



Gujarat National Law University

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National Science Day Celebration at GNLU

Gandhinagar, 01 March 2021: To celebrate National Science Day, Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) organized an interactive session with Mr Amit Vasava, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cyber Crime Branch, Ahmedabad, on "Cyber Crime – Investigator's Perspective".

Mr Amit Vasava is an IPS officer of 2016 Batch and holds a Computer Engineering degree with an MBA.

Giving a brief overview of the Cyber Crime Branch of Ahmedabad Police's functioning, Mr Vasava said, during the year 2020, it has helped 5000 victims get back Rs.11 Crore lost in cyber frauds. At the same time, he added that the ratio of success in recovering the defrauded amount is significantly less. People should, therefore, remain alert to avert cyber fraud.

Mr Vasava said that there are two broad categories of cybercrime: Cyber fraud and cyberbullying. In the year 2020, as against 24,000 cyber fraud cases, only 2,400 cases of cyberbullying were reported to the Cyber Crime branch of Ahmedabad police. It does not mean that the incidence of cyberbullying is less. There is a gross under-reporting of cyberbullying cases primarily because the victims, mostly women and young girls, are wrongly advised by their parents and relatives against lodging complaints with the police.

He said that the victims of cyberbullying should come forward and seek help from the police. These cases are comparatively easy to solve as the crime perpetrators are mostly local and known to the victim in most cases. On the other hand, cyber fraud cases are more challenging. The criminals generally operate from distant locations and are difficult to trace as they change their mobile sim cards quite frequently and use fictitious bank accounts. Even if the police can trace the criminals in some cases operating from interiors of states like Rajasthan, Haryana or Jharkhand, they need local authority's support to carry out physical operations, which is not always forthcoming. If local help is sought, there is a chance of the information leaking to the suspects. Even if Gujarat police carry out the physical operation and bring the suspects to Gujarat, there is a problem finding evidence that links the accused to the crime. As a result, the conviction rate in cyber fraud cases is relatively low. So, your best bet is to be vigilant and take simple precautions, which include:

- (1) Use strong passwords, change them frequently and keep them confidential,
- (2) Never share sensitive financial information with anyone,
- (3) Don't download apps you don't know or those recommended by strangers,
- (4) Don't click on the links received through SMSes or emails from strangers,



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- (5) Use only safe computers for making online payments,
- (6) Use anti-virus software and firewalls to protect your data and privacy and
- (7) Manage your social media settings carefully.

Dr Thomas Mathew, Professor of Science & Technology and Head of GNLU Centre for Law and Technology thanked Mr Vasava for an informative and useful session.

GNLU Centre for Law and Technology (GCLT) had organized this interaction.

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