

PRESS RELEASE


Imphal, the 24th September, 2019



One day Awareness campaign against illicit poppy plantation was conducted on 24/9/2019 at Churachandpur District H/Q. The programme started with the arrival of the Chief Guest and all the Dignitaries at around 11:00 am and it was followed by an introduction and felicitation of the esteemed guests.

Shri.Kabib K, IPS Dy.Inspector General of Police(Range-ii/iii), delivered a welcome speech in which he welcomed Shri.L.M.Khaute DGP Manipur for sparing some time to grace the function as the Chief Guest, and also all the other officials as well as the resource persons who came for the programmed. He briefly highlighted the seriousness of the issue of poppy cultivation and also warned how we are compromising with our future if we do not act in this regard now. He ended his welcome speech with an appeal to all the guests and invitees representing different organizations and villages etc. to extend a helping hand in the fight against this current menace facing our society. The welcome was followed by an inaugural speech from Shri. L.M.Khaute DGP Manipur, who spoke about Government's war against drugs. He also highlighted the seriousness with which the Government and its agencies are making efforts to reduce the menace. And that, such awareness campaign will be carried out at 9 other districts and Churachandpur being the first one to host it. Shri. W. Basu Singh, MPS, Superintendent of police, NAB, Manipur delivered a detailed presentation on the different types and classification of drugs and the Laws related to drugs in general and the legal provisions related to Poppy cultivation in particular. Shri. Thangboi Gangte MCS, ADC Churachandpur also gave a short speech on behalf of the District Administration wherein he briefly mentioned about the ongoing project of "POSHAN Abhiyaan" , a government mission/initiative to make India healthy and free of malnutrition. Shri.Khamsuanmung Tawmbing, Conservator of Forest, Southern Circle, also delivered a short speech on the topic of poppy cultivation wherein he highlighted the issues related with the cultivation of poppy such as deforestation, erosion etc. Colonel Mithun Shetty of 25th Assam Rifles also represented the Assam Rifles and he discussed the history of the drugs and that Assam Rifles will fully cooperate with the district administration and District Police in future operations. This was followed by an Interactive Session which was moderated by Shri.Lunsieh Kipgen,IPS, Inspector General of police (Zone-ii), Manipur. Some of the feedback received from the participants during the Interactive Session are as follows, (1) Dr.Chinkholal, observed that the Government needs to institute a dedicated Task Force to address the issue, Rehabilitation of the cultivators by arranging alternatives source of income and crop. He also suggested stringent actions against the defaulters. (2) Shri.John Ngaihte also highlighted the need for strong will of the Village Chiefs and District Administration along with coordination of both the stakeholders in curbing Poppy cultivation. (3) KWO President Smt.Ngaineikim also spoke on the need for all the organizations and departments to come together and she appreciated the efforts of the organizers of the present Awareness campaign. (4) Thangkholal Baite, the Chief of Haupi Vangmun, who represented the Sangaikot area chief association also highlighted some of the main issues or dilemma facing the village chiefs. He was of the opinion that lack of roads/transport in remote villages etc encourages the villagers to cultivate poppy plant as the product is much more easier to transport and the economic returns are way more than any cash crop. (5) Mr.Minlal Gangte, KSO Secretary, also questioned the seriousness of the Government with regard to the initiatives taken up as the cultivation continues and is increasing despite of the many initiatives. The Superintendent of police, Churachandpur thanked the DGP Manipur and other dignitaries, resource persons and the participants for sparing

their valuable time for their busy schedule. The programme was followed by saplings plantation by dignitaries.


(W. Basu Singh) MPS
Superintendent of Police/NAB
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