

## PRESS RELEASE



### Smokers Beware: Meghalaya Police Crack Down on Public Smoking Under COTPA

**Shillong, Meghalaya** – To protect public health and reduce tobacco use, the **East Khasi Hills Police** have stepped up enforcement of the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003**, targeting smoking in public places and illegal tobacco sales near schools and colleges.

**Cantonment Beat House** and **Lumdiengjri Police Station** have led the charge, booking the highest number of violators under this initiative. Enforcement is being carried out in every Police Station, Outpost, and Beat House across the district. This district-wide action is part of the **National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP)**, implemented by the **Health & Family Welfare Department** under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, Meghalaya.

“This campaign is not just about fines—it’s about changing behavior and protecting children, elders, and non-smokers from passive smoke. Our goal is a tobacco-free Meghalaya,” said a senior police official.

The initiative has received public support. A **St. Anthony’s College student** remarked:

“There are kids and elderly who suffer due to smoke. Meghalaya Police are doing a great job saving lives.”

**Dr. Nabneeta D. Mawrie**, NTCP State Nodal Officer, added:

“Tobacco causes 40% of all cancers and 90% of oral cancer. Eliminating it can save countless lives. We appreciate the police’s active role.”

In last three months, **East Khasi Hills Police** have issued **1178 challans** and collected **₹ 99,280 in fines**, setting a strong example for tobacco control enforcement. This joint effort by **Meghalaya Police** and **NTCP Meghalaya** is paving the way toward a healthier, tobacco-free society.

