



National AIDS Control Organisation  
 India's Voice against AIDS  
 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India  
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# END

# INEQUALITIES AIDS PANDEMICS



# NACO NEWS

October - December 2021

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF PATRON

## Dear Readers,

A warm welcome to NACO news for the last quarter of 2021. Needless to say, the quarter has been very eventful with observance of the World AIDS Day and the launch of 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of New India@75.

NACO observed the 34<sup>th</sup> World AIDS Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021. Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Aligning with the theme of World AIDS Day 2021 "End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics", the Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare emphasized on the need to focus and tackle gender inequalities, discrimination against the high-risk groups, inequalities in voice, income inequality and work on to provide social protection to the infected and affected population. She mentioned, "For ensuring Jan Swasthya, it's important to collate our efforts in a strategic manner for achieving our goals by leaving no one behind as desired by Sustainable Development Goals".



We are now more than 2 years into the COVID-19 pandemic and the contexts of public health programmes have changed beyond believes and imagination. Despite the challenges, the facilities under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) continued to provide HIV related services. Supply chain for key test kits, medicines and commodities have remained uninterrupted. Comprehensive care of people living with HIV is not only maintained but further augmented too. In the first six months of 2021-22, the programme has reached almost 50 lakh of high-risk and vulnerable population with a comprehensive package of targeted, peer-led prevention services through revamped interventions. In the same period, more than 2.25 crore of HIV tests have been undertaken among high-risk groups, other vulnerable populations, and pregnant women. Given the trend, we anticipate that the programme would cover more than a crore high-risk and vulnerable population with a comprehensive package of peer-led prevention services and undertake more than 4.5 crore HIV tests. These achievements are at-par with the progress during 2019-20.

Despite the remarkable progress in the National AIDS response, there is no place of complacency. The country is on-track to attain 90% reductions in annual new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths by 2030, as committed under Sustainable Development Goals. 'Break the silos: Build Synergies' would be the mantra for optimized yet augmented AIDS response for NACP.

With this, I urge readers to keep following COVID-19 appropriate behavior and help us overcome this situation. Stay Safe.

## Best Wishes

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

**Alok Saxena**  
Additional Secretary and Director General  
National AIDS Control Organisation

# MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR, NACO

## **Namaste!**

I welcome all the readers to this edition of NACO Newsletter. This year and in particular the last quarter of the year has been extremely engaging. Several important meetings, events and workshops were conducted in this last quarter of the year.

Despite various odds in the current year, the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) has been able to make remarkable achievements. As on September 2021, nearly 14.10 lakh people were on Anti-retroviral therapy in the country under the national programme.

The COVID-19 crisis provided us opportunity to think of out of box innovative solutions so that the services under NACP are not affected. We are proud that the programme ensured regular supply of ARV medicines and other services to the PLHIV. As per the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, during the lockdown period, the programme had arranged to provide dry ration to large number of sex workers and is continuing to do so including helping them to make voter ids and ration cards.

The newer initiatives under the NACP are being planned and implemented to provide comprehensive prevention, reducing new infections and early detection of HIV among "at risk" populations and make service provisions. The NACP resonates the concept of 'leaving no one behind' as desired for achievement of sustainable development goals of 2030. NACO and SACS have been utilizing Social Media handles to reach out to varied audiences.

In the current quarter, NACO organized a 'National Stakeholder Consultation on Community System Strengthening' at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and a supportive supervision visit of NACO officials was made to strengthen NACP activities in the State of Rajasthan.

As 2021 draws to a close, we commit ourselves to continue to work for the benefit of the High Risk Groups and the people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

I hope you benefit from reading this newsletter and continue sharing your feedback.

## **Best wishes**



**Nidhi Kesarwani**  
Director  
National AIDS Control Organisation



# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the NACO news for the last quarter of 2021. This quarter had been eventful with the observance of the 34<sup>th</sup> World AIDS Day, launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> phases of New India@75, holding of reviewing meeting of CST and IEC divisions and various capacity building workshops and meetings.

This year's World AIDS Day 2021 event was observed on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi which was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare; Secretary, Health & Family Welfare and senior officials from NACO, representatives of development partners and community representatives.



During this quarter, the annual National Review Meeting of Care, Support and Treatment Services was organized in Visakhapatnam to review the progress made in the CST programme. The review provided an opportunity for all States to share and learn the innovations and best practices. Three regional level review meetings of IEC, Youth & Mainstreaming components were organized at Chhattisgarh, Assam and Rajasthan. Apart from reviewing the activities, new and innovatory interventions to strengthen the IEC campaigns were discussed.

To reach out to the population "At Risk" for HIV and STIs with comprehensive preventive services delivery package, an event to roll out the 'Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy (SSS)' was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2021 at New Delhi. Another important workshop to build the capacity of the State teams to strengthen Advocacy, Mainstreaming efforts in NACP and upscale Social Protection at the States/UTs was also organized on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at New Delhi. The workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to learn the newer approaches adopted by the States in building synergies with the departments in promoting NACP services and social protection for the people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Health is vital for improved developmental outcomes. From an economic standpoint, better health improves productivity and reduces losses due to premature death, prolonged disability and early retirement. The leadership at Government of India and at NACO are committed to provide best services under the National AIDS Control Programme and improve the lives of People infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

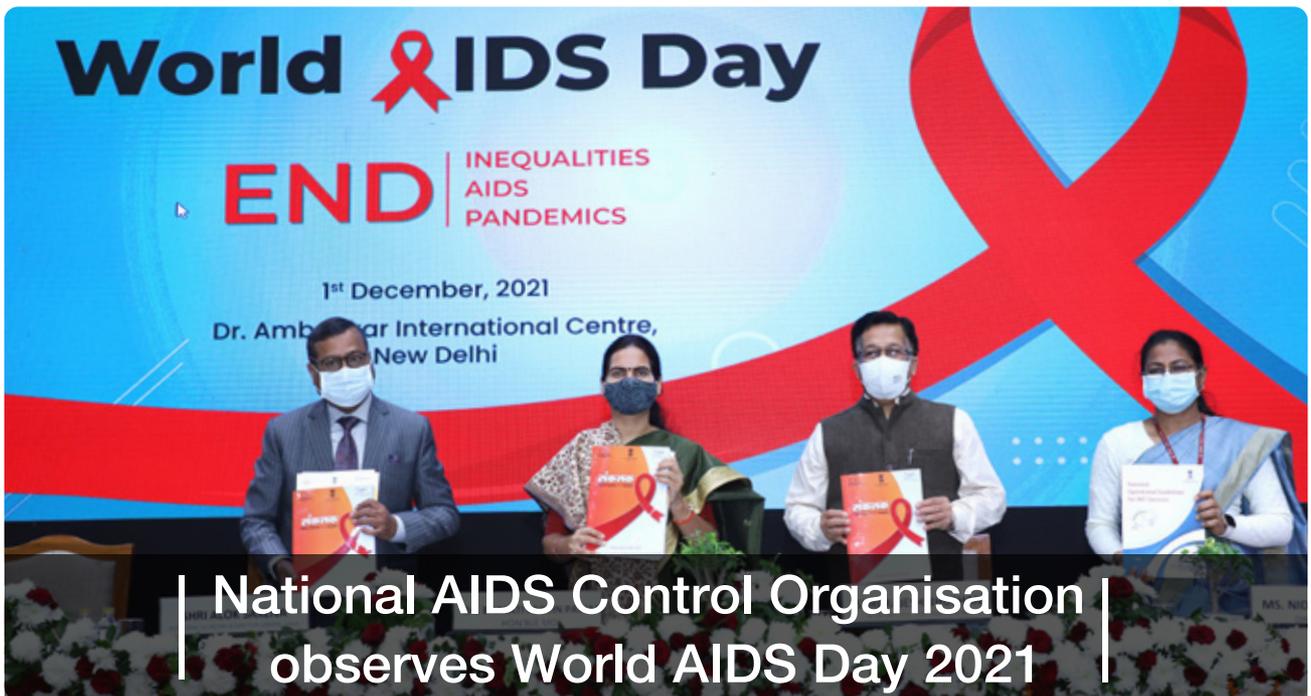
As we move forward to the last quarter of the financial year 2021-22, I express my gratitude towards the leadership at NACO and all stakeholders for their contribution in providing uninterrupted services under the National AIDS Control Programme through adopting innovative methods amid the global crisis of COVID-19. Further, I appreciate the efforts done by SACS for successfully conducting activities at the State and district level during these challenging times.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

**Best Wishes,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Puri', written in a cursive style.

**Dr. Anoop Kumar Puri**  
**Deputy Director General**  
**National AIDS Control Organisation**



## National AIDS Control Organisation observes World AIDS Day 2021

Every year, NACO organizes a National level event to commemorate the World AIDS Day with participation of communities, development partners and Delhi State AIDS Control Society (DSACS). This year, the event was organized at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare. The event was also attended by Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare; Shri Alok Saxena, Additional Secretary and Director General, NACO; Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director, NACO and stakeholders.

Aligning with the theme of the **World AIDS Day 2021 "End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics"**, the event emphasized on the need to focus and tackle gender inequalities, discrimination against the High-Risk Groups, inequalities in voice, income inequality and work on to provide Social Protection to the infected and affected population. The event was also attended by students of Red Ribbon Clubs from the States of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Rajasthan and interacted with Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare and with the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare.

Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare appreciated the efforts of NACO and involvement of the communities, Civil Society Organizations and development partners in India's fight against HIV and AIDS. She had also shared her experience as a medical practitioner with the people infected with HIV/AIDS. Various publications of NACO were released by the Hon'ble Minister. These are as follows:

- National Operational Guidelines for ART Services 2021
- National Guidelines on HIV Care and Treatment 2021
- National Technical Guidelines on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
- Sankalak 3rd Edition 2021 & India HIV Estimates 2020
- District Level HIV Estimates & prioritization in India 2019

Addressing the event, the Union Health Secretary, Shri Rajesh Bhushan emphasized on the fact that inequalities and diseases are interlinked as reduction in inequalities gives rise to access to healthcare services and improves the overall standard of lives of people. Shri Alok Saxena, AS & DG, NACO mentioned that the National AIDS Control Programme has covered a long journey. More than 34,000 testing centers, 1900 Anti-Retroviral Treatment Centres and 1400 targeted interventions are currently running in the country, which are providing services to People Living with HIV and more than 4 million high-risk groups and target populations. Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director, NACO reiterated NACO's commitment towards increasing HIV awareness, speak out against HIV stigma, and call for an integrated and enhanced response towards attainment of ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 as committed under Sustainable Development Goals. Officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, dignitaries from development partners and community representatives were also present in the meeting.

The event of World AIDS Day was commenced with flagging off an IEC Van by Ms. Hema Sardesai, a well known playback singer, lyricist and Social Activist. A Bharatnatyam recital was also presented by Ms. Sapna Naik along with

RRC students of Kala Academy. On the occasion, the News bulletin of Goa SACS was released. A month-long campaign was conducted to create awareness on HIV/AIDS through the IEC van.



## Uttarakhand SACS

World AIDS Day 2021 was observed by Uttarakhand SACS at Dehradun. The event was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Health of Uttarakhand as Chief Guest. During the event, Doctors, Counselors, Lab Technicians of ICTC, STI Clinics, OST Centers, ART Centers, TI NGOs & staff of ICTC mobile van were felicitated

for their excellent work in the HIV/AIDS Programme. Staff of USACS, representatives from TI NGOs, Government Departments, Private Organizations, Industries under Employee Led Model and Students of NSS Uttarakhand attended the event.



On 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 Gujarat SACS along with Rajkot Municipal Corporation organized World AIDS Day at Rajkot. Shri Ashish Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Rajkot Municipal Corporation flagged off a rally to commemorate

the occasion. During the meeting various organisation were felicitated to acknowledge their services during the COVID-19 pandemic period at Rajkot.



# Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society

ANACS organized an event at Dr. B R Ambedkar auditorium, PBMC, Port Blair to observe World AIDS Day, 2021. Various other activities like Rally, Painting competition, Quiz competition, Essay competition, Speech competition and Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS were conducted during the event. Dr. Munni Singhania,

Director, Health Services, A&N administration and Dr. Ashish Kumar Mandal, Director, A&N Islands Institute of Medical Sciences (ANIIMS) attended the event as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. During the event, youth who participated in the quiz competition were felicitated.



On 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 Dr. Veena Singh, Director General Health Services, Government of Haryana flagged off 40 Uber cabs for a fortnight long HIV/AIDS awareness campaign. The event was attended by officials of SACS, staff of ICTC, DSRC, ARTC and TI NGOs. The event of the World AIDS Day was graced by the presence of

Film and TV Actor, Shri Ranjeet Pannu. This event was further taken up in the districts. Dr. Renu Pahal, Project Director, Haryana SACS flagged off 50 Uber cabs with HIV/AIDS awareness messages in Karnal district and 500 auto rickshaws in Faridabad district.



World AIDS Day was observed in all 14 districts of Kerala under the leadership of all District Collectors and DACO. The State level inaugural function of WAD was graced by presence of Mrs. Veena George, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Women & Child Development, Government of Kerala. The highlight of this year's World AIDS Day programme was the declaration of the goal

**'Zero New HIV Infections in Kerala by 2025'.** During the event, a Strategic Plan Document for achieving the ambitious goal was also released. The function was attended by Dr. Rajan N. Khobragade, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare; Dr. R Ramesh, Project Director, Kerala SACS and SACS officials.



Department of Health & Family Welfare  
Govt. of Kerala - Kerala HEALTH

**KERALA MARCHING WITH CONFIDENCE.....**

**State Strategic Plan for Achieving Zero New HIV Infection in Kerala by 2025**

NACO

Kerala State AIDS Control Society (KSACS)  
Technical Support Unit of KSACS

KSACS

# Himachal Pradesh SACS

HPSACS Initiated a month-long campaign and launch of 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of New India@75 campaign on World AIDS Day 2021. HPSACS collaborated with 6 Government Medical Colleges and around 50 line departments and organizations for awareness

generation in this month-long campaign. Several activities like sensitization sessions, free SMS and competitions were carried out as part of the awareness campaign.



## Sikkim SACS

Sikkim SACS observed World AIDS Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 at M. G. Marg, Gangtok. The daylong event witnessed a wide array of theme based activities such as Skits, dance, meme, signature campaign, promotion of 1097, HIV testing and counseling, storytelling & poem recitation. The main highlight of the event was Marathon- 'RED RUN' which was categorized in to two, Half Marathon (21 kms)- open for all and 'We Care RUN' (10 kms) for school/college students.

Over 200 individuals participated in the RUN and pledged to support the people infected and affected by HIV and fight against the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS. The event attended by various NGOs, TI partners, RRC Clubs and other stakeholders. Mrs. Sandhya Gurung, Boxing Coach and prestigious Dronacharya Awardee graced the event as the Chief Guest.



## Meghalaya SACS

To mark this occasion of World AIDS Day various programmes were conducted all over Meghalaya.

A Car and Bike Rally was organized in Shillong to generate awareness on HIV/AIDS.



# Chhattisgarh SACS

A State level event was organized by Chhattisgarh SACS in Raipur. Shri T.S Singh Deo, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare

graced the occasion and felicitated various staff and stakeholders for their work.



## Bihar SACS

Bihar State AIDS Control Society organized State-level programme on World AIDS Day, to spread awareness and educate the targeted and concerned groups working on the HIV/AIDS across the State. On this occasion, Bihar State AIDS Control Society took out a cycle rally (Cyclothon) to spread awareness against stigma & discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS. 200 students of B. D. College participated in the rally.



## Mumbai DACS

Under the guidance of Shri Harshad Kale, Project Director, Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society (MDACS) a **Swayam Mahila Melawa** was conducted for the beneficiaries of 'MCGM supported financial assistance scheme for widows'. To bring the beneficiaries together to form Self Help Group for their financial upliftment,

'**Swayam Mahila Group**' was constituted on this occasion by Dr. Shrikala Acharya, Addl. Project Director, MDACS. Sessions on health, Social Protection schemes, opening of account, SHG formation etc. were conducted. Health check up of the participants was conducted and dry ration was distributed.



## Rajasthan SACS

Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society (RSACS) observed World AIDS Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 at Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM RIPA), Jaipur. The programme was graced by the distinguished presence of Shri Prasadi Lal Meena, Minister of Medical, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Rajasthan. The event

included a quiz competition, cultural programme, role plays and awareness by Red Ribbon Clubs. The Hon'ble Minister also felicitated staff of Blood Banks, ITCTC, ARTC, STI Clinics, I/c of RRCs, various industries and organizations. The event was also attended by various NGOs, TI partners, Community representatives, RRC Clubs and stakeholders etc.



## Madhya Pradesh SACS

Madhya Pradesh State AIDS Control Committee observed World AIDS Day 2021 at Rabindra Bhavan. Dr. Prabhuram Chaudhary, Hon'ble Health Minister, Government of MP graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. A quiz competition was organized for the youth participated in the programme and prizes were distributed to the participants. Information on the various provisions

of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017 was also presented and the Community Members shared their experiences with the participants. More than 450 people including State N.S.S. Officers and members, Nodal Officers and members of Red Ribbon Club, TI NGO and partners Organizations participated in the event.



Odisha SACS observed three days of varied awareness programmes at the State level. Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri Nabakishore Das virtually attended the State level ceremony as Chief Guest. The Hon'ble Minister also virtually inaugurated the ART centre situated in Keonjhar and launched the half-yearly newsletter of OSACS. The occasion was attended by Dr. Dinabandhu Panda, Additional

Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Urmila Mishra, Project Director, OSCAS, all district CDMOs, ADMOs, ADPHO (TB), and Directors under the Health & Family Welfare department, development partners and RRC coordinators attended the meeting. Several competitions such as painting, slogan competitions, webinars etc., were carried out in the State.



# National Review Meeting of Care, Support and Treatment Services

The Care, Support and Treatment (CST) division of NACO conducted the annual review meeting of SACS in Visakhapatnam. The objective of this meeting was to review the progress made in the CST programme with focus on new strategies adopted in the last two years. The three-day review provided a platform to share the innovations and

best practices adopted by various States. Respective State representatives presented about available CST services, progress towards 95-95-95, treatment cascade, attrition indicators, viral load cascade, budget utilization, and challenges with proposed action plans.



## Visit of AS & DG, NACO to the One-Stop Centre established for Transgender Community

A high-level delegation headed by **Shri. Alok Saxena, Additional Secretary and Director General, NACO** visited the **One-Stop Centre (OSC)** established for Transgender Community at King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam on **12<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**.

**Shri Alok Saxena, AS & DG, NACO** interacted with the technical team of Project ASPIRE and transgender community on the experiences of One Stop Center and appraised for timely effort of mainstreaming a niche medical requirement.



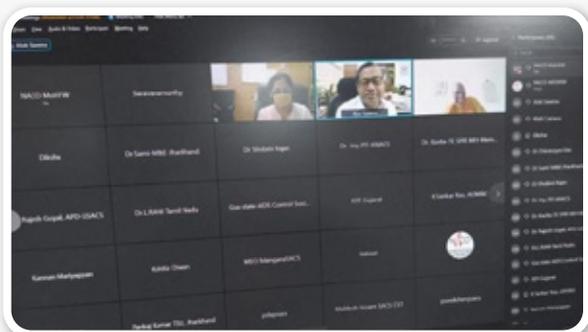
He advised to establish similar centres in other government facilities to cater the transgender people-specific health needs in Andhra Pradesh. The team also interacted with the members of transgender community and the Hijra Nayaks. To maximise the efforts and to further ensure

sustainability, the project is coordinating with targeted intervention NGOs and district level structures including DAPCU and Community Advisory Board in improving access and acceptability of HIV services for transgender population.

## Brown Bag Seminar Series - A Cross Institutional Collaboration

National AIDS Control Organisation undertakes various activities as part of its capacity building initiatives. As part of the series, a talk was held on **“Reflections on the HIV Programme in the country and way forward to achieving the SDG Goals of 2030”** by Dr Bilali Camara, Medical Epidemiologist, UNAIDS Awardee for Human Rights under the chairmanship of Shri Alok Saxena, AS&DG, NACO.

The other talk was held on “Migration and Epidemics” by Prof. Chinmay Tumbe, Asst. Professor, Economics Area, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. The talk was attended by Smt. Arti Ahuja, Additional Secretary (Health), 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.



## Release of documentary - ‘Mitr Clinic - Pride and Beyond’



**Shri Alok Saxena, AS & DG NACO** inaugurated the screening documentary on **‘Mitr Clinic – Pride and Beyond’**. Since the onset of the National AIDS Control Programme, it has been observed that the community which was marginalized through their relentless efforts, found a space in terms of their rights to health and against stigma and discrimination. NACO takes keen interest in understanding and responding to the health needs of the community. Through these examples, NACO empathetically

states itself to be the fulcrum of the vulnerables. The long- term association with USAID in India under the PEPFAR umbrella, with JHU/ACCELERATE

team was appreciated for the successful development of the movie, from conceptualization to execution under the guidance of NACO.

## Community System Strengthening- For, With & By the Community

A National Stakeholder Consultation was conducted by National AIDS Control Organization in Bhopal under the chairpersonship of **Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director, NACO**. The objective of the consultation was to gather information on specific needs and priority areas to be included in the modules as well as to build consensus on other essential components under Community System Strengthening namely: Community Championship Program, Constitution of Community Resource Group at district and State level and lastly on the CSS National Guidance document for India.

Various stakeholders shared global and national experiences on implementing Community System Strengthening. The consultation brought forward the focus of CSS, which has been towards achieving outcomes in both the domains of prevention and treatment. It was reiterated by Director, NACO that CSS under NACP, will lead to progress on the front of universal access to health care and realizing the rights of everyone to achieve the highest attainable standards of health, no matter who they are or where they live.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> National LGBTQI+ symposium

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> National LGBTQI+ symposium, **Shri Alok Saxena, AS & DG, NACO** elaborated on addressing the needs of the LGBTQI+ community and the formulation of services. He emphasized that training needs to be undertaken for the medical practitioners and health researchers for the same. Cutting edge research on community issues and involving the community is a mandate to develop this.



NACO being a major stakeholder is actively taking part in reviewing the medical curriculum and aims to establish a center at AIIMS for community

centered needs. It was advised to build coalition with education centers for the mental well-being of community.

## Consolidation and Roll Out of the Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy (SSS)



India has reached a critical junction requiring concerted efforts to attain 95-95-95 targets by 2025 and ultimately achieve the goal of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030. To achieve this ambitious goal, intensified preventive efforts are needed to accelerate reduction in new infections and avert AIDS-related deaths at much higher rate. In order to reach out to the population “At Risk” for HIV and STIs with a comprehensive preventive services delivery package, NACO has envisaged a new form of “**Immersion Learning Model**” of Service delivery as ‘**Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy**’. This initiative is planned under Global Fund Grant 2021-24 with the goal of arresting the spread of HIV among ‘At Risk’ HIV negative population by effectively targeting and tailoring interventions to prevent HIV transmission.

**Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy (SSS)** will enable wider outreach and service delivery models to prevent HIV infections in locations and population groups that are “At Risk” for HIV and STIs and are affected by the epidemic i.e. HRG Population not associated with Targeted Intervention Project or those who are operating through virtual platforms will be covered with differentiated approach by providing them the comprehensive services package in a stigma free environment.

The event ‘**Consolidation and Roll Out of the Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy (SSS)**’ was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2021 at New Delhi to roll out the programme in the field. Implementation will start off with 10 districts of 3 States i.e Gujarat, Punjab and Telangana a Pilot by March 2022, followed by 65 districts of 10 States in the year 2022-23 in first phase and another 75 districts of additional 10 States in phase II. In total, 150 SSS Sites are planned in 20 States till the year 2024.

During the programme, the overview of SSS and the work done so far under Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy was shared with the participants. A draft Guidance Note has been developed to serve as a guiding document for State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) to develop the implementation plan of SSS in their respective States. It also details out the roll out activities with the aim of emersion learning to help in developing the strategy and which will keep evolving based on field experiences.

Additional Secretary & Director General - NACO, Sh. Alok Saxena released the Sampoorna Suraksha Strategy “**Consultation Report**” (held on 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August, 2021) along with the **Draft of “Guidance Note”** and “**the Logo**” of SSS.

## Supportive Supervision visit to Rajasthan to Strengthen NACP activities



**Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director, NACO** visited Rajasthan along with senior officials to review NACP activity. NACO team visited NACP facilities located in JLN Medical College & Hospital campus in Ajmer city and reviewed Targeted Intervention project implemented for Injecting Drug Users. Key issues related to opening of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST), quality of counseling

in ICTC/DSRC, Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) were discussed. Emphasis was laid upon reaching out to 'At Risk' population with prevention and treatment services, provision of social security to the key vulnerable population, optimization of resources, and ensuring regular field visits by SACS official to the NACP facilities etc.

## Gender Affirmative Care (GAC) Center for Transgender people

The National Human Rights Commission in India has recommended for creating enabling environment and increase the access of health care facilities for Transgender community. Taking cognizance of the issues relating to the rights of LGBTQI community and considering the demand of the community, a pilot intervention of establishing a Gender Affirmative Care (GAC) was initiated under the chairpersonship of Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director NACO. It was discussed that, the training module may also be developed for the medical practitioners for different specialties to deal with the Transgender community. During this meeting, representatives from AIIMS-New Delhi, WPATH organization, NACO representatives, CEO

of ATHI organization & various community experts actively participated and discussed about the global practices of sex reassignment surgeries among participants and the health needs of the transgender community.



# National Workshop on 'Strengthening Mainstreaming Efforts in NACP'

A two-day National Workshop for the Mainstreaming and GIPA officers from State AIDS Control Societies on 'Strengthening mainstreaming efforts in NACP' was held on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at New Delhi. The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of the participants to strengthen Advocacy, Mainstreaming efforts and upscale Social Protection at the States/UTs.

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Alok Saxena, Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO. The inaugural event was also graced by the presence of Smt. Radhika Chakravarthy, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Social Justice & Empowerment (DoSJE) and Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director, NACO and officials from NACO. Officials from ministries namely Department of Internal Security; Department of Defence; Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Ministry of Labour & Employment; Coal India Limited; BEST, Mumbai and representatives from UNAIDS; UNDP; CDC; USAID and positive network also attended the event.

In his address, AS & DG, NACO remarked a multi-sectoral approach is required and synergy need to be built with other programmes to ensure that we reach out to each and every person exposed to HIV, further link them with the services and provide social protection benefits to people affected and infected with HIV. Smt. Radhika Chakravarthy, Joint Secretary, DoSJE, highlighted that converging activities of DoSJE and NACO will help in sensitizing and reaching out to large number of youths and women.

Experts from UNDP, ILO, World Health Partners, Plan India, Public Sector Undertakings and Private Sector were invited to take various sessions in the workshop. During the workshop, Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP also addressed the participants and lauded the mainstreaming efforts of NACO in achieving the SDG. The two-day workshop provided an opportunity to learn the best practices, experiences from each other and newer approaches from the speakers.



## Regional Review meetings of IEC, Youth and Mainstreaming

Three regional level review meetings of IEC Youth & Mainstreaming division were organized at Chhattisgarh, Assam and Rajasthan in the Month of November & December 2021. Joint Director (IEC), Assistant Director (Youth), Deputy Director (Social Protection Scheme) and Assistant Director (GIPA) of respective SACS attended the review meeting from each State. New interventions to strengthen the IEC were discussed and the participating State teams brainstormed for developing the roadmap for 2022-23. Best practices

from each State were showcased to be piloted and scaled up. Besides the expenditure component, review meetings also paved way for scaling up of best practices. Each State teams was encouraged to strengthen their social media handles and engage youth in an effective way. SACS were encouraged to strengthen their mainstreaming activities and to build synergies with the line departments to promote services and social protection.



# National AIDS Control Organisation successfully launches 3 Phases of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*

NACO successfully completed three major awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Voluntary Blood Donation to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. The event aimed at using the potential of the youth of India towards spreading awareness about HIV, TB and Voluntary Blood Donation across the nation. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the campaign was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 on the International Youth Day by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare. The event was virtually joined by more than 1,23,000 students from different schools and colleges across the country. The 2nd phase of the campaign

was launched by Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Approximately, 75,000 students joined the event virtually. The programme was live streamed on the social media handles of NACO and MoHFW. The 3rd phase of this campaign was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 during the World AIDS Day event. Through this event, large number of schools and colleges across India actively participated in various awareness activities to spread correct knowledge and information on HIV and AIDS and related services to the community.





Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India



National AIDS Control Organisation  
India's Voice against AIDS  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India  
www.naco.gov.in



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disclose your HIV status**

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(Prevention and Control) Act, 2017**

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**END** INEQUALITIES  
AIDS  
PANDEMICS

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NACO e-newsletter is the digital publication of National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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