Press Release from Education Department

Education Department, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with the State Tobacco Control Cell, Health & Family Welfare Department, successfully organized a comprehensive sensitization programme for all staff of the Education Department today at the Conference Hall, Jan Sewa Bhawan, Lumsey, Tadong.

The programme was coordinated by Mrs. Asha Khatri, State Nodal Officer for Nasha Mukt Vidyalaya (Samagra Shiksha), and Mrs. Gonam Bhutia, State Nodal Officer for ToFEI (School Education),

Mr. Rinzing Bhutia, Joint Director, State Tobacco Control Cell, Health & Family Welfare Department, graced the occasion as the resource person and delivered a talk on the harmful effects of tobacco and its products, along with key legal provisions and prescribed penalties under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, and the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019. During his address, he delivered an insightful presentation on the severe health hazards of tobacco consumption and emphasized the crucial role of educational institutions and department officials in promoting healthy lifestyles and maintaining tobacco-free school environments. Furthermore, the Joint Director strictly instructed the Nodal Officers to impose fines on anyone found smoking or violating COTPA within the department premises or in any other public places.

During the session, as part of the ongoing Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0 (running from October 28 to December 26), all participants actively joined the movement by scanning the campaign QR code to take an online pledge committing to quitting and embracing a tobacco-free life.

Aligning with the broader national mission of Nasha Mukt Bharat, the initiative aims to strengthen enforcement and awareness among staff members and was well-attended by all officers, staff members, and drivers of the department.