

GOA UNIVERSITY UNITES FOR A DRUG-FREE FUTURE

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The D. D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, in collaboration with the Goa Business School, successfully hosted a special program recently to mark the 78th Independence Day of India, coinciding with International Youth Day. The event, themed “Vikasit Bharat Ka Mantra, Bharat ho Nashe se Swatantra” (The Mantra for a Developed India: A Drug-Free India), brought together over 200 students, faculty, and staff, all committed to promoting a drug-free environment both on campus and in the wider community.

This initiative is part of Goa University's ongoing efforts to create a drug-free campus, reflecting its dedication to fostering a safe and healthy educational environment. The program began with opening remarks from Prof. Ganesha Somayaji, Dean of the D. D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, and Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Vice-Dean of the Goa Business School, who emphasized the importance of collective action in achieving a drug-free nation and highlighted the university's commitment to this cause.

Peter F. Borges, Assistant Professor of the Social Work Programme, delivered an insightful talk on the role of community involvement in the National Drug Demand Reduction Plan, urging students and faculty alike to actively participate in the university's initiatives to combat substance abuse.

The keynote address was delivered by Shri Akshat Kaushal, IPS, Superintendent of Police, North Goa, and the Anti-Narcotic Cell, who discussed the current challenges of substance abuse in Goa and the proactive measures being taken by law enforcement. Shri Kaushal remarked, "A drug-free India is not just a vision but a collective responsibility. Our strength lies in unity, and together we can eradicate this menace from our society."

The event, held on International Youth Day, concluded with participants taking an e-pledge to commit to a drug-free life. The enthusiastic participation of students, who also signed the e-pledge on the NMBA website, underscored the university's ongoing efforts to maintain a drug-free campus and highlighted the shared resolve to contribute to a healthier, drug-free Goa and India.

The event was coordinated by Peter F. Borges and Prachi Prabhu of the D. D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, along with Heena Gaude and Ramrao Wagh of the Goa Business School, who ensured the smooth execution of this impactful initiative.

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