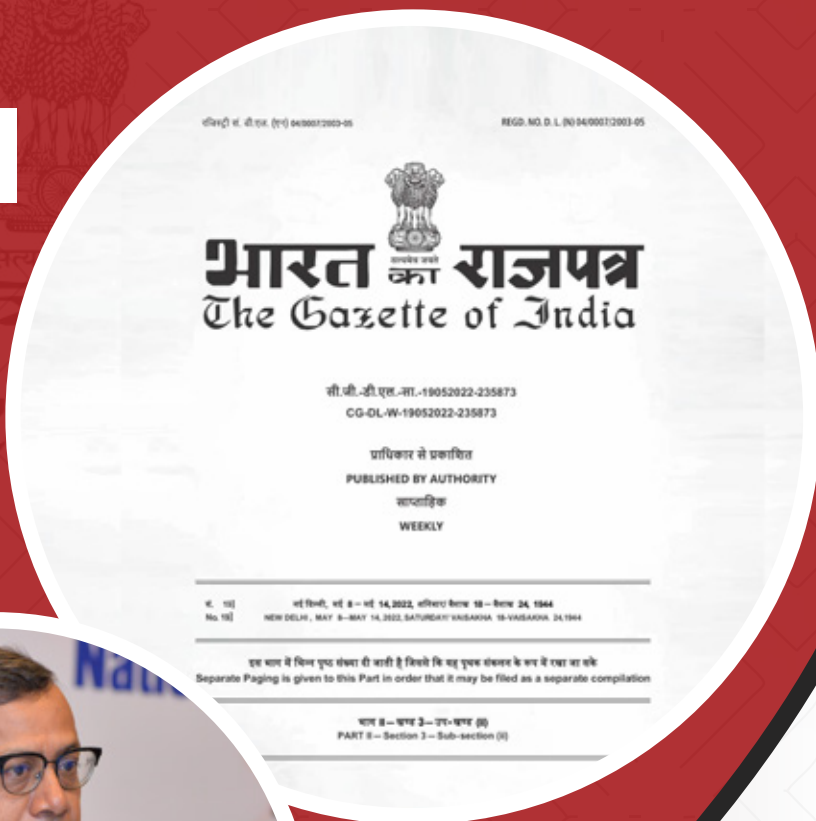


JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022



NACO

NEWS

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR GENERAL



**Dear Readers,**

I welcome everyone to this edition of NACO News!

Through this edition I would like to share with you all that the much awaited guidelines to carry out the different provisions of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017 have been notified by the Government of India. The process of notifying a total of nine guidelines under the section 46 has indeed been an interestingly challenging task but I am glad that our hard work has paid off in face of these documents which will actively compliment the HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017.

The current Financial Year is has already completed two quarters and therefore next two quarters are going to be crucial in terms of the annual targets to be met by each state and that by the National AIDS Control Programme. In this line, NACO has concluded one complete cycle of 360-degree review of all State AIDS Control Societies. The regional meetings laid emphasis on proper implementation and monitoring of AIDS Control programme by the State AIDS Control Societies. With these words, now it's time to bid adieu to all my colleagues and fellow officers at national and state level as my services and a five and a half year long association with the National AIDS Control Programme comes to an end with my retirement.

I offer my appreciation, congratulations and well wishes to the great success of the National AIDS Control Programme ahead.

Wish you all best of luck. Always.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alok Saxena'.

**Alok Saxena**  
Additional Secretary & Director General  
National AIDS Control Organisation  
Government of India

# MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR



**Namaskar.**

Welcome to the third edition of the NACO NEWS of current Financial Year.

I am happy to share that one complete cycle of the 360-degree review meetings of all State AIDS Control Societies have been carried out successfully. The one on one interaction with the Project Directors and the colleagues at state level gave us a deeper understanding of the state issues. It has been immensely challenging for the field staff to bring back the HIV response on track when focus of the state functionaries tilted more towards the COVID-19 response; fortunately, things are back on track now and we too hope to cover what took backseat in the past months.

I am delighted to share that NACO in association with ILO organized a sensitization meeting for the Medical Officers of ESIC, Delhi Region. Senior colleagues from both the sides ensured full support. It is vital that organisations and associations like the ESIC are made active part of the plan in order to strengthen the HIV response in the country as these organisations cater to a huge number of population and of varied groups.

NACO has also conducted two Brown Bag Seminar Talks in the last quarter, i.e. '*HIV Self-testing: Global and regional updates and experiences*' by Dr. Muhammad Shahid Jamil, Technical Officer at WHO's Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI programme and '*Index testing as an effective strategy to accelerate HIV case finding for achieving the first 95*' by Dr. V. Sampath Kumar, Public Health Specialist, VHS. These talks surely help us in building the capacities of the programme officers through active cross-institutional collaboration.

Under the Global Fund Grant, visits were made to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland for Verification of Disbursement Linked indicators of the Global Fund in the months of June and July 2022. This activity helps us to recognise and cater to the response that comes from the field level.

I hope all of you enjoy reading these interventions at length inside the newsletter ahead and also other important programmatic interventions.

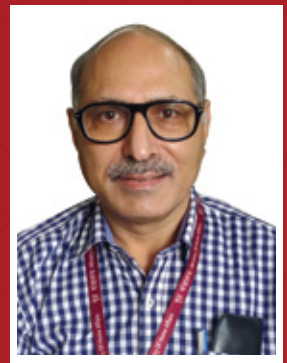
With this, I would like to offer my word of thanks to all our readers, contributors, and editorial team for their continued support.

Good Luck !

**Nidhi Kesarwani**  
Director,  
National AIDS Control Organization  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,  
Government of India



# MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR



I welcome everyone to the July-September edition of NACO News!

With each passing day, we are heading towards the Goal 3.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals i.e. *Ending AIDS as a Public Health Threat*. This path can no more afford to let institutions work in silos and therefore each person at each level and from each background needs to be part of our movement to make India AIDS free. In this line, this year's International Youth Day theme '*Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for all ages*' gave us an opportunity to broaden our activities in terms of the target audiences. Prevention messages were shared among people from all age groups. I hope you like some unique interventions carried out by Manipur, Delhi, Odisha, Nagaland, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Goa inside this edition.

Taking the Multi-sectoral collaboration, a step ahead I would like to inform our readers that under the National AIDS Control Programme, different state level Joint Working Group meetings were carried by the SACS of Manipur and Maharashtra.

The HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments, 2022 has recently been released by the Additional Secretary and Director General, NACO but our work does not end there, we now have to ensure that all establishments around the country adhere to these guidelines, and that can only happen when the continuum of advocacy is carried at all levels with support of the State AIDS Control Society. I would like to request all our readers to download the copy of the HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments, 2022 from the NACO website and also circulate it in your surroundings as all of us fall in some category of the establishment as defined under the guidelines.

With these words, I leave you to read the NACO NEWS at length and enrich your knowledge about the newer initiatives of the NACP.

Best wishes,

Dr. Anoop Kumar Puri  
Deputy Director General (IEC & MS)  
National AIDS Control Organisation  
Government of India

# Notification of Guidelines under the HIV & AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017

The Government of India has notified guidelines under Section 46 to carry out the different provisions of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017. As provided under section 46 of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017, a total of nine guidelines have been notified.

The preparation and drafting of these guidelines was supported by different divisions of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), as per the subject matter of each guideline.

The Guidelines have been notified on the following matters and purposes:

The purpose of **guidelines on Informed Consent in the context of HIV** is to specify the manner of seeking informed consent pertaining to HIV-related information and while providing HIV-related services. These guidelines are applicable to Central Government, State Governments and NGOs, establishments and individuals dealing with prevention, control and treatment of HIV or AIDS including all health care facilities or Individuals providing HIV related services.

The purpose of **guidelines for testing or diagnostic centre or pathology laboratory or blood bank for HIV test** is to describe the processes to be followed by a testing or diagnostic centre or pathology laboratory or blood bank for HIV test. The guidelines are applicable to all testing or diagnostic centres or pathology laboratories or blood centres performing HIV test.

The purpose of **guidelines on confidentiality of data for protected persons** is to detail the provisions for storing, accessing, sharing and disposal of data collected from protected persons at establishment level. The guidelines are applicable on all establishments and individuals dealing with or keeping the records of HIV-related information of protected persons.

The purpose of **guidelines for Anti-Retroviral Therapy and Opportunistic Infections Management for HIV/AIDS patients** is to provide protocols for Anti-Retroviral Treatment and Opportunistic Infections Management for HIV/ AIDS with respect to persons infected with HIV/AIDS.

The purpose of **guidelines on Care, Support and Treatment of Children infected with HIV/AIDS** is to lay down the provisions for care, support and treatment services for children infected with HIV/AIDS.

The purpose of **guidelines for Universal Precautions and Post Exposure Prophylaxis with respect to HIV** is to ensure a safe working environment in healthcare establishments and every other establishment where there is a significant risk of occupational exposure to HIV.

The purpose of **guidelines on HIV transmission risk reduction strategies** is to delineate the manner of carrying out the strategies, mechanism or techniques for reducing the risk of HIV transmission and the manner of implementation of harm reduction and clinical services.

The purpose of **guidelines on HIV-related Information, Education and Communication before marriage** is to disseminate accurate and age-appropriate information on HIV/AIDS and related issues to people before marriage. The guidelines are applicable to all persons who seek information, education and counselling services related to HIV before marriage.

The purpose of guidelines on HIV-related services for persons in care or custody of the state is to protect the rights of persons in care or custody of the State and the people providing services to them and the manner in which HIV/AIDS prevention, counselling, testing and treatment should be given.

## 360° review of the State AIDS Control Societies

The 360° review meetings of implementation of the National AIDS Control Programme at the state level were convened under the guidance of AS & DG, NACO, Sh. Alok Saxena and chairpersonship of Director NACO, Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani in a phased manner.

In the first phase, review of 14 States i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Odisha, Puducherry, Sikkim, Telangana and

Uttarakhand was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022, in the presence of Project Directors of the States. Similarly, in the second phase, review of 22 States i.e. Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andaman & Nicobar, Daman & Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, in the presence of the Project Directors of these States.

The objective of these review meetings was to ensure the achievements of the annual targets set by NACO and SACS in a time-bound manner. These reviews were held in two stages i.e.

- (i) Desk review by NACO of prefilled template submitted by SACS and
- (ii) During the second stage of review the observations and gaps identified during the desk review were taken up for discussion with

the Project Directors and Additional Project Directors of respective SACS in order to chart out the action plan to meet the targets.

Deputy Director General, Additional Director General, all Deputy Directors, National Consultants, Consultants and Associate Consultant from all divisions of NACO and Project Directors, Additional Project Directors and SACS teams participated during the meeting.





# Release of the HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments, 2022

The AS & DG, NACO, Sh. Alok Saxena along with Director, NACO, Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani released the HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments, 2022 on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

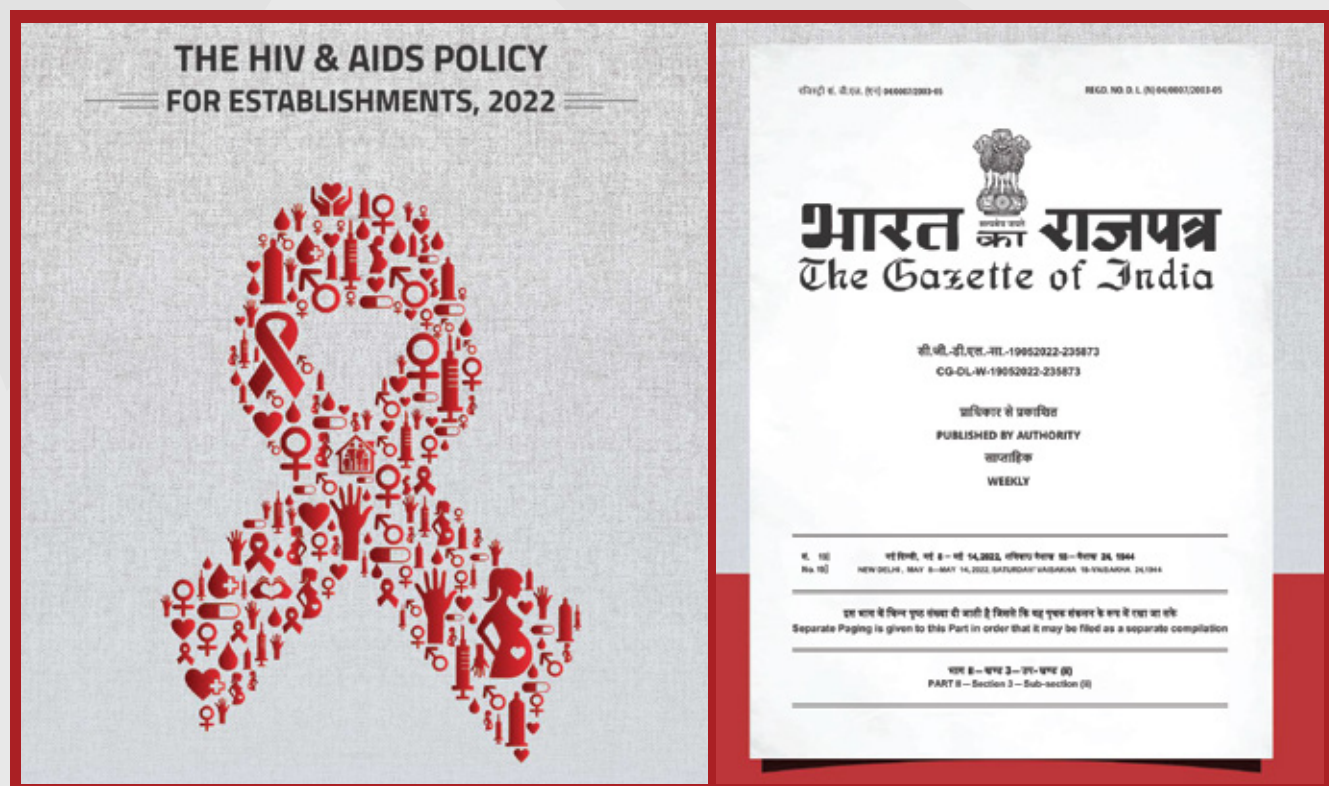
The HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments, 2022 emanates from section 12 of the HIV and AIDS (P&C) Act, 2017. On 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, the Government of India notified the Policy which applies to all establishments in India consisting of 100 or more persons and in case of a healthcare establishment, consisting of 20 or more persons.

The HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments provides a framework to mitigate issues surrounding HIV and AIDS in a workplace setting i.e. establishments and encourages action on part of the employees, employer associations, chambers etc.

The aim of the HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments, 2022:

1. Generate awareness on HIV and AIDS in establishments.
2. Prevent transmission of HIV infection amongst workers.
3. Protect rights of those infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS.
4. Ensure safe, non-stigmatised and non-discriminatory environment assuring equity and dignity at establishments.
5. Standardize the obligation of every establishment in providing conducive working environment and maintaining the confidentiality of HIV-related data for protected persons.

The policy document will help in ensuring the implementation of HIV & AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017 at establishment level and will strengthen the response of stigma and discrimination.





# Sensitization programme for the Medical Officers of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)

NACO in association with International Labour Organization (ILO) organized a sensitization meeting for the Medical Officers of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Delhi Region on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The objective of the meeting was to orient the participants on the services provided under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) and NACO's integrated information management system approach to quantify things strategically. The meeting also aimed at utilizing the health infrastructure of ESIC for scaling up testing among the workers and migrant population.

The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of AS & DG, NACO, Shri Alok Saxena. The meeting was also graced by the presence of Director, NACO, Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director, International Labour Organization (ILO), Ms. Dagmar Walter, Director (Family Welfare), ESIC, Dr. Sant Ram, and Senior Technical Specialist, ILO, Mr. Syed Mohammad Afsar who also addressed the participants. Various sessions on different components under NACP, key provisions of the HIV & AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 and HIV and AIDS Policy for Establishments 2022 were presented by NACO officials.



# Brown Bag Seminar Series

National AIDS Control Programme undertakes various activities as part of its capacity-building initiatives. In line with the spirit of cross-institutional collaboration and capacity building, the Brown Bag Seminar Series was initiated back in 2016 with the aim to inform as well as build capacities & knowledge of programme managers at NACO, development partners and other key stakeholders on new developments in HIV/AIDS and research.

As part of the series two talks were held on:

1. 'HIV Self-testing: Global and regional updates and experiences' on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 by Dr. Muhammad Shahid Jamil, Technical Officer at WHO's Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI programme at NACO, New Delhi. The talk was chaired by AS & DG, NACO, Shri Alok Saxena. The talk was attended by senior officers, programme officers from NACO, senior officials from State AIDS Control Societies and technical experts, academicians, researchers, development and implementing partners, civil society organisations and community representatives.





2. 'Index testing as an effective strategy to accelerate HIV case finding for achieving first 95' by Dr. V. Sampath Kumar, Public Health Specialist, VHS on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at NACO. and via virtual platform. The talk was attended by Senior officers, Programme

managers from NACO, Senior Officials from State AIDS Control Societies and Technical Support Units, Experts, Academicians, Researchers, Development and Implementing Partners, Civil Society and Community representatives.



# Global Fund: Validation of Verification Protocol

NACO's Global Fund Grant for period 2021-24 is based on Payment for Result model, implying that disbursements are linked to certain key performance indicators. A verification protocol had been developed for carrying out verification of data reported by NACO to the Global Fund. For data reported for year 2021-22, i.e. first year of implementation under the grant, visits were conducted to ART centres, Viral Load Labs and

Targeted Interventions in 17 districts of 4 States. Visits to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland for Verification of Disbursement Linked indicators of the Global Fund were conducted in the month of June and July 2022 by Local Fund Agent of the Global Fund. The Global Fund Country Team also visited Madhya Pradesh and they were briefed by the SACS and oversaw the verification process being conducted.





# Accelerating community engagement at the National and Sub-national level

Under the leadership of AS & DG, NACO, Shri Alok Saxena and direction of Director NACO, Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, a five-day training programme of Master Trainers on 'Capacity Building Modules for Community, Community Networks and CSOs' was organised from 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

This was the second in line of the Master Trainer Trainings under community system strengthening component in collaboration with HLPPT.

A total of 31 Community Master Trainers from 17 States and 5 typologies i.e. Female Sex Workers, Male having Sex with Male, People with Injecting Drug Usage, Transgender and Hijra participated in the training programme. These trainers were selected

based on the process of nominations from national level networks of the community, CBOs and development partners working in the field of HIV. The training modules covered topics ranging from advocacy, demand generation, community networks and linkages, knowledge management & learning, organizational and leadership strengthening and resource mobilization.

It is envisioned that the community master trainers trained under this program will play a crucial role in cascade trainings which are planned to be conducted at the State and district level with community, community networks and CSOs in the country.





# Review cum orientation of Lab Services Officers of SACS

Review cum orientation meetings of Deputy Directors & Assistant Directors of several States/UTs were held in two batches on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh and on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at Kochi, Kerala respectively.

The objective of these meetings was to review the Lab Component of NACP-V being implemented by the participating states and to develop strategies to address the gaps and challenges presented during the meeting.

NACO officials from Lab Services Division, Technical partner of Lab Services Division i.e. U.S. Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and SHARE India participated in both the meetings along with officials from Lab Services, CST and Basic Services Division of SACS from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

NACO officials presented the following update on the ongoing lab activities under NACP:

1. Optimization of HIV-1 Viral Load Testing
2. Updates on EQA activities and accreditation
3. ICTC QMS and certification

4. Rationalization of CD4 testing machines
5. Training on leadership and Management attributes
6. NACO Prayogshala
7. SOCH module update

Following this, the State representatives gave an update on the current activities of Lab Services in their State/ UTs along with best practices, programmatic gaps and challenges.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the following technical aspects:

- i. Hiring status State-level sample transportation agency for HIV-1 viral load testing.
- ii. Filling of vacant positions related to Lab Services at the SACS, SRLs, VL labs, ARTCs and ICTCs.
- iii. Accreditation of Labs under NACP in the State/ UT (SRLs, Public Sector Viral load labs and CD4 Labs) and certification of ICTCs.
- iv. Integration of existing public health services with NACP for efficiency and sustainability.
- v. Improving the utilization of SOCH Information management system.
- vi. Participation in EQA programme and data entry in NACO Prayogshala for maintaining quality data management services.



# DISHA Strategy

National AIDS Control Program aims to revamp the District level monitoring mechanism in terms of reaching the newer pockets where the epidemic is rising (Source: District level HIV Estimates 2019) as well as expanding the scope of monitoring the program implementation at the District level. The revamped District level monitoring mechanism is termed as District Integrated Strategy for HIV/AIDS '*DISHA Strategy*'. Under this strategy, additional districts and existing DAPCU where the disease burden is rising will be included under *DISHA* strategy by establishing new clusters.

During the meetings with States held on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, under the Chairpersonship of DDG – PMR, it was deliberated this existing DAPCUs will be expanded to cover the adjoining geographical areas by establishing new *DISHA* clusters. The already existing 112 DAPCUs have been converted to cluster by catering to the neighbouring priority districts. Additionally, 63 new *DISHA* clusters have been established to cover the newer priority districts (high and moderate prevalence). With this, the District level monitoring mechanism has been expanded to cover 576 districts (high and moderate prevalence) out of 735 Districts across the country. The provisioned human resources under the *DISHA* Clusters would be Cluster Program Manager (CPM), Clinical Services Officer (CSO) and Data Monitoring and Documentation Officer (DMDO). The States were oriented on *DISHA* Cluster infrastructure plans and to recruit the required HR to further implement the *DISHA* strategies before 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022 and Clusters to be formed and rolled out from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2022.

## State level training on Programme Management for SACS, TSU and DAPCU

The Capacity Building Hub under the Program Management and Review Division, NACO conducted State level training on Programme Management for SACS, TSU and DAPCU officials of various states under Project Sahyog of the Global Fund Grant, 2021-24 of

HLFPPT. The Program Management Training has been conducted in Puducherry, Punjab, Delhi, Bihar in the month of July; Punjab, Sikkim, Odisha in the month of August and Mizoram, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh in the month of September.



1. Puducherry training was conducted with 13 participants of SACS & TSU from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at Puducherry and was inaugurated by Dr. S. Chitra Devi, PD, Puducherry SACS.





2. Punjab's 1<sup>st</sup> batch training was conducted with 24 participants of SACS, TSU & DAPCU from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at Chandigarh and the event was inaugurated by Dr. Bobby Gulati, APD, Punjab SACS.



3. Delhi training was conducted with 27 participants of SACS, TSU & DAPCU from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, July, 2022 at New Delhi and the event was inaugurated by Dr. Praveen Kumar, APD Delhi SACS.



4. Bihar training was conducted with 29 participants of SACS, TSU & DAPCU from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at Patna and the event was inaugurated by Sh. Anshul Agarwal, PD Bihar SACS & Dr. N.K Gupta, APD Bihar SACS.



5. Punjab's 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch training was conducted with 22 participants of SACS & TSU from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at Chandigarh under the Chairpersonship of Bobby Gulati, APD, Punjab SACS.





6. Sikkim training was conducted with 11 participants of SACS & TSU from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Gangtok and the event was inaugurated by Dr. Pramila Giri, MO, ART Centre, STNM Hospital, Sikkim SACS.



7. Odisha training was conducted with 24 participants of SACS & TSU from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at Bhubaneswar and was inaugurated by Dr. Urmila Mishra, PD cum Additional Secretary, Dr. Anjana Panda, APD, Dr. D. S. Arvind & Dr. Rama Chandra Rout, Director HIV & VS(O) Odisha SACS.



8. West Bengal training was conducted with 22 participants of SACS & DAPCU from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, September 2022 at Kolkata and inaugurated by Mr. M.D. Shakeel Ahmed (CoF) WBSAP&CS.

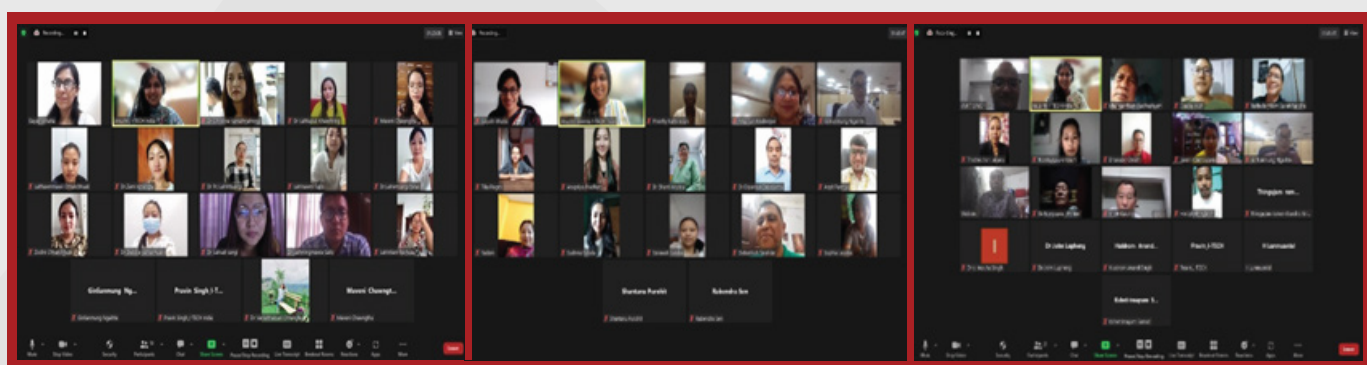
# Refresher cum follow-up meeting of Opioid Substitution Therapy

Following the completion of a National Training of Trainers (TOT) on the Revised Clinical Practice Guideline and Standard Operating Procedure for Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) and classroom-based Induction Training for 32 states, NACO has conducted a series of follow up refresher trainings for OST Medical Officers through the virtual mode between 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 to 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2022.

The objectives of the refresher training were to address any additional clinical queries related to patient management of OST clients and to provide a recap on the OST low threshold strategies such as take home

dosing, optimal dosing, flexible timings, fast track induction, and dealing with special population groups such as adolescents and pregnant women.

The trainings were attended by a total of 306 attendees which included 242 Medical Officers /Nodal Officers across 32 states in 15 batches with a batch load of 20 participants in each batch. The resource persons were Dr. Amit Singh, KGMU, Lucknow, Dr. Arpit Parmar, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Preethy Kathiresan, AIIMS, Jodhpur, Dr. Gayatri Bhatia, AIIMS, Rajkot, and officials from TI Division, NACO.



## Regional Review Meetings of Targeted Intervention Component under NACP

The Regional Review Meetings of Targeted Intervention Component were held under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Shobini Rajan, CMO (SAG), NACO in two batches from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2022 at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh and from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The objectives of these meetings were to review the progress of states on revamped activities on critical indicators and activities approved in annual action plans, brainstorm strengthening prevention activities, and to provide a platform for cross-learning.

Sh. Naveen Kumar, IAS, Project Director, Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, chaired the first review

meeting at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The second review meeting at Agra, Uttar Pradesh was chaired by Dr. Heera Lal, IAS, APD, Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society. Officials of TI division of NACO and SACS along with the programme experts and development partners attended the review meetings.

The next steps in the line were proposed to increase the coverage of key populations, accelerate the index, spouse & partner testing, improve ART linkages and focus on risk assessment for the migrant and trucker population and bring in new innovations to fulfil the targets under NACP-V.





## Meeting of the Joint Working Group for Youth – Manipur SACS

Under the chairpersonship of the Project Director, Manipur State AIDS Control Society (SACS) conducted the Joint Working Group for Youth at Imphal.

Manipur is a HIV prevalence state. The Project Director, MACS appealed all stakeholders to work collectively for HIV intervention among youth as they are the most vulnerable group.

The following points were discussed during the meeting:

a) Training of 120 teachers from 60 model schools (each located in 60 assembly constituencies) for implementation of the Adolescent Education Programme in schools.

b) Inclusion of short message on HIV/STI preventions on all printed materials for sporting events in collaboration with Youth Affairs and Sports Department.

c) MACS to conduct workshop for writers for the revision of HIV, AIDS and STI related chapters in the syllabus with incorporation of chapters on Stigma & Discrimination and HIV & AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017.

d) Strengthening of Youth Clubs under Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and to increase numbers of Youth Clubs funded for Out of School Youth Programme.



# ‘Refresher training and Review Meeting of facility level staff’ at Department of Industries – Andaman & Nicobar SACS

Under the chairpersonship of Director, Health Services, Dr. Munni Singhania and Project Director, Andaman and Nicobar State AIDS Control Society, Dr. M. Joy, A&N SCAS in association with SAATHII, organised a three day ‘Refresher training cum Review Meeting of facility level staff’ was organised from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 in the conference hall of Department of Industries, Port Blair in association with the Global Fund PR SAATHI. A total of 38 staff members were trained during the workshop. The participants comprised of Counselors, Staff Nurse and Health Workers from 13 SA-ICTC;

24FICTC; 1 DSRC; 1ARTC; 1 Blood Bank and 19 Public Private Partnership Health Care Institutes.

The goal of the training was to provide basic information on HIV/AIDS, counseling and testing services; Online Reporting; Early Infant Diagnosis of HIV; Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV & Syphilis; Viral Load and CD4 testing guidelines; Antiretroviral Therapy; STI, TB & Hepatitis; private sector engagement in EMTCT, universal precaution at work place and Post Exposure Prophylaxis guidelines.





# State Level Joint Working Group Meeting – Maharashtra SACS

Three different Joint Working Group meetings were held with various Government departments at state level and PSU under the state.

The first Joint Working Group meeting was conducted with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust under Ministry of Shipping, ONGC under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

The second meeting was conducted with the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Women & Child Development Department (WCD) and State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

The third meeting was conducted with National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission under Ministry of Rural Development and Central Railway Department on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

Nodal persons from above mentioned departments were present to discuss and prepare the Annual Action Plan for HIV/AIDS programme for their respective department. Latest update of HIV program like HIV/AIDS (P&C) Act, 2017 and matter related to designating the Complaints Officer at the establishment level were also discussed during the meeting.

**The main objective of these meetings with various departments and PSUs were:**

To discuss latest updates on the National AIDS & STI Control Programme under Phase V.

To integrate HIV/AIDS prevention programme within the establishment.

To share the quarterly reporting with MSACS for further reporting to NACO.

To develop Annual Action Plan for various activities utilizing their own resources.

To designate Complaints Officers within the establishments as stated under the HIV/AIDS ( P&C) Act, 2017.



# Cycle rally to create awareness – Chandigarh SACS

In order to encourage a healthy lifestyle and to generate awareness about the issues related to HIV and AIDS, the Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society organised a Cycle Rally on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, starting from Sukhna Lake to New Lake Sector 42 Chandigarh. The Cycle Rally was flagged off by Sh. Yashpal Garg, IAS, Secretary Health, Chandigarh who urged people to adopt Healthy lifestyles by making cycling a routine activity. He also appreciated the efforts made by Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society in controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS in creating awareness among the masses about modes of HIV transmission and the prevention measures one can easily adopt.

More than 450 Cyclists from the city participated in the rally. The participants were from all walks of life including women and children wherein the youngest cyclist was an eight year old and the oldest was aged 78 years. The participants had decorated their cycles with slogans of 'Know AIDS for No AIDS' motivating people to come forward and gain correct knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

Prize was also given for the best decorated cycle which conveyed the message of four modes of HIV transmission.

Sh. Yashpal Garg, IAS, Secretary Health, Sh. Akhil Kumar, IAS, Additional Secretary Health, Sh. Rajiv Tewari, Director, DPR, Dr. Suman Singh, Director Health Services, and Dr. Virender Nagpal, Project Director, Chandigarh SACS also drove their cycles. Participants were also motivated for Confidential and Free HIV Testing in a mobile van stationed at the concluding venue.

HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases are most prevalent in the age group 15 to 39 years. Project Director, Dr. Virender Nagpal conveyed that Chandigarh is showing a declining trend in HIV epidemic, this is a result of extensive education and awareness about the disease that the State AIDS Control Society is trying to give through different mechanisms available.



Sh. Yashpal Garg IAS, Secretary Health, Sh. Akhil Kumar IAS, Additional Secretary Health, Sh. Rajiv Tewari, Director, DPR, Dr. Suman Singh, Director Health Services, and Dr. Virender Nagpal, Project Director at Selfie point during



Sh. Yashpal Garg IAS, Secretary Health, Sh. Akhil Kumar IAS, Additional Secretary Health, Sh. Rajiv Tewari, Director, DPR, Dr. Suman Singh, Director Health Services, and Dr. Virender Nagpal, Project Director, releasing balloons during the rally

# State Level Folk Troupe Training Workshop – Sikkim SACS

Sikkim State AIDS Control Society organised a three-day State Level Folk Troupe Workshop on HIV/AIDS from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at SICUN, Assam Lingzey. The workshop was carried under the Mid Media Component of the state's annual activities of the IEC division with an objective to strengthen the capacity of the troupes and artists on effective message delivery and impactful performances.

The goal is to reach out to the rural population with the message of HIV/AIDS and other related issues. The Mid-Media component is resumed after 2 years, due to covid pandemic. This year the Campaign is themed "KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS".

During the three day worksop, the troupes were mentored by resource person from Department of Culture Affairs & Heritage, Government of Sikkim Phurba Lepcha and Gayatri Rai and Folk Artist Norden Lepcha.

Technical guidance was provided by Lubhana Rai, AD/ IEC and Phoor Tshering Lepcha, AD/ Youth from Sikkim SACS. HIV testing and counselling was also conducted on Day II.

The valedictory function was attended by PCC cum Project Director Sikkim SACS Dr. Gyanendra Kr. Cintury as the Chief Guest. He congratulated all the troupes on the successful completion of the workshop and mentioned that the performances were excellent and all the important messages were incorporated by the troupes. "Folk media is an integral activity to create mass awareness and correct messages should be disseminated to the audience at large" he added. He also expressed his best wishes to the teams for the roll out.

The function concluded with distribution of certificates to the participants.





# International Youth Day Celebrations

August 12 marks the annual celebration of International Youth Day as an awareness day, designated by the United Nations (UN). This day is dedicated to the role young females and males play in bringing change in society in order to help achieve national goals and to contribute towards the global ones as well. It also serves as an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges and problems facing the world's youth.

NACO through its vast nexus of Adolescence Education

Programme at the school level and Red Ribbon Clubs at the college level spreads awareness on different thematic areas associated with the HIV and AIDS. To generate awareness, several kinds of activities are carried out by schools and colleges. The theme for this year's International Youth Day was '*Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for all ages*'.

Different interventions by SACS to contribute uniquely in the observance of International Youth Day

## Manipur SACS



Students, volunteers and teaching and non-teaching staff conducted a mass rally

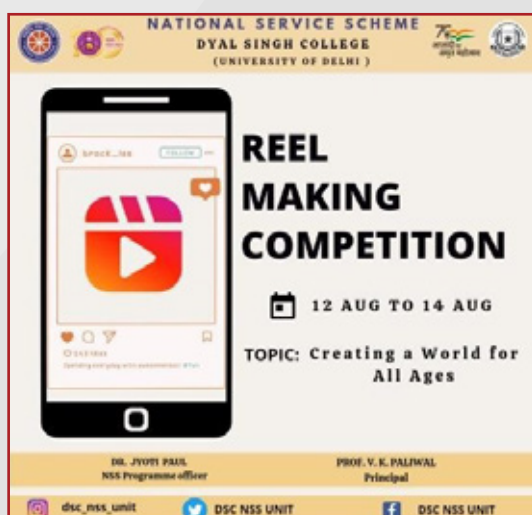
A pledge to make a drug-free country was taken during the observance





A speech competition for students was also conducted

## Delhi SACS



A reel-making competition was organised

Puppet performance on HIV and AIDS was conducted





Poster making competition  
was conducted

## Odisha SACS



Poster making competition  
was conducted

A debate competition  
was conducted





# Nagaland SACS



A spoken word competition on this year's theme was conducted

188 students participated in the competition and 78 were declared winners across the State



# Chhattisgarh SACS



- ▶ Reel making competition conducted
- ▶ Poster making competition conducted

## Pondicherry SACS



Skit performance conducted to raise awareness regarding Stigma and Discrimination

Poster making competition conducted



## Kerala SACS



An Open Stage Open Mind Talent Show was conducted

## Goa SACS



Poster-making competition  
was conducted

Inauguration of 167<sup>th</sup> Red Ribbon Club was done  
at Halarnkar Education Society's, Diogo Vaz  
Higher Secondary School, Colvale-Bardez



## Himachal Pradesh



Winners of umbrella designing  
competitions were facilitated during  
the IYD event observed in the presence  
of Hon'ble Health Minister of  
Himachal Pradesh, Dr. Rajiv Saizal





Selfie standees were placed  
on prime location at Shimla

“HIV के सामने हम झुकेंगे नहीं - जाँच कराएंगे  
HIV को हराएंगे” was launched in entire state



## Modes of HIV Transmission are:

Unsafe sex with an HIV infected person



Sharing HIV infected needle and syringe



HIV infected mother to her baby



Transfusion of HIV infected blood or blood products



For any information regarding HIV/AIDS please call our toll free helpline 1097 or download NACO AIDS App today

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