

Event Report: Safer Internet Day Celebration at GDC Handwara

In alignment with the communication received from the **Director of Colleges, Department of Higher Education** (Letter No: DC-HE/K/2025/198, dated 09-02-2025), the **Department of Computer Applications**, in collaboration with the **Digital Initiatives Committee** of GDC Handwara, organized an awareness workshop on *Safer Internet Day* on **11-02-2025**.

Objective of the Event

The event aimed to promote **safe and responsible internet usage**, with a special focus on protecting **children, women, and young users** from cyber threats. This year's theme, **"Together for a Better Internet,"** emphasized the importance of empowering users with knowledge on **cyber hygiene, online safety, and ethical digital behavior**.

Event Proceedings

The program commenced with a **welcome address** and **introductory remarks** by **Prof. Sajad Ahmad Shah, Head, Department of Computer Applications**. He highlighted the **exponential rise in cybercrimes** and shared practical insights on how individuals can safeguard themselves while navigating the digital world. He also stressed the **importance of strong passwords, recognizing phishing attempts, securing personal data, and ethical online behavior**.

Following this, **Prof. G. R. Ganie, Principal of the College**, addressed the gathering. He emphasized the **indispensable role of the internet in education** and daily life while urging students to exercise **caution and vigilance** to avoid cyber frauds and online threats.

The session continued with an insightful presentation by **Dr. Ab Rouf Bhat** from the **Department of Computer Applications**, who elaborated on **key cyber safety guidelines** as prescribed by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India**.

Key Takeaways

- **Understanding Cyber Threats:** Participants gained awareness of common cyber risks, including identity theft, phishing, and online scams.
- **Best Practices for Cyber Hygiene:** Emphasis was placed on strong password management, safe browsing habits, and recognizing fraudulent activities.
- **Empowering Internet Users:** The workshop encouraged students to become **responsible digital citizens** and promote safe online practices in their communities.

Conclusion

The event concluded with a **vote of thanks** by **Dr. Shahnaz Mohi Ud Din, NSS Programme Officer**, who appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students and faculty.

By organizing such initiatives, **GDC Handwara** continues to foster a **culture of digital responsibility**, ensuring that the internet remains a **safe, inclusive, and empowering space for all**.

Sd/

Prof Sajad Ahmad Shah
HoD Computer Applications