

## **COORDINATION NECESSARY AMONG STAKEHOLDERS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING: SHRI GARG**

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Poverty, illiteracy and unemployment are some of the main reasons for human trafficking said Secretary, Women and Child Development, Shri Chokha Ram Garg, IAS, at the inaugural function of the 'Source-Destination Consultation, to combat Human Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Goa', being held in Dona Paula, today.

Shri Garg said that skill development schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Yojana will remove the root cause of the problem. If girls are educated, traffickers will find it hard to lure them for economic reasons he said.

Shri Garg further said that coordination is necessary among stakeholders to combat the menace of human trafficking.

Director General of Police, Shri Pranab Nanda, IPS, said that human trafficking remains a major serious crime and gross violation of human rights and combating it requires special skills and efforts. He said that the Goa Government has taken various steps to check human trafficking. He informed that the Goa Police has dedicated anti-human trafficking units, a transit home, scheme for rehabilitation of victim, etc.

Shri Nanda stressed on the role of coordination between agencies in various states and countries. He said that neither Government nor civil society can fight this menace alone, but it requires everyone to work together.

Executive Director, ECPAT, Luxembourg, Shri Thomas, highlighted the role of ECPAT in fighting sexual exploitation. Shri Thomas said the exchange of best practices and capacity building is enabled when there is proper coordination between the source and destination place where human trafficking occurs. Shri Thomas said that the landscape of sexual exploitation was changing and this was throwing up new challenges which had to be faced with effective coordination.

Director of Arz (Anyay Rahit Zindagi), Shri Arunendra Pandey, briefed the gathering about the aim of the consultation. He called for a close coordination between destination and source of human trafficking stating that currently there is a gap in this area.

The report 'Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Goa- A Statistical Analysis (2014 to 2019), was

released on the occasion. Earlier, Director, Directorate of Women and Child Development, Ms Deepali Naik, welcomed the gathering.  
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