

'Force and law cannot stop addiction'

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STATE GOVERNOR K. Sankararajayyanam today said that addiction, whether it be drugs or alcohol, cannot be contained unless there is change of mindset among the people of Nagaland.

Sankararajayyanam who addressed the International Day against the Illicit Trafficking said that law and force cannot wipe out addiction.

"By force and law cannot stop. You have to change the mind set", said the Governor. "We are all partners in the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Drugs are not new to humans and mankind has been using it since time immemorial for medicinal purposes, recreation and on religious occasions", the Governor said during the function.

"However, with the advancement of science today stronger drugs have been synthesised which are highly addictive and dangerous despite their valued medicinal uses. On the other hand, man's economic greed has led to illicit trade in drugs in spite of international consensus against drugs endangering human life", the Governor added. He also pointed out that India is located between two major illegal opium producing areas - the Golden Triangle compris-



Nagaland Governor, K. Sankararajayyanam addressing the gathering at the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at State Academy Hall, Kohima on June 26, 2019.

ing Myanmar, Thailand and Laos and the Golden Crescent comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. India is both a transit route and a destination for such drugs. About three million people in the country are estimated to be the victims of drugs, he said.

Sounding a high note of caution, the Governor said that smuggling of drugs and opiates from Myanmar, prescription drugs from other states poses a threat to Nagaland and its sister states. The high incidence of intravenous drug use is also leading to the alarming spread of HIV/

AIDS. Therefore, he called on both the central and state agencies to coordinate effectively and make closer to check trafficking. "Youngsters today are more vulnerable to drugs with changes in traditional tribal society due to urbanisation and modernity diluting traditional social control both in the family and community", he said and urged the NGOs to generate more awareness and make intervention against drug use. While cure is important, prevention remains the key, he maintained.

The Governor also questioned whether prohibition

was a success or not. He said that in spite of prohibition, liquor is still available in our state. Therefore, he stressed on the importance of education, persuasion and commitment instead of using force or forcing people to stop from taking liquor or drugs. Above all, the change of one's mindset is the best, he said and called on the NGOs to have personal interaction with the people to be more effective. The Governor also presented awards to the students in the Inter-School Art Competition.

Earlier the General Secretary of NPE, Chabutanjen

AA, who was the guest of honour, said that social support is very most important in bringing people to the right path. Many former addicts are today doing commendable jobs both in the government and private organisations and this should be emulated by all addicted persons to regain freedom of their life. If others can, why not you, he said.

The welcome address was delivered by the Chairman, N Naga DAO, WC, Humentse, association prayer by Rev. Dr. T. Nyirakha and Dr. Joyot Angami Project Director UN/ODC Shilong

highlighted on the significance of the day. State people to people's dialogue was presided by Abu Mev while Dr. Neishi Kimo, Project Director, NSACS delivered a thought on the present HIV/AIDS status in Nagaland. Special number by Boulie and a sharing by Hetso, a recovering addict, were the other highlights of the day. Vote of Thanks was delivered by P. Ngully, Director KJTC NE II. The programme was attended by government officials and students from different schools in Kohima.