



National AIDS Control Organisation

India's Voice against AIDS

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
www.naco.gov.in



JANUARY - MARCH 2020

VOL. X ISSUE 20

NACO NEWS



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



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FROM THE DESK OF PATRON



Dear Readers,

I welcome you all in this edition of NACO News.

Since we are in the penultimate year to achieving the fast track targets of 90-90-90 by 2020, I emphasized in the previous editions as well that we need to work together towards achieving these targets and that is why the Annual Action Plans have been prepared by states keeping in mind these targets to be achieved. In this year to overcome all the issues, gaps and challenges faced by states in the previous year, were discussed in a review meet held with all the Project Directors.

I am happy to share that Bihar has launched its first ever Facility Integrated Counseling & Testing Centre (FICTC) in prison settings at Hajipur Prison Campus that will help in providing preventive and care services to inmates. This step will prove revolutionary to build self esteem and confidence among the inmates who often suffer from poor mental and physical health due to drug dependency, isolation from family leading to increased depression, aggressive and risky behavior. Our vision through this initiative is to generate awareness among the vulnerable population which until now was hard to reach.

The HIV & AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017 is speedily penetrating at the state level. I am pleased to share that so far, 25 state level consultations have been organized in States/UTs/NCT and 14 states have formulated the state rules and submitted them to other departments for further approval and vetting. I would like to congratulate State of Himachal Pradesh & Jharkhand for making special efforts and designating Ombudsman in their states for providing benefits of the HIV & AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017, to people living with HIV. Also, I would urge other states as well to frame State specific rules and appoint Ombudsman as soon as possible.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and share it further to let your nexus know about the current interventions of National AIDS Control Programme. I am happy to see that turning digital of NACO News has yielded us quicker responses for enhancement of the same.



Sanjeeva kumar
Additional Secretary (Health) and
Director General (NACO & NTEP)
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)

FROM THE DESK OF JOINT SECRETARY



I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year 2020!

As we stride close towards the last year for meeting the fast-track targets of Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT) of HIV & Syphilis, Elimination of Stigma & Discrimination, Reduction in New Infection by 75%, and achieving 90-90-90 by 2020, I request you all to calibrate your efforts towards its achievement. These targets are a stepping stone to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

In light of these fast track targets, a National Consultation on HIV Interventions on Virtual Platforms has also been organized. This helped us prioritizing key thematic areas such as 'Mapping and reaching the populations and at-risk groups on virtual platforms', 'Strategies to engage virtual population in services', 'Linkages to Treatment' and ethical/ data security considerations.

In order to strengthen the cross-institutional collaboration consultations on Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) with private providers and community representatives have been conducted to seek inputs on the draft of National Policy on PrEP and National Technical Guidelines on PrEP. These meetings also focused on the feedback on the National AIDS Control Programme.

I hope all these initiatives will pave way to meet the set goals and objectives of the National AIDS Control Programme.

Good luck!

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

Shri Alok Saxena
Joint Secretary, NACO
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India

FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR



Going Beyond!!!

As we reach closer to the fast track targets of 90:90:90, we all need to realize and fully understand that there is no room for complacency and by all means we have to achieve these. We can't afford to miss this deadline as it will otherwise derail the whole process for achieving goal of Ending AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Time is now to relook the strategies of prevention, testing and treatment.

For prevention NACO is now having a revamped TI strategy and scope of TI has been redefined to increase the reach tremendously including reaching those who are in virtual space. For testing the work of CBS is gaining momentum and supply of screening kits to all places including Village Health Nutrition Day sites for pregnant women is being monitored closely. Record 2.3 crore pregnant women were reached last year but we have to reach 3 crore by next year definitely.

For treatment after Test & Treat launch, nearly 3 lakh patients have been added and to take services near to people 50 more ART centres are being opened up besides differentiated care being provisioned from OST, CSC and TI sites by medicine distribution for stable patients. Multi Month Dispensation for 3 months is another important strategy to reduce the work load at ART centre.

Focus has also been increased to frame state rules of HIV & AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017 and more and more social protection schemes are being initiated so that stigma and discrimination can be reduced at work places and in society. With these new developments, I am sure we shall steadily progress to achieve our goal in a defined period or may be earlier. Let us move further with greater pace and strengthen enthusiasm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naresh Goel'.

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

PROGRAMME

Grand Finale of 2nd North East Multimedia Campaign

Theme- '**North East United Against HIV/AIDS**'

Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MACS) hosted the Grand Finale of 2nd North East Multimedia Campaign under the title *North East United Against HIV/AIDS*, at Bhagyachandra Open Air Theatre, Imphal, Manipur on February 6, 2020.

Multi-Media Campaign is a special package provided exclusively by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI, for the states of North East since the year 2009. Under this package, special activities are conducted in all North Eastern States to promote *awareness, compassion, education and support towards HIV & AIDS*. Under the concept of Grand Finale, first intra-state competitions are held in each state and then the winning musical bands from all the eight North East States compete at a common platform. This year's competing bands were:

1. Bipolar Shadows – Sikkim
2. Daamal – Tripura
3. Impromptu – Assam
4. Innocent Eyes – Manipur
5. Larger Than 90 – Meghalaya
6. Reloaded – Arunachal Pradesh
7. Tune Up Channel – Nagaland
8. Boom-a-rang – Mizoram

Dignitaries present in the event were Shri L. Jayanta kumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Manipur, Shri V. Vumlunmang, IAS, Principal Secretary (H&FW) & Chairman, MACS, Government of Manipur, Brg. R. S. Sethi, Group Commander, NCC, Imphal, Col. Rup

Singh, Commandant - 4th Workshop, Assam Rifles, Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General, NACO and Ms. Rosita Haobam, IAS, Project Director, MACS.

Some special performances during the event were *Pung Cholom*, a unique classical dance of Manipur, duet folk fusion by Guru Rewben Mashangva & Mrs. Bedabati, folk performance by Pinky Saikhom, band performance by Manipur's famous rock band from the 90s: *Imphal Talkies*, band performance by *The Wishes* (Winner of 1st NE MMC held at Kohima, 2019). Other engaging performances were by GMP *The Band* & *Virgo Diamond* and *Somaya Rumthao* & *The Band*.

The winners of the mega event of North East Multimedia Campaign were: 1st- 'Innocent Eyes' from Manipur, 2nd- 'Larger than 90' from Meghalaya & 3rd- 'Tune up Channel' from Nagaland. These winners bagged the prize money worth Rs. 1,00,000, 70,000 and 50,000 respectively. All other participating teams were also awarded with a consolation prize money of Rs. 30,000 each.

The event marked a huge success as the number of attendees was more than three thousand. During the event, several informative stalls with IEC material were put by different AIDS Control Societies along with a voluntary HIV counseling and testing facility. A wish tree was also put up at the entrance of the event venue where visitors wrote their heartfelt messages about equal rights for people living with HIV and AIDS.



'Innocent Eyes' from Manipur, winner of the 2nd North East Multimedia Campaign



'Larger than 90' from Meghalaya, 1st runner up of the 2nd North East Multimedia Campaign



'Tune up Channel' from Nagaland, 2nd runner up of the 2nd North East Multimedia Campaign

A wish tree put up at the event venue to show support for people living with HIV





Messages written by visitors on the wish tree put up at the event venue to show support for people living with HIV

Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Manipur pasting a hand-written message on the wish tree



Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General, NACO pasting his message on the wish tree

Shri V. Vumlunmang, IAS, Principal Secretary (H&FW) & Chairman, MACS, Government of Manipur sharing his thoughts with the young attendees of the North East Multimedia Campaign



Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General, NACO emphasised upon the power of multi-sectoral partnerships and how the impact can be multiplied with involving youth in it



Ms. Rosita Haobam, IAS, Project Director, MACS urged all to get tested for HIV and to help raising awareness regarding possible threats of HIV



Duet folk fusion by Guru Rewben Mashangva & Mrs. Bedabati



Pung Cholom, a unique classical dance of Manipur performed during the Grand Finale of 2nd North East Multimedia Campaign





A young participant writing his thoughts to show support for people living with HIV

Pinky Saikhom, a folk artist from Manipur narrating an old folk tale in Manipuri



Dr. Jyotika Cheema, NACO

Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between NACO & Department of Commerce

The 1st Joint Working Group meeting with Department of Commerce was convened under the chairmanship of Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO and co-chairmanship of Shri Darpan Jain, Joint Secretary (Coordination), Department of Commerce (DOC) on 26th February, 2020.

The meeting was attended by key officials from the Department of Commerce, associated offices and

NACO officials. The participants were appraised on the various activities undertaken on HIV & AIDS prevention and control by NACO. Activities on HIV & AIDS awareness carried out by various offices under DOC were also presented. During the meeting, it was suggested that DOC will invite representatives from all the associated office and NACO will prepare a detailed action plan for roll-out of activities.



Utpal Das, NACO

National Consultation on HIV Virtual Interventions & Way Forward

As part of Strategic Information, identifying gaps in the national programme as well as evidence generation through studies/projects/pilots/innovations on key priority areas has been central to the National AIDS Control Programme. In light of the fast-track targets of 2020 and the SDG target of *Ending the epidemic of AIDS by 2030*, a National Consultation on HIV Interventions on Virtual Platforms was organised by the National AIDS Control Organisation in collaboration with USAID through Johns Hopkins University under Project ACCELERATE during 29th & 30th January, 2020 at New Delhi.

Policy makers, researchers/scientists, programme managers from NACO, State AIDS Control Societies,

Technical Support Units, senior experts, civil society members, community and partner representatives attended the Consultation.

The National Consultation was inaugurated by Joint Secretary, NACO. Consultation deliberated and provided a way forward on key thematic areas such as *'Mapping and reaching the populations and at-risk groups on virtual platforms'*, *'Strategies to engage virtual population in services'*, *'Linkages to Treatment'* and ethical/data security considerations.

Seven technical briefs from the National HIV/AIDS Research Plan and four from Round II of the National Data Analysis Plan highlighting key programmatic findings were also released during the meeting.



National Consultation on Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) with Community Representatives

A National Consultation was organised by NACO in collaboration with UNAIDS on 25th January, 2020 at New Delhi to seek inputs from community representatives on the draft of National Policy on PrEP and National Technical Guidelines on PrEP. The meeting also focused on feedback of the community and civil society on the National AIDS Control Programme. The meeting was held under

the chairmanship of Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO. The consultation was attended by senior officials & programme managers from NACO, Working group members, development partners, along with select private providers, community representatives and other key stakeholders.



Neha Kapoor, NACO

Training Visit of Students of Holy Family College of Nursing

Training Visit of BSc (H) Nursing Students of Holy Family College of Nursing, University of Delhi was organized by National AIDS Control Organization on 24th January, 2020 at NACO, Delhi. The exposure visit is part of capacity building & cross learnings, trainings and orientation visits which are held to facilitate training, knowledge exchange and to sensitise students towards National AIDS Control Programme, NACO and its activities based on their requirement. The meeting was attended by trainee BSc(H) Nursing Students from Holy Family College of Nursing, Nodal officers from various Programme Divisions of NACO.



Vinita Verma, NACO

National Review of SACS for Targeted Interventions Component

A National Review Meet of State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) was conducted by NACO on 21st, 22nd & 24th January, 2020 in three batches. Nodal Officers of Targeted Interventions from respective SACS participated in the review. The meeting was conducted with following objectives:

- Status of activities approved in AAP 2019-20 under TI, LWS, OST, ELM centres onboard, evaluation of TI & LWS, training on TI revamped strategies and fund utilization.
- Programme performance analysis (coverage, new registration of HRGs, clinic attendance, HIV testing/screening, ART & TB Linkages and HIV/TB intervention in prisons).
- Update on implementation of TI revamped strategies, issues and challenges.

Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG, NACO chaired all three batches. Representatives from World Bank & PHFI

also participated in the review.

The review has come out with following action points which were shared with States for implementation thereafter:

- a) Expedite contracting of TI NGOs/CBOs as per approved AAP 2019-20.
- b) Complete Evaluation of TIs
- c) Improve New identifications
- d) Improve clinic visits
- e) HIV testing to be improved
- f) Improve condom distribution
- g) Ensure there is no stock out of condom
- h) Improve TB screening
- i) Complete all training before the closing of financial year
- j) States/UTs to be called for TI programme review again along with respective TSUs.



Vijay Singh, NACO

National Consultation on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) with Private Providers

Consequent upon the first draft of both, National Policy on PrEP and National Technical Guidelines on PrEP by the expert working groups, a National Consultation was organized by NACO in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University on 20th January, 2020 at New Delhi to seek inputs from Private Providers. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, NACO. The consultation was attended by senior officials & Programme Managers from NACO, Working group members, development partners, along with

select private providers and other key stakeholders.



Neha Kapoor, NACO

Training Visit of General Duty Medical Officers

As part of the capacity building & cross learnings; trainings and orientation visits are held to facilitate training, knowledge exchange and to sensitise students towards National AIDS Control Programme, NACO and its activities. Against this backdrop, Training Visit of General Duty Medical Officers (GDMOs) under Central Health Services

was organised by National AIDS Control Organization from 6th - 10th January, 2020 at NACO, Delhi. Trainee GDMOs, representatives of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), Nodal officers from various Programme Divisions of NACO attended the meeting.



Vinita Verma, NACO

Rapid Field Assessment Towards Augmenting AIDS Response In Nagaland

Rapid Field Assessment

In view of the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS epidemic and related risk-behaviors, a rapid field assessment of status of HIV/AIDS epidemic and response in Nagaland was undertaken by a delegation from National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) from 10th to 15th February, 2020, under the leadership of Dr. Shobini Rajan (Assistant Director General, Strategic Information, NACO). The delegation was also joined by representatives from Nagaland State AIDS Control Society, community representatives (Kripa Foundation), CDC-DGHT

India, FHI360, Alliance India and FHI360. The team visited the health care facilities, targeted interventions, prisons and colleges at Dimapur, Tunesang, Noklak and Mokokchung. As a part of the process, the team also met with Deputy Commissioners of Dimapur and Tunesang. Dr. Shobini Rajan debriefed Shri Temjen Toy, IAS (Chief Secretary, Govt. of Nagaland) and other stakeholders during a meeting at Kohima, Nagaland on 15th February 2020.

Background

As per HIV Estimations 2017, Nagaland is one of the three states with adult HIV prevalence of more than 1%. In the HIV Sentinel Surveillance, the State has always shown much higher prevalence among pregnant women than the national average. Among the pregnant women being tested at confirmatory Stand Alone ICTCs under PPTCT programme, the State had highest positivity rate among the pregnant women during April-December 2019, higher HIV prevalence than the national average has also been seen among FSW and MSM population group in the State.

While HIV prevalence among the FSW and MSM in the State is higher than the national average, these HRG population are largely limited to Dimapur district. HRG population are also being covered in other districts but numbers are relatively small.

Table 1. HIV Prevalence among various population group (HSS - 2017)

Population Group	Nagaland	India
ANC	0.82	0.28
FSW	3.60	1.56
MSM	7.66	2.69
IDU	1.15	6.26

The prevalence of high-risk behaviors appears to be high in the State in comparison to the National average. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2015-16, percentage of men who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months (i.e. Sexual intercourse with a partner who was neither a spouse nor who lived with the respondent) was 16.9% in Nagaland, second, only to the Mizoram and much higher than the national average of 7.1%. Percentage of men who reported condom-use during last higher-risk intercourse was 33% in comparison to the national average of 33%.

Key Observations

- It was observed that at the macro level, the AIDS response in the state is being implemented as per the framework provided by the National AIDS Control Programme. Specifically, community engagement in the State is strong, providing critical inputs to SACS on the community needs at most local level. Given the difficult terrain in State, this is a strength that can be leveraged to design, scale-up, implement and monitor the HIV/AIDS interventions.
- It was further noted that while the epidemic in the State is largely driven through heterosexual route, there is diversity in the drivers of the epidemic. Stakeholders in Noklak reported large no. of transmissions happening through injecting drug use behaviors which was in contrast to the observations made at Dimapur or Tunesang.
- While high-risk sexual behavior appears to be high in the State, the use of condom is apparently low. Further, many of the pregnant women in remote areas are not able to avail the ante-natal care services including that of HIV testing thus posing challenges to elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV. Same is reflected in relatively higher proportional contribution of HIV cases reported to acquire HIV infection through vertical transmission in the State.
- It was further observed that adolescent and young population are at significant risk for HIV infection in State as corroborated by age-distribution of HIV infected people in the State. Almost one fifth of newly detected HIV cases in State were detected among 15-24 year old, being as high as 30% in the district of Tunesang.
- At programme management level, it was apparent that role of District AIDS Prevention Control Units is suboptimum and their engagements with the office of the Deputy Commissioner are limited.
- Also, community mentioned the need for the collaboration with the Govt. of Myanmar in view of a porous border, high prevalence of HIV and related risk behaviors in both sides of border as well as many of the citizens from Myanmar availing services from Noklak and Tunesang.

Next Steps

NACO will work with Govt. of Mizoram to augment the AIDS response in State. Revival of State AIDS Council and constitution of an empowered leadership group are being contemplated as a key structural intervention. Engagement with faith-based organizations, tribal councils and women group on HIV/AIDS prevention-treatment-retention-suppression cascade will be critical, especially to augment the family and close contacts'

testing. Further engagement of all government departments, focusing on awareness, adolescence, youth and outreach as well as mainstreaming HIV/AIDS messages in all State Campaigns are potential high impact interventions for the State. Access to social protection schemes, like free transport services to HIV infected people, is another potential key action point in the State.



Inauguration of OST Centre at CHC Noklak



Briefing with NACO, SACS and Development Partners at Dimapur



De-briefing with Chief Secretary

Dr. Pradeep Kumar, NACO

EVENTS

Intervention among Tea Garden workers - WBSACS

Tea is one of the surviving industries other than Tourism in North Bengal. The region has about 450 tea gardens spread out in the Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars region. This is an industry as old as 150-200 years. With about 3.5 lakh permanent workers and 52% of the workforce in these gardens being females, it is estimated that more than 25,00,000 people are dependent up on the

tea industry in the region.

In the perspective of HIV intervention, efforts have been made to sensitize these workers. Several activities were organized in 70 tea gardens in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri districts in coordination with BSD division.



Programme on Doordarshan Involving Red Ribbon Club-OSACS

To emphasize the sturdy role which Red Ribbon Clubs play to help spread the correct information regarding matters related to HIV / AIDS at the State level, Project Director, OSACS, Smt. Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, IAS participated in a programme conducted by Doordarshan. Members from several Red Ribbon Clubs

participated in the programme. Project Director, OSACS highlighted upon the activities happening in colleges and also focused upon the areas of improvement in order to multiply the effect. A group discussion was also conducted involving RRC members and Red Cross Counselors.



Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2020 – Haryana SACS

34th Surajkund International Crafts *Mela* was held at Surajkund, Faridabad, Haryana from 1st to 16th February, 2020. The *Mela* offered an ideal platform for spreading general awareness regarding safe behaviors and reached out to a distinguished and select clientele as more than a million visitors came to enjoy the *Mela*. This included thousands of foreign tourists as well.

Utilizing this opportunity, Haryana SACS put up one stall at the entrance of Gate No. 2 of the Mela premises. Lab Technicians and Counsellors were deputed full-time during the Mela hours. HIV/AIDS awareness, counselling & testing services were provided to the visitors. During these 16 days, 5,892 people were counselled and 1,591 came forward for HIV testing and 1 person was found positive.



Report on IEC stall in *Adivasi MELA-2020-OSACS*

IEC Stall Put At Adivasi Mela – Odisha SACS

The festivals of tribal communities constitute an integral part of their social life and strongly relate to their beliefs. Their traditions can best be captured at such fairs and festivals. The fair is being organized by the state government each year to highlight tribal life, tradition and culture of the state that has as many as 62 tribes including 13 primitive tribe groups forming nearly one-fourth of the state's population.

To reach directly to thousands of people, Odisha

State AIDS Control Society (OSACS) installed an IEC exhibition stall in the tribal fair conducted by GoI at IDCO Exhibition ground at Bhubaneswar.

The stall was inaugurated by Smt. Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, IAS, Project Director, OSACS and Dr. Saroj Kant Nayak, Director, SIH&FW. Counselors deputed for the programme counselled and cleared the doubts regarding different issues related to HIV/AIDS.



The main attraction of the stall was Folk Programme arranged by OSACS, followed by quiz programme which was conducted for 10 days and attracted different sections of people to come to the stall. Those who answered correctly were awarded with prizes. Audio / Visual material on

HIV/AIDS awareness was also displayed.

A total of 672 people were screened for HIV during the Mela. Most of the volunteers who got tested were youth.

ASHA Campaign in Haryana – Haryana SACS

A door to door ASHA Campaign (rural and urban) was carried in 10 districts of Haryana i.e. Ambala, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Hisar, Jind, Kurukshetra, Mewat, Palwal, Sonapat & Panchkula. The campaign was effective in spreading door to door awareness with help of ASHA workers. More than 9,000 ASHA workers participated in the campaign

in which more than 17 lakh people were targeted. The campaign focused on spreading awareness on facilities provided by SACS i.e. ICTC, Suraksha Clinics, OST Center, ART centers etc. The National Tollfree Helpline 1097 was also promoted at large scale during the campaign. All the ASHA workers were trained before the start of the campaign.



National Youth Day Observance - MSACS

Every year the event of National Youth Day is celebrated to highlight issues concerning the young population and for creating awareness among the youth in generating a positive attitude with the help of right knowledge about how to be a socially responsible being. As part of the observation, Meghalaya AIDS Control Society in collaboration with Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of Meghalaya, organized National Youth Day event on 14th January, 2020 at Mawlai Football Stadium, Shillong under the theme- *Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building*.

A one day football knock-out tournament and penalty shoot-out was organized in which 10

teams participated in the **knock out football** tournament and 8 teams participated in the **penalty shoot out**. Phudmawri FC were adjudged the winners while Mawroh FC stood at second position.



Besides the cheering the spirit of healthy competitions, a pledge was also led by Dr. S.Lyngdoh, Project Director, Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, in the presence of Sh. D.Dann,

District Sports Officer, East Khasi Hills District, members of Mawlai Sports Club, and various teams who participated in the tournament.



National Youth Day Observance - NSACS



Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NACS) in collaboration with the Nagaland State Bharat Scouts & Guides observed National Youth Day on 12th January, 2020 at the State Training Centre, Nerhema, Kohima under the theme ***'Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building'***.

The program was attended by 109 participants including the State Organizing Commissioner of Scouts, State Organizing Commissioner of Guides, State Training Commissioner of both Scouts & Guides, District Officials, Unit Teachers representing 7 districts of Nagaland, Scouts & Guides, resource person and IEC team from NSACS.

Ms. Vimezhonuo Paphino, State Organizing

Commissioner (Guides) thanked NSACS for choosing Nagaland State Bharat Scouts & Guides to collaborate and observe the National Youth Day which was a great source of encouragement to the students and a platform to equip them with the correct and concise information about HIV & AIDS which is a major challenge to the youth.

Mr. Ainato Yeptho, AD (SPM), IEC, NSACS shared about the Scenario of HIV in the state and the services that are available under NSACS in Kohima district. He encouraged the participants to be aware of the increasing rate of HIV infection among youth population and that Nagaland as the 3rd highest in the country is an alarming factor.



State level Quiz Competition for RRC Volunteers – Kerala SACS

A state level quiz competition was conducted by Kerala SACS. It was culmination of a long journey from regional level quiz competition to state level competition. The preliminary rounds of this series were held during the month of October as part of the National Blood donation day activities among RRC volunteers. The winners of the regional level from different parts of the Kerala were then invited to participate in the finals held at Thiruvananthapuram. The winners were presented with trophy and certificates at the event by the KSACS Project Director Dr. Ramesh R.

The finale will be telecast on Asianet Cable vision in two episodes.



"Let's stop Stigma & Discrimination against people living with HIV"



**Under Section 3 of
The HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017,
no person shall be discriminated based on the HIV status**
For further information kindly refer to <http://naco.gov.in/hivaids-act-2017>

Patron: Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary & Director General (NACO & NTIP), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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NACO News is a newsletter of the National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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Visit Integrated Counselling & Testing Centre (ICTC) at the nearest Government Hospital for free & confidential HIV Counselling & Testing

Free Treatment for HIV is available at Antiretroviral Therapy Centres at Government Hospitals