

NACO NEWS



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 **WORLD AIDS DAY** 



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



CONTENT



Cover Story

World AIDS Day: Hands up for #HIVPREVENTION.....5-8

Programmes

Launching of Social Protection Identity Card for PLHIVs.....9

Workshop on BRICS HIV & TB.....10

A Dialogue with the Champions- Children Living with HIV..... 11

“Blood Connects Us All”- Mega Blood Donation Camp..... 12

State level GIPA Convention.....13

National Training Workshop for Master Trainers on “Strengthening Quality Management Systems in Blood Banks”.....14

States

Meghalaya.....15

Goa..... 16

A Home for Orphan CLHIV - Chetnankur.....17

Events

India International Trade Fair 2016 – Display of IT initiatives..... 18

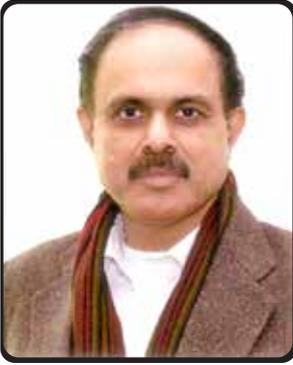
Assam, Odisha, West Bengal 19

Punjab, Manipur, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Karnataka..... 20

Goa, Maharashtra..... 21

Success Story

Journey to one million patients on ART..... 22-23



From the Desk of Patron

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to share my views in the NACO News. As we all know, newsletter is a reflection of an organization's mission as well as goals.

NACO News is a quarterly publication from the house of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India which reflects achievements, hardships, challenges and dedication undertaken by the organization. NACO has done a remarkable job with a vision of an India where every person living with HIV has access to quality care and is treated with dignity. Effective prevention, care and support for HIV/AIDS is possible in an environment where human rights are respected and where those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS live a life without stigma and discrimination.

This edition of newsletter features articles from State AIDS Control Societies. The current edition includes article on mega event on World AIDS Day organized by NACO in Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in Delhi in which Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India was the Chief Guest. There are various other activities which are covered under the section pertaining to Programme, Events & States.

This year we should try some innovations to take our fight against AIDS to newer heights. With these thoughts, I do hope that the NACO News will highly encourage and keep the readers updated.

All the thinkers & writers are free to share their piece of article to the upcoming edition. Wishing you all a sparkling year ahead!

Dr. Arun K. Panda
Additional Secretary & DG, NACO
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India



From the Desk of Editor

Time to tighten the belt!

With the end of 2016 & beginning of 2017, it is but natural that we look back and introspect as to where we have arrived and how far still we need to go.

While consistent declining of new infections and AIDS related deaths is a sign of moving in the right direction, yet there are emerging new challenges and programmatic constraints. However, I am sure new year will definitely bring new opportunities to move faster and to do things differently.

Seven lakh PLHIV not knowing their status is a matter of concern and needs to be addressed on priority. Every State, every region, every community has to come out with regional and local strategies to ensure that all who need to know must know their status and make full use of the facilities available under HIV/AIDS programme.

More than 50% pregnant women not getting tested and thereby not knowing their status is unacceptable. With an aim of elimination of mother to child transmission by 2020 and End AIDS by 2030 as Sustainable Development Goal, we need to tighten our belts urgently. Massive educational programme for protection of adolescents, reaching all for testing, linking all eligibles to treatment and ensuring adherence by all are some of the top most priorities and require active engagement of workers in the field.

Another major issue still prevalent is stigma and discrimination at health care settings, educational institutions and workplaces. We have to fight this menace jointly to make a stigma and discrimination free society where everyone feels respected while visiting any facilities of NACO.

Agenda for 2017 is to focus on

1. Reaching the unreached
2. Quality improvement in service delivery
3. Real time monitoring
4. Protecting rights of all PLHIV

I am sure this new year 2017 will bring more opportunities and success for all of us to do more and more for betterment of PLHIV and finally eliminating AIDS from India and the whole world.

Let us reiterate pledge to make this world free of HIV/AIDS.

Wishing you a glorious new year.

Dr. Naresh Goel
DDG (IEC & LS),
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India

World AIDS Day: Hands up for #HIVPREVENTION



Dignitaries releasing NACO "MY STAMP" on the occasion of World AIDS Day in JLN Stadium, Delhi

Every year, 1st December is observed as the World AIDS Day (WAD). This day provides an opportunity for the people around the globe to join hands and unite to fight against HIV. The day marks the remembrance to the Person's Living with HIV (PLHIV) and to memorialize who lost their lives because of HIV virus. Looking back in to the history, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988.

Like every year, this year also, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India organized a mega event in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) in Delhi. The event was attended by more than 2500 people from civil society organizations, community members, students from schools and colleges, representatives from NGOs, Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners, officials from different government departments.



Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister Health & Family Welfare, Government of India inaugurated exhibition

The event started with an AIDS awareness walk flagged off by Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary Health & Family Welfare, Government of India attended by children from schools, colleges, NGO's.

An exhibition showcasing the IT systems developed by NACO was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri J. P. Nadda.

The main event started with welcome of dignitaries on dais and the lighting of lamp. The welcome address was given by Dr. C. V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO.

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister Health & Family Welfare, Government of India mentioned that India has the third highest burden of people living with HIV globally , after South Africa and Nigeria but has a low prevalence of 0.26% only. India was predicted to be the AIDS Capital of world around two decades ago but we have now been acclaimed as a success story in HIV prevention and treatment and many countries are learning from Indian programme, particularly on community involvement and civil society engagement. India has been able to reverse the epidemic of HIV, show consistent decline in HIV prevalence over the years, 57% reduction in the incidences of new infections, and 29% decline also in the number of AIDS-related deaths. Once again, he urge people of nation to come together and join hands in this fight against HIV so that together we can end the epidemic by 2030.



Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare delivers the speech

Shri C. K. Mishra Secretary, Health & Family Welfare

“So, we are here today to celebrate the success of whatever we were able to achieve during the last few years and also on this day renew a pledge that our commitment, our fight, our resolve and our partnership will continue in future to make sure that we reap the gains of whatever we’ve done in the past”.

Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Regional Director, WHO

“Most of all, sustainable financing which would make this possible. This will steer India towards an aids free generation, which will contribute tremendously to an AIDS free World”.

India’s AIDS Control programme has always involved community members at every level. During the event, Ms. Gautami shared her journey of struggle. She urged that government should continue to provide support for the well being of children living with HIV.

Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Hon'ble MoS for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India assured that the government will provide all necessary support, not from only the Health Ministry but from all other concerned ministries to ensure that People living with HIV get proper nutrition and avail other social benefit schemes. He also shares that we have to fulfill our global commitment on zero stigma and discrimination.



Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Hon'ble MoS for Health & Family Welfare addressing gathering

Ms. Gautami HIV Patient

“Extend your help to each of the children in this world specially in India and I’m sure that you all will help children like me and my friends out there because we are one family coming together as communities so with good care, support and treatment a child can build up a good life”.

Ms. Sadhna Jadhav HIV Patient

“Around 25 lakh people are suffering from HIV infection. Out of which 10 lakh people are already on ART. If it continues, people like us will get better health and living opportunities.”



Ms. Gautami shares her views to the audience



Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon’ble MoS for Health & Family Welfare addresses the event

Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon’ble MoS Health & Family Welfare, Government of India emphasized that NACO has done commendable job and its work is recognized globally. India has been able to bring consistent decline in HIV prevalence, in the new infections, and also in the number of AIDS related deaths. Newer vulnerabilities continue to emerge, and there is also the need to expand the scope of our services. She paid tribute to those who have lost their lives to the HIV/AIDS. She also assure that we are committed to provide any support require from and stressed on to continue fight against HIV and amplify efforts to end the epidemic by 2030.

Releases on the event of WAD

1. In the series of launches on World AIDS Day the Hon’ble HFM and both the Ministers of State first released “**My Stamp**” customized stamp prepared by NACO in collaboration with Department of post.
2. HIV Counseling and Testing Guidelines, 2016 which clearly outline a well-defined public health approach to strengthen and expand HTS for spearheading country’s response to HIV/AIDS
3. A Report on Assessment of Blood Banks in India
4. NACO “AIDS Mobile App” which is a smart phone application and a unique initiative available for the general public, High Risk Group population and PLHIV/PLHA.



Colourful and magnificent dance performance by Dance Troupe



Audiences during the World AIDS Day in JLN stadium, Delhi



Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri J.P Nadda, launching Isoniazid Preventive therapy and releasing the Guidelines for Prevention and Management of PLHIV at ART Centres

TB is a common opportunistic Infection and the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, accounting for one in four HIV-related deaths. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India through its NACO and Central TB Division (CTD) has been undertaking joint collaborative efforts to mitigate the dual burden of HIV and TB Co-infection. The National Framework for HIV-TB Collaborative Activities in India (Nov, 2013) & Standard TB Care in India recommend Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT) as one of important strategy for prevention of TB among PLHIV.

During the event of World AIDS Day ,2016, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri J.P Nadda, launched Isoniazid Preventive therapy and release the “Guidelines for Prevention and Management of PLHIV at ART Centres”. People living with HIV who are unlikely to have active TB will receive at least six months of IPT from ART centres as part of a comprehensive package of HIV care.

Music and dance are the most beloved human experiences.To grace the occasion, a magnificent dance performance by Transgenders and the music performance by Rasiks musical band disseminated a positive message “how to live life facing all challenges”.

An oath for creating awareness and providing enabling environment to all PLHIV was administered jointly by Dr. C. V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO and Dr. Henk Bekedam, WHO Representative. A vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Mrinalini Darswal, Project Director, Delhi SACS.

The World AIDS Day is always an opportunity to show support to and solidarity with the millions of people living with HIV. The ceremony ended with a positive note to join hands and fight against HIV & AIDS.

Ms. Neha Pandey, NACO

Launching of Social Protection Identity Card for PLHIVs

Due to Stigma & Discrimination, most of PLHIVs were not carrying their Aadhaar card. Hence in order to help them Deputy Commissioner (DC), Ukhrul & DAPCU organized a meeting for Aadhaar enrollment especially for the PLHIVs at District AIDS Control Officer (DACO) Office Chamber and other missing enrollment are fetch through National Population Registration (NPR). The continuous support of TIs & DAPCU has

made this activity a success. More than 50 people attended the function, out of them 40 PLHIV.

The need for making Identity Card (ID) for PLHIVs has been felt for a long time. The Deputy Commissioner, Ukhrul, Shri Hrisheekesh Modak, IAS, former Chairman, DAPCC has sponsored the printing of the 500 ID cards. In the first phase, 100 ID Cards were printed.



Dr. Lucy Duidang, DACO & RS. Thomas, DIS with DC



DAPCU Led Single Window Model Committee

The purpose for ID cards is to provided an identity and security to PLHIVs, availing themselves of the Social Benefit Schemes (SBS), Social Protection Schemes (SPS) from various governmental line departments, avoiding doubling in the number of the statistics of the PLHIVs and to track them for minimizing the LFUs.

Dr. Govind Bansal, NACO

Technical Resource Group Meeting for Transgender/Hijra

A meeting of Technical Resource Group (TRG) for Transgender/Hijra (TG/H) population was conducted on 5th December, 2016 at NACO to present the findings of IBBS (2014-15) study on Hijra/Transgender population and elucidate discussions and response on providing next steps for bringing in programmatic efficiency and cost optimization. Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, DDG (TI, M&E) briefed TRG members on the recently concluded IBBS study. The meeting was jointly chaired by Mr. Venkatesan Chakrapani, Chairman, Centre for Sexuality Health Research and Policy, Chennai and Ms. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, Chairperson, Astitva Trust, Mumbai.

During the meeting, the TRG highlighted significance of programmatic implications especially on reaching out to underage Transgender/Hijra, ensuring condom supply, imparting skills in condom usage and addressing issues related to consistent condom use, increasing use of newer ways to provide HIV prevention information and follow up. The TRG Members acknowledged NACO's attempt to conduct first ever IBBS study focusing on Hijra/Transgender and highlighted that it is one of the largest study ever conducted globally. Members had requested NACO to involve community in the Community Advisory

Board and Community Monitoring Board. Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (IEC), NACO along with representatives from Transgender/ Hijra community, academicians, researchers, representatives from MoHFW & MSJE, TI officers from NACO & SACS were also present in the meeting.

Sh. Rajeenald T.D, NACO

Workshop on BRICS HIV & TB

A two day meeting of Programme Managers for HIV & Tuberculosis from BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) countries was held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 15-16 November, 2016, focusing on two major public health challenges of the BRICS countries-TB and HIV, in the context of the End TB Strategy, the Global Plan to End TB & Global Targets of “90-90-90” for HIV/AIDS & TB.



Dr. K. S. Sachdeva, DDG (BSD), NACO addressing participants in the workshop

The BRICS countries account for about 30% of new HIV infections and over 40% of all TB incidences, worldwide. In addition, nearly 50% of drug-resistant TB and 38% of all TB/HIV cases occur in the BRICS countries. Each of these developing economies has its success and challenges, in efforts to combat these diseases, which offer opportunities of cross-learning. The country delegations to the Ahmedabad Meeting was led by programme managers of TB and HIV from the respective BRICS countries and other senior officials/ technical experts from Central TB Division and National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, National Institutes, World Health Organization, UNAIDS and STOP TB Partnership. Dr. K. S. Sachdeva, DDG (BSD), NACO, Dr. Rajesh Deshmukh PO, (HIVTB), NACO & Dr. R. Gangakhedkar, Director, NARI, Pune presented India’s response and best practices.

Ms. Jyoti Sharma, NACO

Innovative Cascading Model of Quality Training for FSW & Trucker Staff implementing Targeted Interventions

National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) is implementing the capacity building initiative to strengthen the implementation of the Targeted Intervention program for Female Sex Workers (FSWs) and Long Distance Truckers TIs across the country (except for the North-East region). The National Level Training of Master Trainers for FSW and Trucker interventions implementing Targeted Intervention (TIs) was conducted by NACO & PHFI at New Delhi.

The training program was inaugurated by Joint Secretary, NACO. State-wise pool of 52 Master Trainers, were trained to impart further training to FSWs & Truckers TIs, Program Managers in respective States (except North-East region) across the country with the support from TSU & SACS facilitated by PHFI. In a short duration of three months, 787 Program Managers (FSW & Trucker TI) across all the States have trained as Trainers.



Training in Bihar SACS



Training in the Uttar Pradesh SACS

Ms. Pradnya Raut, NACO

A Dialogue with the Champions- Children Living with HIV

Children Living with HIV from Sneha Gram, a learning site of HIV/AIDS OVC Social Protection Project being implemented by Karnataka Health Promotion Trust, Bengaluru participated in the marathon organised by Non-Stop Entertainment Business (NEB) Sports in New Delhi on 6th November, 2016. They were also invited to NACO for an interaction session. Children along

with the mentors from Sneha Gram, Fr. Mathew and Mr. Elvis attended the session in NACO on 7th November, 2016 which was chaired by Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO along with Dr. C. V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, DDGs and other NACO officials. These children had participated in 10K Marathon and won many hearts.



Shri N. S. Kang Secretary & DG, NACO along with CLHIVs from Sneha Gram and NACO Team

During interaction with these children, Shri Kang emphasised that children's involvement in sports helps in holistic approach to educate and build skills for a healthy lifestyle and better preparedness for future. In addition, NACO is committed to provide comprehensive care,

support & treatment to all children infected & affected by HIV. Earlier, in the welcome note, Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG, (IEC and Lab Services), welcomed the guests. Fr. Mathew, Director, Sneha Gram also shared his views related to CLHIVs.

Mr. Ravi, NACO

First Joint Working Group meeting with Department of Rural Development

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Department of Rural Development (DoRD) and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The first Joint Working Group meeting was held on 17th October, 2016 chaired by Secretary, DoRD and co-chaired by Dr. C. V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO.

Dr. C. V. Dharma Rao emphasized that there is a need for mainstreaming of PLHIV into the Rural Development programs and Social Protection Schemes. The Secretary (DoRD) suggested NACO to share the numbers of PLHIV with DoRD to enable them to know the area of greater concentration for the epidemic for better planning and mainstreaming of PLHIV into rural development schemes. He also informed that the department is preparing a framework for catering disabled people under various schemes. He ensured that once framework is complete, department will explore similar kind of framework for PLHIVs.

Mr. Ashish Verma, NACO



Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, DoRD, Dr. C.V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO along with JWG members

Outcomes:-

- a) NACO will share the data on number of People Living with HIV (PLHIVs) in the country with DoRD to enable effective partnership between NACO and DoRD. This will also enable DoRD to know the additional financial requirement for mainstreaming of PLHIV into the programmes /schemes of the DoRD.
- b) Skills Division, DoRD will examine the possibility of preparing a framework under DDU-GKY for PLHIV once the framework for disabled people under DDU-GKY gets completed.
- c) States where State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLMs) are vibrant and have sufficient coverage with SHGs may be made partner for mainstreaming of PLHIV.
- d) MGNREGA Division will share the list of permissible works under MGNREGA with NACO. NACO will examine the list of works and advise the department as to which works are suitable for PLHIV.
- e) To celebrate World's AIDS Day, intimation may be sent to SRLMs on which the respective SRLMs will take a final call.
- f) A link of NACO website will be hosted on Ministry of Rural Development's website.
- g) For training programmes, NACO may directly consult Director General, NIRD with the proposal.

"Blood Connects Us All"- Mega Blood Donation Camp

The first Joint Working Group meeting formed at the National Level was held at Directorate of Empowerment of Persons with Disability on 29th September, 2016. The outcome of the meeting resulted in a decision to organize a Mega Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Delhi on the occasion of World AIDS Day, 2016. The Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was organized at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, Vishnu Digamber Marg, New Delhi on 1st December, 2016.



Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment with DEPwD & NACO Officials

Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hon'ble Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, inaugurated the event. Shri N. S. Kang, Secretary, DEPwD, Shri Awanish K. Awasthi, Joint Secretary & CVO, DEPwD, Dr. Shobini Rajan, Assistant Director General & Director National Blood Transfusion Council, NACO and Dr. Bharat Singh, Director Delhi State Blood Transfusion Council were also present during the event.



Volunteers donating blood during blood donation camp

- Around 1500 youth participated in the event.
- 214 units of blood were collected with support of Medical and Para-medical staff from the Blood Banks of six hospital namely, Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Guruteg Bahadur Hospital & AIIMS, Indian Red Cross Society and other agencies.
- As a token of appreciation, T-Shirts and Mugs were also presented to the blood donors.

Mr. Krishna Gautam, NACO

State level GIPA Convention

Goa SACS organized the first Greater involvement of People Living with AIDS (GIPA) Convention in the State. The objectives of the convention were to strengthen partnership among all key stake holders to increase linkages and over all HIV response, identify the capacity building needs of PLHIV Populations, increase awareness about the needs and scope of CABA, PLHIV and Key Population (KP), involve and sensitize other line departments to inclusion of PLHIV

in existing schemes and increase uptake and reducing stigma & discrimination and treatment literacy.

Dr. Jose D'Sa, Project Director, Goa SACS presented the current scenario of PLHIV in Goa. Shri Sudhir Mahajan, IAS, Secretary (Health), Government of Goa spoke about internal stigma among PLHIV and how HIV should be mainstreamed within organization.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa Shri Laxmikant Parsekar addressing the convention

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Laxmi Kant Parsekar was the Chief Guest. He has urged people to stop discriminating people living with HIV as Stigma and Discrimination kills people more than the infection. A Poster on Social Security Schemes and a short film on services of GSACS were also released during the event.

A tablet application supporting the outreach workers of Vihaan project to efficiently serve the HIV+clients was distributed to all the ORWs and Peer Counselor of Vihaan. Dr. Pradeep Naik, Dean, Goa Medical College & Mr. Ravi Bhushan, PO (IEC & Mainstreaming), NACO were also present in the inaugural ceremony.

Mr. Ravi & Mr. Mohnish Kumar, NACO

National Training Workshop for Master Trainers on “Strengthening Quality Management Systems in Blood Banks”

Ensuring quality in the day to day Blood Banking procedures is one of the key mandate of Blood Transfusion Services Division. Accordingly NACO/NBTC along with project partners & leading experts in Transfusion Medicine has devised a standardized training curriculum (Trainers Guide & Trainee's Handbook) for building capacities of BB staff designated as Technical Manager and Quality Manager together with one Medical Officer in indentified NACO supported Blood Banks.

These trainings are designed to focus on developing skills for improving Quality Management Systems at Blood Banks so as to improve their working and delivery of services and take steps towards certification and accreditation of services. In this regard, a National Training Workshop for Master Trainers on “Strengthening Quality Management Systems in Blood Banks” was conducted from 24th to 26th October, 2016 in Gurugram. Subsequently, roll-out of Regional Trainings is planned January 2017 onwards.

Mr. Jolly J Lazarus & Dr. Shobini Ranjan, NACO



National Training Workshop for Master Trainers on “Strengthening Quality Management Systems in Blood Banks”



National Training of Trainers Workshop for Counseling Blood Donors

An exclusive module has been developed for developing capacities of staff who counsel blood donors. A National Training of Trainers Workshop for counseling Blood Donors was organized from 18th–20th October, 2016 in Mumbai. The aim of this training was to prepare counsellors for motivating potential donors, on organizing community awareness about the cause of blood donation and

organizing public donation drives apart from their existing Terms of Reference (TOR) of Pre and Post Donation counseling & improve referral linkages of TTI reactive Donors. The materials have been written in a non-technical language for Donors. The regional trainings are also planned to roll out soon.

Mr. Jolly J Lazarus & Dr. Shobini Ranjan, NACO



National Training of Trainers Workshop for Counseling Blood Donors



Meghalaya



The Meghalaya AIDS Control Society (MACS) organized a musical talent hunt for the brand ambassador for HIV & AIDS campaign to combat the spread of infection in the State which is said to be in the vulnerable-category. “The Meghalaya Icon 6” was conducted with the sole aim to achieve mass awareness among the people of the State on the subject of HIV and AIDS on 8th October, 2016.

The winner of the “Meghalaya Icon 6” will become brand ambassador for all HIV & AIDS Awareness activities of Meghalaya AIDS Control Society (MACS) for a period of one year or till the next Icon is crowned. The competition was marked on two parts: 60% on music and 40% on their knowledge of HIV & AIDS. Music, a universal language and tool to inform and create awareness on the issue of HIV and AIDS particularly among the youth of the State.

The grand finale of the “Meghalaya Icon 6” rocked the show and Symphonic Illusion stole the hearts of the judges and the music lovers who had thronged the Malki Ground on 8th October, 2016 to witness the slugfest between the nine bands that had made it to the final. Needless to say the Shillong based Symphonic Illusion was adjudged the best band and walked away with Rs 1 lakh cash prize besides becoming the “Brand Ambassador”. Safe and Sound from Tura were adjudged 1st runner up & also winning the Best Theme Song on HIV/AIDS, while The Lynx from Jowai were adjudged 2nd Runner up.

Special Guests for the event, Dr. R. O. Budnah, Directorate of Health Services (MCH&FW), Government of Meghalaya, Dr. D. Lyngdoh, Directorate of Health Services (Research etc.), Government of Meghalaya & Dr. (Mrs) B. Mawthoh, Project Director, Meghalaya AIDS Control Society honoured the winners.

Meghalaya SACS



A snapshot of Grand finale-Meghalaya icon 6



Winner of Meghalaya icon 6 Symphonic illusion

Goa

District Level Consultation Meeting for Industries



District Level Consultation Meeting for Industries in South Goa, under ELM Model (ELM) on 9th December, 2016

The District Level Consultation Meeting for Industries in South Goa, under ELM Model (ELM) was held on 9th December, 2016. Mr. Ajit Panchwadkar, Deputy Collector, South Goa welcomed the Guest & urged the Industries to join hands with GSACS to fight against HIV/AIDS. Dr. Jose D'Sa, Project Director presented a brief on Employer Model & stressed on how important it is

to work on ELM Model in order to reach the migrants. Shri Swapnil Naik, District Collector, South Goa was the Chief Guest. He has shared that a lot of migrants are engaged in industrial sector as informal workers & do not have access to information & services provided by GSACS. In total 42 industries participated in the consultation meeting.

Goa, SACS

Rajasthan

Advocacy with Rajasthan State Legal Service Authority (RSLSA)

The rights of PLHIVs and Most at Risk Populations (MARPs) are often violated because of their presumed or breach of confidentiality, Stigma & Discrimination, known HIV status, causing them to suffer both the burden of the disease and the consequential loss of other rights. The harassment and violation of basic rights become major barriers for accessing social security scheme & protection, prevention, treatment, care & support services. It may obstruct their access to or affect their employment, housing & other rights, which may in turn increase the chances of risk behavior & thereby chances of transmission to others. The worst sufferers among are women infected and affected by HIV and their families, orphan children infected & affected with HIV. Thus, legal protection is one of the emerging needs. As an

outcome of mainstreaming efforts, Rajasthan State Legal Service Authority has made provisions for Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), Man having Sex with Man (MSM), People living with HIV and Transgender to train them as Paralegal Volunteer (PLV) under NALSA scheme at district level. They will work as PLV to generate legal awareness in their community as well as will support for legal help.

Mainstreaming unit has initiated advocacy with RSLSA on this matter and explained the issues related to HIV like fear of confidentiality, Stigma & Discrimination, self stigma and violence in result of HIV infection. It was also communicated that PLHIVs and HRGs are not aware of their legal rights. PLHIVs from the community will work to spread awareness in their community.

Rajasthan, SACS

A Home for Orphan CLHIV - Chetnankur



Group Photo of Participants during Workshop conducting by DAPCU Buldhana

Maharashtra SACS

On the occasion of Children's Day i.e. 14th November, 2016, a unique Project in DAPCU Buldhana had made a history "Chetnankur project", Maharashtra. The project started for orphan Children Living with HIV (CLHIV). In this Project free of cost lodging and boarding, health facility & educational facility will be provided to CLHIVs. The Project has been started with the efforts & initiatives of DAPCU Buldhana, District Administration, Krishi Samruddhi Multipurpose Foundation Buldhana and Network of Buldhana Project enrolled 50 CLHIVs. Earlier DAPCU, Buldhana tried their level best to make suitable arrangement for CLHIVs in orphan home but could not succeed. DAPCU conducted two workshops for parents of CLHIV & tried to convince parents to send their ward to orphan home. Only 3 parents enrolled in orphan homes located at Beed.



Dr. Suniti Solomon

**Padma Shri Award Posthumously
(14th October, 1939-28th July, 2015)**

Dr. Suniti Solomon, along with her team, documented the first case of HIV in India in 1986 at Madras Medical College (MMC), Chennai, where she served as a Professor of Microbiology for over two decades. At MMC, She formed India's first AIDS Resource Group. Between 1988 and 1993, this became a dedicated centre that combined HIV-specific voluntary counseling and testing, continuing and social services. This broke new ground as there was no precedent of a comprehensive HIV/AIDS facility with in the country in neither the public nor the private sector.

India International Trade Fair 2016 – Display of IT initiatives

India International Trade Fair (IITF) was organized by India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) from 14th–27th November in the Pragati Maidan, Delhi. During the trade fair, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare also participated & displayed their activities / services / achievements in the dedicated Health Pavilion. This year, the theme of IITF 2016 was “Digital India”. National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) actively participated & showcased IT system initiatives under “Digital India”.

Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Hon’ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India inaugurated the Health Pavilion. NACO had undertaken several initiatives under “Digital India” & developed various IT systems. The key IT systems displayed by NACO were – Strategic Information Management System (SIMS), PL-HIV ART Linkage System (PALS), Inventory Management System (IMS), Migrant Service Delivery System (MSDS), E-training Modules for OST, etc.

Also, separate booths were set-up for free Counselling and Testing. The stats for testing done during IITF 2016 as below:

Total Testing done	528
Total number of Counseling	712
Total number of Condom Distribution	54,000
Total Positive	Nil

The accomplishment of the stall and the energy put-in by various programme divisions of NACO was also appreciated by Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon’ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.



Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste Hon’ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India in NACO exhibition



Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon’ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India visit to NACO exhibition

Sh. Parveen Prakash Gupta & Ms. Piyushi Kothiwal, NACO

State Specific events on World AIDS Day

Assam

Assam State AIDS Control Society (ASACS) observed World AIDS Day on December 1, 2016 at Sri Madhabdev International Auditorium Kalakshetra, Guwahati. The day long event began with a rally that was flagged off by Mount Everest climber Henry David Teron at ASACS premises which culminated at Kalakshetra.

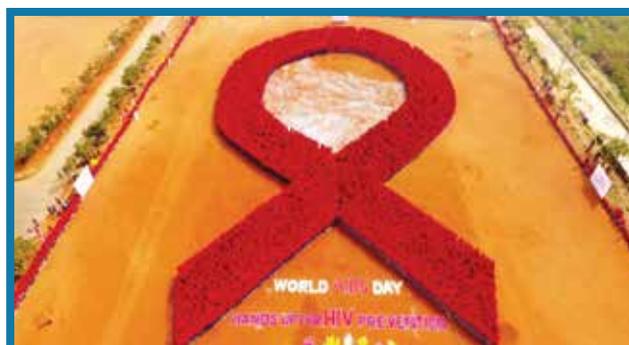


A rally organized on the occasion of World AIDS Day at Guwahati on December 1, 2016

The e-Blood Banking system was formally inaugurated by the Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Minister of Health & Family Welfare which will be helpful in tracking of professional blood donors. Ex-gratia of Rs 1 lakh was given to 41 widows of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV).

Odisha

The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) in association with Odisha State AIDS Control Society (OSACS) observed World AIDS Day. It was a spectacular sight as 15,000 tribal students of KISS organize themselves as a human chain into a massive red ribbon formation and pledged solidarity for the cause of HIV / AIDS.



Largest Human Chain in Red Ribbon Shape in Orissa State AIDS Control Society (OSACS)

The activity was documented and an attempt to claim as 'Largest Human Chain in Red Ribbon Shape' for entry in Guinness World Records was made.

West Bengal

West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society (WBSAPCS) observed World AIDS Day, 2016 in collaboration with SAATHII in the Swasthya Bhawan where in representatives from State Level Network, SSRs & Representatives from WBSAPCS officials along with the staff. Ms. Chandrima Bhattacharjee, Dy. Health Minister and Chairman of Medical Services Corporation graced the occasion. Dr. Malay Ghosh, Representative from Swasthya Bhawan had highlighted the importance of "Getting to Zero" and "Hands up for #HIVPrevention".



Folk Media performances on HIV/AIDS awareness



Flag off by Project Director, WBSAPCS to precede cycle rally



More than 2000 students from schools participated in the rallies & carried placards, banners & posters on HIV & AIDS Awareness

Punjab

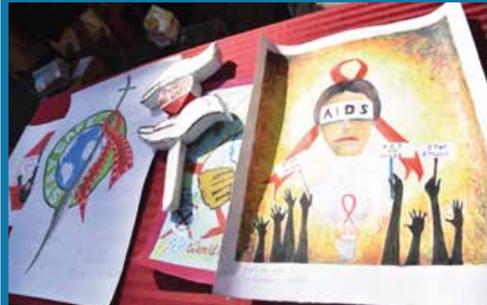
Manipur



Painting Competition organized by Manipur AIDS Control Society



Mass rally in collaboration with MACS, partners & NGOs



Painting Competition organized by MSACS



A love music concert organized by MSACS

Meghalaya

Rajasthan



Poster Competition organized in Schools in Rajasthan



Hon'ble Health Minister, Rajasthan has flagged off the rally

Karnataka



Culture dance performance in Karnataka

Goa

World AIDS Day organized by Goa SACS at Entertainment Society of Goa auditorium. Dr. Mridula Sinha, Hon'ble Governor of Goa was the Chief Guest along with the Guest of Honour, Adv.-Francis D'Souza, Hon'ble Deputy. Chief Minister/ Health Minister. The welcome address was presented by the Dr. Sanjeev Dalvi, Director DHS and Dr. Jose D'Sa, Project Director, GSACS presented a roundup of GSACS activities as well as the scenario of HIV, AIDS in Goa. Shri Sudhir Mahajan, IAS Health Secretary, Government of Goa addressed the audience and spoke about the important role of counseling in HIV/AIDS.



Hon'ble Governor of Goa along with the other dignitaries on the occasion of the WAD and launched GOA Newsletter

Maharashtra

Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society in coordination with Public Health Department, Maharashtra organized three-day State Level exhibition on HIV/AIDS in the premises of Mantralaya, Mumbai from November 30, 2016 to December 2, 2016. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra along with Dr. Deepak Sawant, Minister of Public Health & Family Welfare, Shri Arjun Khotkar, State Minister, Mrs. Sujata Suanik, Principal Secretary, Public Health & President, Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society, Mumbai, Dr. Satish Pawar, Director Health Services. Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Commissioner Health Services and Shri Kamalakar Phand, Project Director, Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society, Mumbai. The Chief Minister appreciated MSACS and exhorted participants to focus on education and awareness to achieve the goal of AIDS free Maharashtra. The exhibition covered all the themes related to HIV/AIDS. The blood donation camp registered 237 blood donors from among the Mantralaya officials & staff.



Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra visit to the exhibition

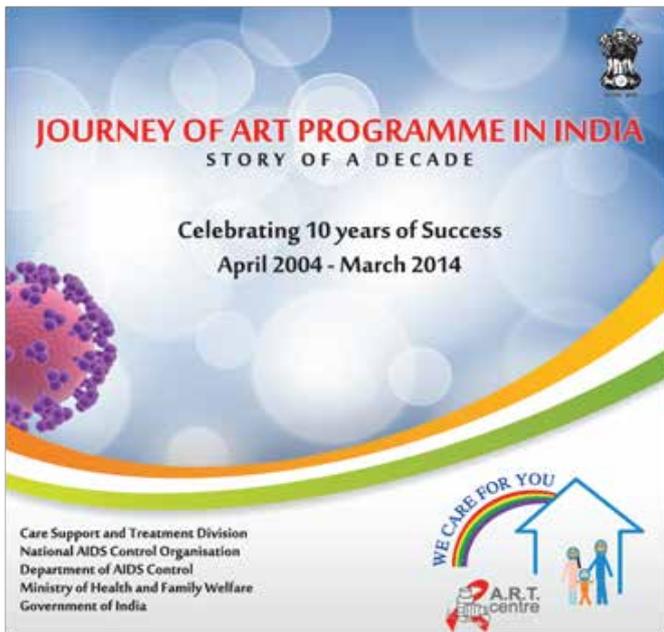
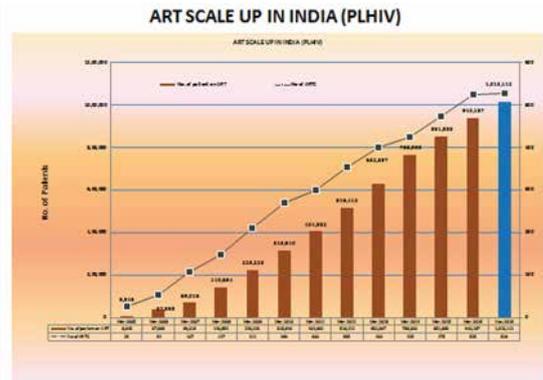
Journey to one million patients on ART

The Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) became available in 1996 but was beyond reach of most of the patients due to very high costs, large number of pills and less than 5% of people globally were able to access it in year 2000. The cost of drugs was around Rs. 32,000 per month, had to be taken life long and patient had to take 32 pills every day. WHO launched 3 by 5: initiative in 2004 to provide access to ART to 3 million patients by 2005 in developing countries.

NACO announced the free ART programme on 30th November, 2003, which was launched from 1st April, 2004 at 8 ART centers in 6 high prevalence States and NCT of Delhi. The ART programme has now been expanded in a major way to reach 1 million patients alive and on ART as on 1st December, 2016 at 528 ART centers across the country making its world's second largest ART programme. The cost of drugs has been reduced from Rs 32,000 per month to Rs. 7000 per year and number of pills to be taken has been reduced from 32 pills daily to just one pill a day.

The imagery of HIV disease, which was once considered to be a death sentence, has now been completely transformed to a chronic manageable disease due to enhanced access to ART in the National Program. Though the journey of ART program in India over last 12 years has been challenging, there has been unprecedented scale up which articulates evidences of best practices in an evidence based expansion, midterm corrections, & optimal utilization of resources for expansion of services.

This success has been possible due to firm commitment from government, continuous meaningful involvement of communities, support from a host of partners, technical experts, international agencies, related ministries, representatives from the civil society and the judiciaries that have played an important role in ensuring that the program delivers high quality CST services for PLHIV in the country.



If we look back over last 12 years, the programme introduced a number of new initiatives for scale up, for an easy access to services and improving quality of care. CD 4 testing was made free, dispersible FDCs of pediatric ARVs, second line ART, care of HIV exposed child and Early Infant Diagnosis (EID), Centers of Excellence (CoEs/ p- CoEs), ART plus, Link ART Centers (LAC/ LAC+) were made available. On the technical front the programme evolved towards early initiation of ART at CD4 count of less than 500, Stavudine phase out, strengthening of HIV-TB coordination, revision of PPTCT guidelines and concept of “targeted viral load” were adapted. We have now moved to 500 CD 4 cutoff and test & treat strategy for KPs has now been approved. The third line ART was also made available in 2016 bringing Indian ART programme at par with best in the world .

An important component of any service delivery is client satisfaction and good quality of care. The ART programme has a strong & unique system of on-site monitoring & mentoring. From time to time the programme launched various quality drives like “Data Completion Drive” in 2011, “We Care for You” in

2012 and an oath on our motto of “Providing High Quality care” in 2013 etc. The establishment of State Grievance Redressal Committees (SGRC) in the states was a unique model to ensure quality of services and ownership by the states. The programme also launched a massive nation wide drive on “Intensified LFU Tracking” in September 2013. The programme also did a nation wide assessment of ART centre & services provided by them and a “Data Validation Exercise ” at all ART Centres



Dr. R. S. Gupta, DDG (BSD & CST) & Dr. B. B. Rewari, Scientist, WHO along with the team in the exhibition in JLN Stadium

The ART programme has also taught us some valuable public health lessons. It has shown that it is possible to roll out ART on a massive scale with a public health approach. It is possible to rigorously implement this in a project mode with strict monitoring of outcomes & following the principles of result based management. Robust M&E tools and computerized information management system help in midterm corrections by proper analysis of data. The programme has shown us the importance of having strong linkage with civil society, network of positive people, NGOs, peers & key populations.

We are in phase of ART scale up where we have achieved a lot but remember our achievement should not make us complacent & our success should not become our enemy. There are huge challenges in the road ahead. Increased numbers with universal coverage, decentralization, reaching out to primary care level, higher costs from new drugs/regimen, challenges in regular viral load monitoring, establishing pharma covigilance and drug resistance programme require more commitment, more hard work & more resources.

There is a famous saying by Mr. Nelson Mandela “After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb”. This Journey to a million patients has not been easy and to the next million is going to be tougher. Universal access is the target now to which Government of India has committed at all international forum. So let us keep our focus to provide ART to all 2.1 million. The journey is not over and will continue till we are able to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

On World AIDS day we have taken a pledge to do our best to ensure a stigma free environment for PLHIV, ensure high quality care and treatment for all positives, work to significantly reduce new infections, eliminate new infection among children and to escalate our fight against AIDS towards its Elimination. We shall celebrate 1st December 2030 as victory day and not as world AIDS day. Let us join hands, work together, achieve targets & save lives.

Dr. B.B. Rewari WHO and CST Division

रोज़ जागती थी नौकरी के लिए आज जागी हूँ ज़िंदगी के लिए

आप भी जागिये

सरकारी अस्पताल के आई.सी.टी.सी. पर जायिए
एच.आई.वी. पर मुफ्त सलाह पायिए और मुफ्त जाँच कराइए

एक कदम ज़िंदगी की ओर



आई.सी.टी.सी. की ओर कदम बढ़ायें, एच.आई.वी. की जाँच करायें

आई.सी.टी.सी. - एकीकृत सलाह और जाँच केन्द्र



NACO
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India's national regional AIDS
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Patron: Dr. Arun K. Panda, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Editor: Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (LS & IEC)

Editorial Panel: Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, DDG (TI & M&E), Dr. R.S. Gupta, DDG (CST & BTS), Dr. K.S. Sachdeva, DDG (BSD, STI & Research), Dr. Shobini Rajan ADG (STI & Blood Safety), Dr. Rajesh Rana, National Consultant (IEC & Mainstreaming), Ms. Neha Pandey, Consultant IEC & Mainstreaming

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9th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001. Tel.: 011-23325343, Fax: 011-23731746, www.naco.gov.in

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