

GOA SCPCR ORGANISES TRAINING PROGRAM ON COMBATING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG CHILDREN

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The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in collaboration with the Goa Police and Goa Dental College and Hospital, launched a two-day training program to empower Police Sub Inspectors and Constables with the vital knowledge and tools necessary for effectively addressing the critical issue of substance abuse among children and adolescents. Programme was held at Altinho, Panaji [yesterday](#).

Nearly 200 police personnel of various ranks, including those newly inducted, participated in the training programme. It provided a comprehensive curriculum that explores the definition and types of substance abuse, the identification of signs and symptoms, and the enforcement of legal statutes such as the COTPA 2003, NDPS Act 1985, JJ Act 2015, and PECA 2019.

Director General of Police, Shri Jaspal Singh, IPS, Chairperson, Goa SCPCR, Shri Peter F. Borges, Superintendent of Police Training, Smt. Sucheta Dessai, and Dean of Goa Dental College & Hospital, Dr. Ida de Noronha de Ataide were present for the inaugural session.

Shri Peter F. Borges, highlighted the significant role of law enforcement in combating substance abuse among juveniles. "Our goal with this training is to enhance the capabilities of our police force in tackling the challenges of substance abuse, thereby ensuring the safety and welfare of our children. It is crucial for the community to come together in protecting our future generations from the dangers of substance abuse," Borges emphasized.

During the program, Peter Borges also called for stringent enforcement of the Protection of Children from Electronic Cigarette Act (PECA) 2019 amidst growing concerns over the prevalence of vaping within the student community. This call to action underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to mitigate the risks associated with electronic cigarettes, especially among students.

Shri Jaspal Singh, IPS, Director General of Police, underscored the importance of the training: "This program is a mission to protect our future generations from the menace of substance abuse. The Goa Police is fully committed to this cause, and armed with the proper knowledge and skills, we are ready to make significant strides in protecting our youth."

Dr. Ida de Noronha de Ataide commended the collaborative effort to address substance abuse challenges: "At the camps conducted by the Goa Dental College and Hospital, there has been a noticeable prevalence of tobacco misuse and its harmful impact on the youth in the state. In response, we have collaborated with the Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights to introduce a pocket manual [today](#) for enforcing anti substance abuse laws. This manual is designed to empower our law enforcement agencies to tackle the issues of tobacco and vaping effectively. Our institution remains steadfast in supporting the fight against tobacco use."

The program addressed a broad range of topics, including the societal and individual impacts of substance abuse, enforcement strategies for tobacco control, and the legal provisions under various acts such as the COTPA 2003, PECA 2019, and the NDPS Act. Esteemed experts like Dr. Priyanka Sahastrabhojene & Dr. Kavyashree K., Dr. Kashyap Bandodkar, Dr. Akshata Gadiyar, and Adv. Caroline Colasso & Adv. Raju Poulekar shared their insights, focusing on practical approaches for combating substance abuse and supporting affected children.

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