

'MAKING OUR FUTURE DIGITALLY SAFE'

Police and teachers join forces against cyber crimes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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PUNE POLICE Commissioner Rashmi Shukla said on Saturday that it was time to take more determined steps towards preventing our children from falling prey to cyber crimes.

Shukla was addressing a conference on cybersecurity, titled "Making Our Future Digitally Safe", in the city on Saturday. The event was organised by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and the Cyber Cell of the Pune City Police, in association with city NGOs and Mahatma Phule Sanskrutik Bhavan in Wanavdi.



Police Commissioner Rashmi Shukla said sessions should be held in schools and colleges to raise awareness.

Addressing an audience of teachers and students, Shukla said schools and colleges should conduct counselling sessions to

raise awareness about various cyber threats. Giving example of how young minds fall prey to cyber criminals, the police chief

narrated the incident of a teenage girl from the city, who was convinced through various social media platforms to join the Islamic State in Syria. Shukla added that, along with law enforcement agencies, parents and teachers have a major role in this process.

During the event, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell & EOW) Sudhir Hiremath shared details about "We Fight Cyber Crime (#WeFightCC)" — an initiative of the city police to prevent cyber crimes by educating students and teachers.

Police officials said the aim is to train over 1,000 teachers and 20,000 students in the city, with

the help of cyber experts from C-DAC, Google India, Career Corner. A booklet on cybersecurity for children was also released as part of the event.

During the conference, Barsingh Rajput, superintendent of police, Cyber Cell, Maharashtra, talked about "Crime in Cyberspace: Landscape and Legal Boundaries"; Ravi Gupta, head of trust and safety at Google, India, discussed the "Role of Technology in protecting children online" and ethical hacker Rizwan Shaikh gave demonstrations on cybersecurity.

Giving tips on preventing hacking, Rizwan said the size of passwords for email accounts should be minimum 16 alphanu-

meric characters, adding that passwords should be changed every month.

Subi Chaturvedi, head and senior director of public affairs, Cellular Operators Association of India, said internet can be made safe for children if used effectively. Also present at the event, I L Narsimha Rao, project manager, CDAC, talked about "ISEA Awareness on Security Tools". Rushikesh Humbe, managing director, Career Corner, spoke about cyber crime awareness.

A panel discussion on "Psychological Implications and Interventions Dealing with Cyber Crimes" was also held as part of the conference.

