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KARNATAKA

COTPA training event for police personnel of Uttara Kannada

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VJAYKUMAR PATIL

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In its continuing drive against tobacco and to implement the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA), a training programme for police personnel of Bagalkot, Belagavi, Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts of north Karnataka was conducted at Khanapur on Thursday.

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Inaugurating the workshop, G.R. Patil, Superintendent of Police and Principal of Police Training School, Khanapur, called upon the police to work hard to ensure the districts achieved credible results in tobacco control.

The government was putting lot of efforts to implement COPTA and no police officer was expected to show negligence, according to a press release. Achyutha Nagaragadde, a resource person from the Institute of Public Health (IPH), Bengaluru, highlighted the disastrous effect of tobacco smoking and consumption to the human health. He also explained in detail various provisions of COTPA.

He said the sale of tobacco products was banned within 100 yards jurisdiction of educational institutions and action must be taken against violations.

Ban of smoking in public places including bus stand, parks, hotels and restaurants, bakery, shops, cinema halls, government and private office premises should be enforced.

Also, warning signage to be installed at these places, illegal tobacco advertisements in public places to be cleared, regular drives be conducted at each station level to enforce tobacco control laws and regular awareness programmes in police station jurisdiction on the COTPA rules and regulations should be conducted.

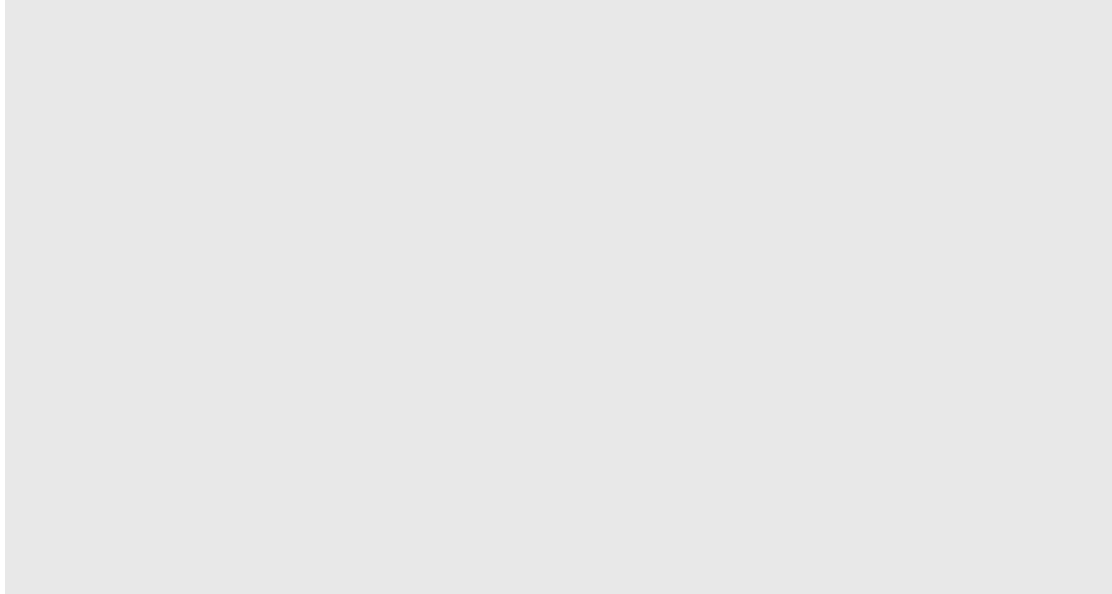
In India, more than 10 lakh people die every year due to tobacco consumption, 34.6 per cent of Indian population consumes tobacco in one or the other form.

In Karnataka, around 2 crore people consume tobacco and around 40 per cent of men and 16 per cent of women in the State consume tobacco in one or the other forms.


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In Karnataka, around 2 crore persons consume tobacco



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