

EDUCATING TEENAGERS ABOUT THE PERILS OF DRUGS IS CRUCIAL: SUBHASH PHAL DESSAI

June 26, 2024

To mark the observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Minister for Social Welfare, Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, inaugurated the program by releasing balloons. The event, held at the KTC Bus Stand in the city, was organized by the Directorate of Social Welfare in collaboration with NGO Human Touch.

Addressing the students Shri Subhash Phal Dessai emphasized the importance of involving students in programs that create awareness about the dangers of drug use and addiction. He stressed that educating and sensitizing teenagers about the perils of drugs is crucial, as the youth are the future leaders of society and can influence others positively.

Highlighting that India is the youngest country, with 65 percent of its population under the age of 35, Minister Phaldesai noted that while the youth are brimming with knowledge, creativity, and potential, it is essential to steer them away from drugs. He strongly advocated for saying no to drugs.

Referring to Prime Minister Modi's vision for a "Vikasit Bharat 2047" (Developed India 2047), Phaldesai opined that in the next 20 years, India will emerge as one of the most advanced and dynamic nations. He emphasized the need to harness the youth's creativity and train them to achieve this vision.

Shri Phaldesai also announced that a film by Jyoti Kunkolienkar "Kalkhi Vaat" addressing the issue of drug trafficking will be screened in colleges, higher secondary schools, and schools to educate students on this critical topic. He urged students to avoid falling prey to drug abuse, as it can ruin lives. He urged NGOs, the general public, and parents to collaborate in raising awareness and providing support, including counseling for those already affected by addiction.

Shri Ajit Panchwadkar, Director of the Directorate of Social Welfare, welcomed the attendees to the event.

Also present were Secretary, Social Welfare, Shri. E. Vallavan, IAS, Dr. Sijo George, Senior Programme Officer for the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, and Ms. Amisha Yadav, State Coordinator for the Project Management Unit (PMU).

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