

CJI Calls for Compassion-Based Justice and Sustained Public Dialogue Against Drug Abuse

CM Sawant Reiterates Zero Tolerance as GSLSA Concludes 30-Day Anti-Drug Campaign in Goa

Panaji, January 25, 2026:

The Goa State Legal Services Authority, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), concluded the first phase of its 30-day special awareness campaign on the theme “Drug Abuse - Drugs: A Menace to Society” with a closing ceremony held at the Kala Academy auditorium in Panaji. The event was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, and the Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant. This event marked the successful culmination of a month-long statewide initiative aimed at raising awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation in the fight against drug abuse.

The campaign, which commenced on December 26, 2025, reached across the entire state of Goa, receiving a positive response from schools, colleges, villages, courts, institutions, and public places. The campaign engaged students, parents, teachers, and citizens through awareness programs, outreach campaigns, and interactive sessions. The initiative focused on legal awareness, early intervention, and rehabilitation, reinforcing the message throughout the state that drug abuse is not merely an individual problem but a serious social issue affecting families and society at large.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, said, “This campaign should not be viewed merely as a formal conclusion, but rather as the beginning of a continuous dialogue with the youth.” He observed that, “Drug abuse is a silent and dangerous enemy that stealthily enters homes and classrooms, destroying potential and futures.” He emphasized that while the law must deal sternly with traffickers, society must respond with compassion towards users, especially young people and first-time offenders. This requires a focus on prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society, in line with upholding constitutional values.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant reiterated the Goa government's zero-tolerance policy towards drugs and drug trafficking. He stated that, “The state has strengthened enforcement through decisive action by the police and the anti-narcotics cell, increased surveillance, and established close coordination with central agencies with the help of modern technology.” He emphasized that awareness and prevention are equally important and that the government is committed to protecting the youth by promoting sports, education, skill development, and rehabilitation, while also ensuring strict action against those involved in drug trafficking.

The event was attended by Hon'ble Justice J. K. Maheshwari, Hon'ble Justice Prasanna B. Varale, Hon'ble Justice Manmohan, Hon'ble Justice Atul S. Chandurkar of the Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Chief Justice Shri Shekhar of the Bombay High Court, Hon'ble Justice Suman Shyam, Senior Judge of the Bombay High Court

at Goa and Executive Chairman of the Goa State Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Justice Valmiki Menezes, Judge of the Bombay High Court at Goa and Chairman of the High Court Legal Services Committee, along with senior judicial officers, legal services authority officials, and other dignitaries.

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Department of Information & Publicity,

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