

GSCPCR ISSUES DIRECTIONS ON PROHIBITION ON SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Panaji: June 03, 2026

The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has issued a circular on Mandatory Enforcement of Prohibition on Sale of Tobacco Products near Educational institutions and Regulation of Sale of Alcohol (wholesale and retail) Compliance and Accountability.

They have brought to attention that under Section 6 (b) of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA), the sale of tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of any educational institution is strictly prohibited. Further, as per Section 77 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, giving or causing to be given to any child intoxicating substances, including tobacco or alcohol, is a punishable offence. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reiterated these provisions in its official communication: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2101735>

Additionally, the sale and licensing of alcohol is governed by State Excise Laws, which impose restrictions on the location and operation of liquor outlets, including proximity to educational institutions. Strict adherence to these provisions is essential in the interest of child safety and public health they have informed.

In view of above the GSCPCR have issued the following directions for immediate compliance and enforcement. All educational institutions shall ensure installation of boards at conspicuous places outside their premises stating “Sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of this institution is prohibited”.

Heads of institutions shall monitor the surrounding vicinity and report any violations, including sale of tobacco or unauthorised /illegal sale of alcohol near the institution, to the jurisdictional police station and concerned authorities.

Law enforcement authorities shall conduct periodic inspections within their jurisdiction to identify violations of COTPA, 2003 and offences under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and initiate prompt legal action.

The Excise Department shall review and ensure that all licensed premises comply with applicable distance and location norms from educational institutions, and take necessary action in case of violations.

Local bodies, including Municipal Councils and Village Panchayats, shall support enforcement by monitoring local compliance, regulating trade licences where applicable, and reporting violations to the competent authorities.

They have stated that, this matter concerns the protection of children and shall be treated with priority and seriousness. Any failure in compliance or enforcement will invite appropriate action.

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Issued by the Department of Information & Publicity

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