

YOUTH

Youth is the cornerstone of a nation's future. Their development, empowerment, and participation are crucial for sustainable growth and progress. Youth affairs encompass a broad range of issues that impact young people. Our organisation has given priority in our mission to enhance and increase youth participation in the positive manner. Following the same we have organised various events which can be briefed as follow:

5th UTTARAKHAND YOUTH TALK

5th UTTARAKHAND YOUTH TALK Event organized in Graphic Era Hill University Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India to raise awareness about rising cybercrime issues. The event featured former DGP of Uttarakhand, Mr. Ashok Kumar as the chief guest. He spoke about challenges faced by law enforcement against cybercrime and highlighted common cybercrimes like phishing, sextortion, and activities on the dark web. Mr. Kumar has also authored a book titled "Cyber Encounter" where he discusses the evolution of technology and crimes. The event was a platform for youth to engage in discussions around protection from cyber fraud and strategize solutions.

FREE SMILE FOUNDATION

UTTARAKHAND YOUTH TALKS

#youthforuttarakhand On

CYBER SECURITY

Importance & Challenges

SATURDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY 2024
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

KP NAUTIYAL AUDITORIUM
GRAPHIC ERA HILL UNIVERSITY

MR. ASHOK KUMAR (IPS)
Ex DGP, Uttarkhand

Supported by NYKS THE GLOBAL GOALS Hosted by Graphic Era University DEHRADUN



UTTARAKHAND YOUTH TALK

Cyber Security : Importance & Challenges

Speaker : Mr. Ashok Kumar (IPS) Former DGP Uttarakhand

Moderator : Mr. Parth Upadhyay

Venue : Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun

Date : 3rd February 2024

UTTARAKHAND : The home of the Gods .

It is a state located in the northern part of India. Uttarakhand is renowned for its stunning natural beauty, with the Himalayas dominating much of its landscape. The state is known for its diverse flora and fauna, national parks, trekking trails, and adventure sports opportunities, making it a popular tourist destination. Furthermore, Uttarakhand boasts a rich cultural heritage, where residents partake in various festivals and uphold traditional arts and crafts. Many individuals reside in the state seeking peace, harmony, and a connection with nature. With the increasing prevalence of internet usage, residents of the state also delight in capturing moments and connecting with other parts of the nation and the world.

According to the latest report from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Uttarakhand ranks fourth in the nation for cyber fraud cases, trailing behind Telangana, Assam, and Karnataka. In 2021, the state experienced a staggering 195% increase in cybercrime, with motives ranging from fraud and extortion to anger, personal revenge, and sexual exploitation.

Hence, in order to address the issues surrounding cybercrime and raise awareness about it, the Free Smile Foundation collaborated with NSS Graphic Era Hill University to organise Uttarakhand Youth Talk on February 2, 2024. The event was started by 11:00 AM onwards with the welcome address by Mr. Parth Upadhyay who introduced the gathering about the Free Smile Foundation and also shared their motive to organise the UTTARAKHAND YOUTH TALK.

During this event, participants engaged in discussions regarding the most prevalent cybercrime issues and explored strategies for protecting oneself from falling victim to cyber fraud. The event featured Mr. Ashok Kumar (IPS), former DGP of Uttarakhand, as the special chief guest. His presence greatly enriched the campus



atmosphere. Mr. Kumar shed light on the challenges faced by law enforcement in combating cybercrime, emphasising the difficulty of tracing digital footprints left by criminals operating on the internet. He highlighted how perpetrators often utilise fake contact numbers and accounts to deceive innocent individuals, with many falling victim to phishing, cyberbullying, sextortion, and activities on the dark web and deep web.

Mr. Ashok Kumar has authored a book titled "Cyber Encounter," wherein he extensively discusses how technology advancements have paralleled the evolution of crime. The proliferation of digital technologies has facilitated various online crimes, ranging from financial frauds where unsuspecting individuals lose substantial sums of money to scams orchestrated through fake websites and deceptive advertisements. Furthermore, cybercriminals employ tactics such as phishing and enticing users to click on dubious links, ultimately gaining remote access to victims' devices. "Cyber Encounter" delves into this complex realm of cyberspace, presenting twelve captivating fictional narratives of cybercrime. In today's technology-driven era, cybercrime poses a significant challenge, and Mr. Kumar, as the former DGP of the state, has effectively raised public awareness about this issue. The book's relevance is further emphasised by the pressing need to address cyber threats.

During his address, Mr. Ashok Sharma provided the several insightful facts to audience :

- He emphasized how the thinking and mentality of criminals have evolved over time.
- Mr. Kumar highlighted the prevalence of lottery frauds, often referred to as Nigerian frauds, with many suspects originating from the same region.
- Regional cases originating from Jammu and Kashmir were discussed in detail.
- He noted the alarming trend of criminals offering courses in cybercrime.
- The practice of voice cloning, was highlighted as a growing concern.
- The issue of non-reporting of cybercrimes was addressed, with Mr. Kumar citing 10 lakh complaints nationwide in 2022 and 10,000 cases in the state alone. Many victims hesitate to file complaints due to concerns about personal privacy and societal stigma.
- Strategies for improvement were outlined, including closing existing loopholes, following proper procedures before agreeing to terms online, and maintaining a balance between regulatory measures and customer convenience.
- Mr. Kumar shared information about the central helpline number for cybercrime (1903), which allows individuals to block spam numbers. He also mentioned that this initiative is spearheaded by the Central Government. Mr. Kumar highlighted the following points during his presentation:
- He stressed the significance of the digital divide, noting that over 70% of internet users are digitally illiterate, contrasting with a total literacy rate of 30%. This discrepancy not only contributes to the proliferation of digital crimes but also underscores that fraud can ensnare both the digitally literate and illiterate alike.
- He shed light on the absence of gender bias in sextortion, stating that while it initially targeted males, it has since expanded to encompass females and even children, subjecting them to offensive activities and nudity.

Criminals follow a progression of stages in their activities:

- Stage 1:** Victims are lured into socially unacceptable physical activities and intimacy, captured on video, and subsequently blackmailed.
- Stage 2:** Victims receive random video calls wherein offensive content is displayed, followed by the capture of screenshots for further blackmail.
- Stage 3:** Criminals resort to the use of deep fake technology, employing photoshop to manipulate pornographic videos.



Mr. Kumar also discussed the solutions implemented, including the establishment of two cyber police stations in Nainital, Rudrapur, and Dehradun, with plans to extend this to all 13 districts of Uttarakhand. He urged youngsters to adhere to the "4W 1H" principle, focusing on questions of What, Who, When, Where, and How, as a basic guideline for navigating online interactions safely.

The audience was truly impressed by Mr. Ashok Kumar's presence, and they eagerly posed their questions, to which he calmly responded:

- Mr. Kumar discussed the introduction of the Data Protection Bill by the government, emphasizing the importance of understanding the apps and services we use.
- He underscored the necessity for technical manpower in the digital realm, recognizing the critical role skilled professionals play in navigating the complexities of the digital world.
- Mr. Kumar highlighted the enactment of various laws where digital evidence holds weight and stressed that mental harassment is treated with the same seriousness as sexual harassment.
- In the digital sphere, he emphasized that nothing is entirely secure. He advised everyone, especially the younger generation, to exercise caution, avoid placing blind trust in apps, regularly monitor their applications, and create stronger passwords.
- Mr. Kumar expressed his belief that future conflicts may manifest as digital wars, given the current landscape of technological advancement and cyber threats.



The session featuring Mr. Kumar was intellectually stimulating and interactive, with numerous inquiries directed towards him. He responded confidently and resolutely, effectively enlightening the audience about the realities of cybercrime. Overall, the session provided a comprehensive understanding of cybercrime, cybersecurity, and the proactive measures required to safeguard individuals and organizations in an increasingly digital world.