

Facebook partners with National Commission for Women to launch Digital Literacy Program for Women

Initiative launched in collaboration with Cyber Peace Foundation

India, New Delhi, May 30, 2018: Integral to people coming on Facebook to share their stories is that people, and especially women, feel safe to connect in meaningful and profound ways. Taking forward this commitment, Facebook has announced a partnership with National Commission for Women to launch a Digital Literacy Program in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation.

As part of the digital literacy program pilot, over a one-year period, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women in universities across major cities in Haryana, Delhi-NCR, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. The interactive sessions will provide training on safe and responsible use of the internet, social media and email and will enable trainees to differentiate between credible and questionable information. The training will be conducted in local languages.

Mrs. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson (I/C), National Commission for Women said, "In today's internet age, opportunities for women are immense. They have the freedom to express themselves and participate in the society like never before. However, with more women going online, NCW has witnessed a surge in cyber crime related complaints registered at the Commission in the past three years- this trend is worrying. We have to ensure that while online, they feel safe and secure on the internet. We congratulate Facebook and Cyber Peace Foundation on this commendable initiative. Our girls and women will benefit from these training programs."

Vineet Kumar, President, Cyber Peace Foundation said "Women are especially vulnerable to cybercrimes, false news, hate speech and other forms of cyber bullying which can have a disastrous effect on them. Our volunteers can effectively work with womens' groups to educate them and raise awareness on online safety. In this regard, we look forward to this collaboration with Facebook and National Commission for Women"

Ankhi Das, Public Policy Director - India, South & Central Asia - Facebook, said "Economies can only grow well with equal participation from women and in today's age, this can largely happen with the free and unhindered presence of women on the internet. This naturally calls for the protection of women when they are online in a manner which reassures and enables them to freely express themselves and share their views".

About National Commission for Women:

The National Commission for Women is the apex body with the mandate to safeguard and further the interests of women across the country. The Commission was set up as a statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Act No. 20 of 1990 of Govt. of India) to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women in India. In 2018, the Commission resolved to hold extensive training and sensitization workshops in colleges and community centres to enhance awareness of women and girls regarding safe use of social media and internet resources/technology.

About Cyber Peace Foundation:

Cyber Peace Foundation is a civil society organisation and think tank of cybersecurity and policy experts. CPF is involved in Policy Advocacy, Research and Training related to all aspects of Cyber Peace and Cyber Security. Key areas of its work are in Technology Governance, Policy Review and Advocacy, Capacity and Capability creation and building through partnerships with various government organisations, academic institutions and civil society entities. Cyber Peace Foundation was formed with the vision of pioneering cyber peace initiatives to build collective resiliency against cybercrimes and global threats of cyber warfare.