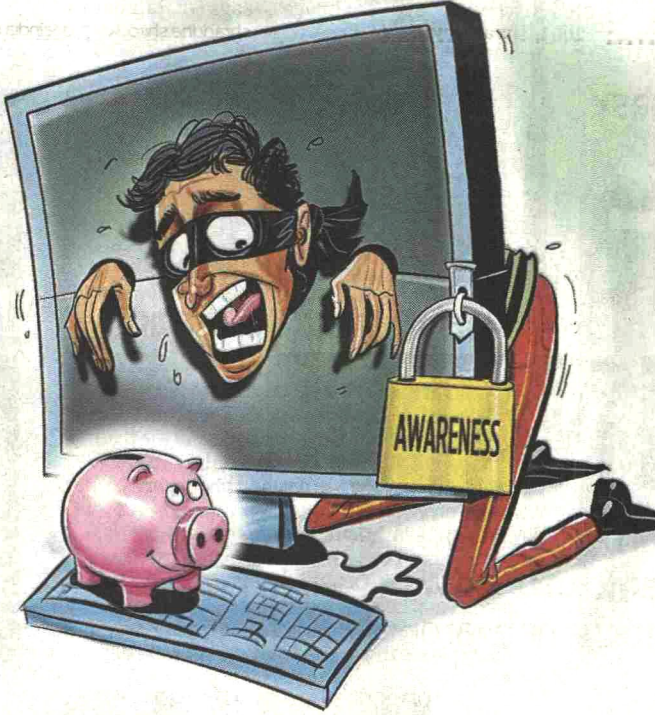


# Be online, but responsibly



With the need to be on the internet most of the time and **cybercrime on the rise**, everyone, **especially students**, need to be taught about how to be a **responsible netizen**

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In today's times, when everyone is hooked to their gadgets and are more involved in their virtual life than real-life happenings, cyber safety has become paramount. It's easy to get carried away and reveal personal information that could lead to trouble.

Cyber safety has now become vital as more and more kids have started to participate on social media, online gaming and more. The basic understanding is that a healthy level of awareness is required amongst parents and students. More specifically, an awareness regarding what to do and what not to do online, explaining the possible threats that the internet poses and ensuring one's safety in such a scenario.

### Massive participation

With this intention, Quick Heal Foundation recently conducted the second round of 'Responsible NETISM' at Borivali's Prabodhan Thackeray Natya Mandir, which saw participation of principals from 800 schools from Mumbai and Thane. Conducted in associa-

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tion with Ahaan Foundation, the event had Vinod Tawde, Minister of School Education, Higher and Technical Education and Medical Education as its chief guest, and Kailash Katkar, MD and CEO, Quick Heal Technologies, on the panel along with other dignitaries.

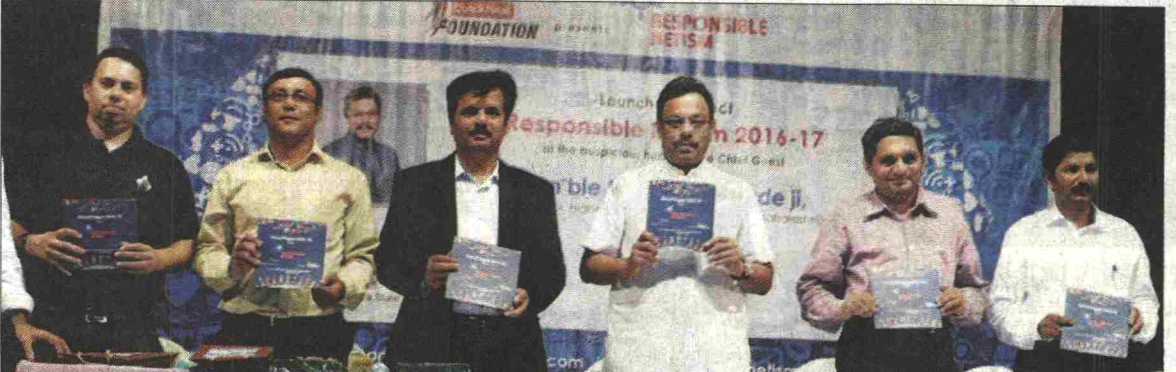
### Valuable information

The event highlighted the need to create awareness and spread knowledge about

the threats that exist online, responsible online behavior and how to ensure one's safety online. The event was attended in large numbers with the first round conducted in Thane sensitising 25,000 students and 5,000 parents. Useful information on how students can secure their social media identity and make use of technology safely was also shared. "There are a lot of people in the world who have access, knowledge and skills as hackers and can pose a huge threat to children. Parents, principals and teachers together need to explain this to the students," shared Katkar.

Psychiatrist Dr. Harish Shetty, who was also part of the panel at this event, highlighted how long hours on the internet and cyber bullying affect young minds mentally. He shared, "I have had cases of young patients suffering from depression and aloofness as they are so hooked onto the social media—addiction to gaming is also quite high. This is majorly because parents are not talking to the kids about cyber threats and the need to stay online for a healthy amount of time."

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L-R: Gaurav Jain, Ajay Shirke, Kailash Katkar, Vinod Tawde, Dr. Harish Shetty and Nitin Bachav