before posting anything on the social media. Students were apprised to switch on 2 step authentication for their email accounts and to not keep same passwords for all email accounts.

In the end he advised the students to be cyber resilient and not be influenced with the number of likes and followers. He spoke about impersonation, which is a serious cyber crime. Mr. Tandon told students about the website bevigil.com that helps checking an app's safety levels. The government portal- csk.gov.in can be used to see the security tools and best internet practices.

The session was extremely engaging and children asked questions and gained clarity on whatever queries they had in their minds.