

Govt for effective strategies to combat drug trafficking



Governor K Sankaranarayanan addressing the gathering at the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at the State Academy Hall, Kohima on Tuesday.

Our Bureau
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GOVERNOR K. Sankaranarayan today stressed the need for effective coordination among the state and central agencies to make a renewed effort to check smuggling of drugs pointing out that while cure is important, the key lies in prevention.

Speaking as the chief guest at the observation of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at the State Academy Hall today, the Governor pointed out that smuggling of drugs from Myanmar is posing a threat to the northeastern states including Nagaland. Also, noting that there remains a high incidence of intra-venous drug use in the state leading to spread of HIV/AIDS, he urged the central and state agencies to coordinate effectively and make renewed efforts to check smuggling of drugs.

Also, agreeing that the youth remain the most vulnerable group, he mooted devising effective communication strategies to sensitize the youth to the dangers of drug use through the schools and colleges, the churches and other platforms.

"A deeper understanding of drug use in all its aspects is needed to improve our effectiveness," he said adding, "Better intelligence on drug smuggling, profiling of drug users and also of those vulnerable to drugs, documentation of the successful interventions and their analysis will equip us bet-

ter to fight the drug menace".

Also, noting that specialized NGOs have come up in Nagaland to generate awareness and make interventions against drug use, he opined that linkages with such NGOs, community-based institutions and government agencies should be strengthened for increasing the effectiveness of the fight against drugs. "The response to this challenge must come from within the community", he added.

The Governor also questioned as to whether prohibition in Nagaland was successful, pointing out that in spite of the prohibition being in force in the state, liquor is still freely available in the state. Towards this he stressed the importance of education, persuasion and commitment instead of use of force to stop people from taking liquor or drugs.

He further wished the organizers all success in "this important mission".

The Governor also gave away prizes to the winners of the Inter-School Art Competition.

Earlier, special presentations on the subject topic were made by Dr Joyce Angami, Project Officer, UNODC Shillong, Dr Neiphi Kire, Project Director, NSACS and Abou Mere, Coordinator, Kripa Foundation, while a recovering addict also shared his experiences.

General Secretary of NPF, Chubatemjen Ao, who was guest of honour on the occasion, also delivered a short speech on the occasion.