

## **WORLD HEALTH DAY CELEBRATED**

**Panaji, April 07, 2025**

The state level function of the 'World Health Day' was observed at the Main Auditorium of the Institute Menezes Branganza Panaji Goa. Shri Vishwajit P. Rane, Minister for Health was the Chief Guest. The theme for this year's World Health Day is 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures', a year-long campaign on maternal and newborn health.

Shri Rane while speaking on the occasion talked about accessibility, affordability and quality in health care. He laid emphasis on prompt and effective management in health. He also appreciated the efforts and initiative taken by the Health department for promoting good health services to the public. He congratulated all the awards winners for their efforts and ideas.

World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO). The date of 7 April marks the anniversary of the founding of WHO in 1948.

Dr. Kheya Melo Furtado, Associate Professor, Goa Institute of Management, India was the key speaker for the function. Dr. Shivanand Bandekar, Dean, Goa Medical College & Hospital, Smt. Shweta S. Dessai, Director of Food and Drugs Administration, Shri. Manuel Barreto, Director, Directorate of Women and Child Development, Dr. Ida De Naronha de Ataide, Dean Goa Dental College, Bambolim, Prof (Dr) Wilson N. Fernandes, Principal Institute of Nursing education, Dr. Rupa Naik were present on the occasion.

Director, Directorate of Health Services and Dr. Uttam Dessai, Chief Medical Officer, State Family Welfare Bureau was also present for the function.

Dr. Bandekar also spoke on the occasion. Earlier, Dr. Rupa Naik, Director, Directorate of Health Services welcomed the dignitaries and spoke on the performance of the Health Department. Dr. Kheya highlighted the significance of this year's theme dedicated to maternal and newborn health. She emphasized that improving the health of mothers and their newborn is vital not for current communities but for future generations as well.

Annual Outstanding performance awards were given to South Goa District Hospital, Margao. Community Health Center, Valpoi, Community Health Center, Sankhali, Community Health Center, Canacona, Primary Health Center, Corlim and Primary Health Center, Chichinim. Dr. Ujwala Prabhudesai, Dy. Director, Dental, [VF & TUI unit Dept of OBG, GMC and Goa Dental College and Hospital, bambolim. Dr. Shweta Kanekar compered the function and Dr. Utkarsh Betodkar, Epidemiologist Directorate of Health Services proposed the vote of thanks.

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