



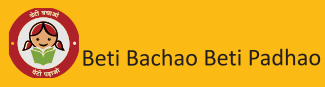
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**OBSERVING  
WORLD  
BLOOD DONOR  
DAY, 2019**

**NACO**  
**NEWS**



**National AIDS Control Organisation**  
India's Voice against AIDS  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India  
[www.naco.gov.in](http://www.naco.gov.in)



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# COVER STORY

## OBSERVANCE OF WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY - WALKATHON ORGANIZED TO GENERATE AWARENESS

Every year, on 14<sup>th</sup> June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) on June 14. The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.

This year in India, on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, a Walkathon was organized by Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine (ISTM) in collaboration with Delhi State AIDS Control Society and State Blood Transfusion Council at India Gate, New Delhi. The event is observed at

large scale by all SACS throughout the country.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India participated in the Walkathon and motivated people to be regular voluntary donors. The walkathon was also participated by Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, Dr. Shobhini Rajan, ADG, NACO and Director, NBTC Sh A. K. Kaushal, Project Director, DSACS, and other senior officials from GoI, NACO and DSACS. Participants such as active blood donors, various blood banks & development partners were also present at the event.



Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India addressing the participants during the Walkathon

### Quote

*"I thank all the voluntary blood donors for their immense support in saving lives. Through this platform, I urge all to come forward and donate blood not just once but regularly. With our small participation we can bring a life back to power. Let us all pledge that no one shall die because of blood deficiency at any stage of treatment."*

(Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India )





Sh. A. K. Kaushal, Project Director, DSACS & Dr Parveen Kumar, Addl. Project Director, DSACS with Staff during walkathon

While interacting with audience and media, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India also shared his thoughts that as healthcare professionals, we have a sincere responsibility to eliminate myths and misconceptions which persist amongst general public, preventing them from donating blood and to be regular donors. These myths and misconceptions need to be removed through spreading awareness to achieve the goal of 100% voluntary donation. Achievement of this goal is only possible with the dedication and

strong support of voluntary blood donors.

In addition to the Walkathon conducted on the World Blood Donor Day, thoughtout the month, rallies and blood donation camps were also organized at various hospitals in Delhi i.e. GTB Hospital in East Delhi, Akash Hospital, Dwarka in South West Delhi, GB Pant Hospital in Central Delhi, BSA Hospital, Blood Bank in Rohini, North West Delhi and a community event by AIIMS in South Delhi.



Glimpses of the rally

# PROGRAMME

## THIRD MEETING OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON HIV SELF-TESTING

The third meeting of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) was held under the chairmanship of Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, at New Delhi. During the meeting, it was proposed that the policy on HIV Self-Testing may be formulated with the support of inputs received from TAG discussion which was centred around:

- (1) Access to HIVST
- (2) Potential Users
- (3) Market Entry
- (4) Age of Consent
- (5) Counselling & Enabling Usage
- (6) Policy Formulation and Operational Challenges
- (7) Key Challenges

Discussions were conducted by dividing the participants into 4 groups. The session was moderated by a senior member from the programme. Each group deliberated over their designated topic and gave a presentation sharing their observations and ideas. The group

discussions went around on:

Group 1: Communication, Counselling/ Supportive services and Demand Generation, Group 2: Linkage to Confirmatory Testing, Group 3: M&E Mechanisms and Group 4: Potential Roles of HIVSS in Public and Private Sector.

TAG members agreed that HIVST should be considered as an additional approach to existing HCTS. It should be advocated to following populations, as an additional choice, that remains under-served by the current program such as:

Index testing – spouse/partners of PLHIV (including discordant couples) as well as HIV negative KPs;

- Sub-population of KPs not reached by TI
- High risk adolescents and young population
- Virtual populations and
- High epidemic settings such as Mizoram



A panel discussion was also held on Unassisted Self-Testing in Indian Context, Challenges and Opportunities

## LAUNCH OF HIV & TB INTERVENTION IN BIHAR PRISONS

HIV/TB intervention in Bihar prisons was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019, at an event organized at Bihar Institute of Correctional Administration, jointly by Sh. Manoj Kumar, IAS, Project Director, Bihar State AIDS Control

Society, Sh. Mithilesh Mishra, IAS, Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Bihar; and Dr. Anoop Kumar Puri, Deputy Director General, National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. First ever Facility Integrated HIV



Counseling & Testing Centre (FICTC) was inaugurated at Hajipur Prison Campus during the launch event.

Sh. Manoj Kumar, IAS, Project Director, Bihar State AIDS Control Society, in his key note address said that people living in prisons are at risk of HIV infection because they lack access to preventive and care services. He said majority of the inmates often suffer from poor mental and physical health due to drug dependency,

isolation from family leading to increased depression, aggressive and risky behavior. He advised SACS officials to plan and implement HIV/TB intervention to cover all 8 central jails, 32 district jails and 18 Sub jails in a phased manner. He also assured that sincere efforts would be made to sign MoU between SACS and prisons and correctional administration to ensure sustainability of the proposed intervention.



Sh. Mithilesh Mishra, IAS, Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Bihar, requested SACS to conduct site-specific training/capacity building activities for all prison officials including medical and paramedical staff on various aspects of testing and treatment services including OST. He had assured that necessary direction will be provided to two central prisons to set up HSS sites. He also added that availability of directory with service providers' details including NGO/CBO addresses; OST, ICTC and ART contact details would greatly help prison officials to ensure linkages for released prisoners.

Dr. Anoop Kumar Puri, Deputy Director General,

NACO, presented copies of the HIV/TB guidelines developed for operationalizing HIV/TB intervention in prisons and other closed settings to IG Prisons and Project Director, BSACS.

A day prior to the launch event, one state level workshop was also organized to sensitize prison officials including medical and paramedical staff on various aspects of HIV/AIDS, under the chairmanship of Sh. Mithilesh Mishra, IAS, Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Bihar at Bihar Institute of Correctional Administration. More than 170 prison officials and SACS representatives participated in this workshop.

### Quote



*"Voluntary counseling and testing services should be given priority. All essential requirement like ARV medicines, STI treatment kits and medicines for drug treatment will be supplied through Bihar SACS. Combating HIV/AIDS is a shared responsibility and Bihar SACS will ensure all possible help."*

Shri Manoj Kumar, IAS, Project Director, Bihar State AIDS Control Society



### Quote



*"Prisoners have been categorized as one of the 'special groups' under National AIDS Control Programme. I emphasize upon the fact that it is the obligation of the State Governments to provide HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counseling services to every person living in the care and custody of the state."*

Dr. Anoop Kumar Puri, Deputy Director General, NACO

S. Abraham Lincoln  
Technical Expert-Harm Reduction

## 3<sup>RD</sup> JOINT WORKING GROUP MEET WITH MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

Under its Mainstreaming and Partnership efforts, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) signed the first ever Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Shipping (M/o Shipping) on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2013. The MoU envisioned strengthening of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, support and treatment services in all ports under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Shipping. The partnership aimed at reaching the port workers, fishermen, seafarers, truckers, single male migrants as well as surrounding communities of port areas with HIV/AIDS information, prevention and services on testing & treatment. Subsequently, members of JWG members from NACO and M/o Shipping were nominated and meetings of JWG were held.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> JWG meeting between NACO with M/o Shipping was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General, (IEC & MS), NACO on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at NACO office, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Sh. Parameswar Bali, CO-Ports, Ministry of Shipping and Chief Medical Officers/Dy. CMOs from 10 major ports of India. NACO officials from concerned divisions and SACS representatives from Odisha, Mumbai and Tamil Nadu also participated in the meeting.





The representatives of the Ports enlightened participants on various activities undertaken on HIV & AIDS prevention and control in their respective areas. The efforts made by major

ports under Ministry of Shipping were appreciated by the chairman and he assured that NACO will continue providing its technical support in all aspects of HIV prevention and control.

## VERBAL AUTOPSY (VA) TO ASSESS CAUSE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY RATE (CSMR) AMONG PLHIVS REGISTERED IN ARTCS, INDIA

India is committed to the goal of 'ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030'. The National AIDS Control Program has successfully achieved the millennium development goals by 2015 through over 50% reduction of annual new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths. It is well known that late diagnosis and few OIs like TB are common cause of mortality among PLHIV. However, the current literature evidences in India,

on the causes of death among PLHIV is limited. Proper medical autopsy of deceased PLHIV certifying the cause of death is not available in most of the cases due to various operational issues. Understanding the causes of death among PLHIV registered at Government ART Centres, could provide newer insights and help to generate evidences and directions for future interventions and strategies.

### Background

To discover the true cause of death among a sample of the deceased PLHIV registered in the ART Centers, CST Division conducted an initial consultation on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The consultation was attended by senior NACO officials, representatives from PCoEs, CoEs and experts from the field of HIV. Also, there were representatives from WHO, CDC, USAID, I-TECH, SHARE-India, NARI, CHAI, NCPI and FHI 360.

Following up the above consultation, it was decided to train ART staff in the selected ART centres in two batches for a period of three days on Verbal Autopsy tools. In this regard, a capacity building of the ART staff consisting of SMO/Medical Officers, Counselors, Regional Coordinators and TSU from North & North-East region along with the CST division officials from NACO. The training was conducted from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at New Delhi. During the training, the participants were made aware of the Verbal Autopsy principles and trained about the tools.

The participants were also given a demonstration on Communication Techniques for conducting Verbal Autopsy Interviews.



Capacity Building of the ART Staff





The next step in this process for the trained ART staff is to make a line list of the deceased PLHIV in their respective ART centres for a period of January to June 2019 and share it with NACO. Once NACO reviews the line list, the ART staff will identify the respondents with the help of NCPI. It is envisaged that the clients will be interviewed at the ART centres unless the client requests any other place or in case of extreme logistic challenges (North East, Uttarakhand and other). These clients will be reimbursed for their travel expenses.

The pilot is critical as the data received will help the programme to focus and prioritize on the preventable causes of deaths.

Dr. Alice Noreen R. Marak  
Associate Consultant

## स्वः(SVA: SELF VERIFIED ADHERENCE) UNDER 99 DOTS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (PLHIV) ON ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY (ART)

Adherence to treatment is the most important factor which determines the treatment outcome. Based on the program data, it has been observed that maximum loss to follow up and poor pill pick up is observed in the first 6-12 months of the treatment. Hence, there is a felt need to have more intensive tools for adherence monitoring to trigger early support during this crucial phase.

Keeping this in mind, CST Division, NACO is piloting स्वः (SVA: Self Verified Adherence) under 99 DOTS for people living with HIV on Antiretroviral Therapy at ART centres, similar to 99 DOTS in TB with the help of Everwell, FHI 360. The centres, which are having (approx.) 50 or more ART initiations per month, have been selected for the pilot with the help of Nodal Officers. Newly initiated clients are being enrolled for the pilot. Prior to the pilot, it was

pre - piloted in the ART centre GTB, Delhi and LLRM, Meerut. The ART centre staffs were trained for SVA on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, at Delhi. Initially, the pilot was conducted at 13 ART Centres and later expanded to 7 more centres making it to 20 centres across Indian sites.



### The intervention utilizes:

- Augmented pill box packaging: 1 Toll Free number will be pasted on the existing medicine bottles.
- The patient will be required to call on the Toll free number (TFN) at the time he/ she takes the medicine and gets recorded at the dashboard. The calls made will be used for adherence monitoring.

- For those clients not calling the TFN service, SMS or IVR reminders are sent to patients to remind them to take medications, or to ART Counsellors to remind them to counsel their patients on adherence. In case the client does not call even after a reminder, the outreach worker pays the client a visit for intervention.

Currently, 890 patients are enrolled in SVA and their adherence is registered to be 81% (Calls + Manual).

With this intervention, the program plans to build the habit formation of the client on drug consumption behavior and avoid missing doses through reminder SMS. This will further lead to real time monitoring of adherence among patient, thus, enabling early support action when the patient misses a dose.

Dr. Alice Noreen R. Marak  
Associate Consultant

## FOLK MEDIA WORKSHOP - RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan SACS conducted a three day long State Level workshop cum Training from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, titled, *Folk Art based Communication on HIV and AIDS* to develop the capacity of folk-performance troupes. The workshop was held at Jaipur in which participants from 31 folk troupes participated.

The workshop involved complete orientation of the troupes based on the objectives of the Folk Media Campaign as conceptualized by NACO & RSACS with a focus up on sensitizing them about the nature of the messages required to be promoted during the performances. A special focus was given upon making these live performances as interactive as possible hence,

the efficacy of the message is ensured. The sessions imparted training to troupes in three popular folk forms – *Kala Jathas, Puppetry & magic shows*.

Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General (IEC & MS), National AIDS Control Organization was the Chief Guest for this workshop. Other dignitaries involved in the workshop were Dr. R. P. Doria, Project Director RSACS, and Dr. Rajendra Mittal, Addl. Project Director. While giving a brief introduction about the workshop, Dr. Pradeep Choudhary, JD-IEC, informed that this workshop will help rolling out the folk media campaign across the 16 districts of Rajasthan more effectively.



### Quote

*" First of all, I congratulate team RSACS for this endeavour. I am happy to see the level of enthusiasm among the participating troupes in this workshop. We all understand the importance of effective messaging by using the regional languages. Through this workshop, we have been able to touch upon sensitive issues like stigma & discrimination and also talked about the presence of HIV & AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017. I believe these modified scripts will yield more impactful results."*

Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General (IEC & MS), NACO



## TWO DAY SENSITIZATION CUM AWARENESS WORKSHOP WITH SEEMA SURAKSHA BAL

Chitranshu Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Lakhimpur Khiri conducted a two day HIV/AIDS sensitizing workshop under the guidance of Uttar Pradesh AIDS Control Society, in May, 2019. The workshop was conducted in the premises of Gadiana Camp and Suda Camp with the



objective of mainstreaming HIV across all Civil Service organizations. Topics covered during this workshop were: session on basics of HIV/AIDS, Targetted Intervention Project, HIV & AIDS (P & C) Act 2017, Stigma & Discrimination, evolution of NACP and also the importance of Voluntary Blood Donation. In this two day workshop, a group of Headquarter Officials, paramilitary officers, their families and the community members learned about the value of prevention. They were also told about the ABC formula of HIV prevention and were also motivated for voluntary blood donation. Sh. Sanjay Mishra (TE-A&P), Sh. Anuj Dixit (UPSACS), Sh. Yogesh Km. Sharma (PO-UPSACS TSU), Sh. Jitendra Singh were the resource persons during the workshop. Participants from TI NGO and other staff from ICTC also contributed to make the workshop, a successful conduct.

## CHANDIGARH SACS: FREE SKIN & HIV TESTING

Due to certain personal, financial, social and legal circumstances, various women & children have to live in Short Stay Shelter Homes, being run by Government and other charitable organizations. These women, mostly, belong to low socio-economic status with low educational level. Therefore, it has been observed that their knowledge level about general health, personal hygiene and HIV related issues, like, STIs, & other reproductive sexual health issues are low. To educate these women and children, NACO has issued directions to run the special drive in the country. In Chandigarh, Department of Social Welfare, runs some Short Stay shelter homes for needy population. Two Projects i.e. Savera and Nari Niketan fall under the scheme of Swadhar.

Chandigarh SACS with support of “Indian Women’s Dermatologic Association-Chandigarh Chapter” and “WDS Global Shelter Project – A Chandigarh Women Dermatology Group Initiative” organized one HIV awareness cum Free Skin Check up & Free HIV Screening Camp at Nari Niketan, Sector 26, Chandigarh on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2019. Dr. Vanita Gupta, PD, CSACS, Dr. Rashmi Sarkar,



Professor MAMC, Delhi, Dr. Mala Bhalla, Professor, GMCH, 32, Dr. Roma Pandhi and Dr. Jitender Dahiya, AD (SPM) educated the audience about issues related to skin care, general health care & HIV & STIs and mother to child transmission of HIV, and treatment & HIV through anti retro viral therapies which are available free of cost at government hospitals. All the women participants were checked for skin related problems and were provided with free medicines. A number of 57 females were checked for HIV.

## ONE DAY SEMINAR ON TOBACCO ABUSE - INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES, JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir State AIDS Control Society in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences, Jammu, organised a daylong seminar on HIV/AIDS awareness and drug de-addiction in connection with World No Tobacco Day, with a focus on theme, 'Say no to Tobacco, Say yes to Life.'

A large number of students from RRC of the Institute participated in various activities like

debate competition, poster making, rangoli making, skit and poem recitation.

DD-IEC, JKSACS also shared views upon the threat drug abuse is posing in current scenario, especially in the context of youth.

The event was concluded with a prize distribution ceremony to felicitate all winners.



## COORDINATION MEETING FOR VERNA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE



A sensitization cum Coordination Meeting was organized by Goa State AIDS Control Society in association with Verna Industrial Association, Dr. Dhaimodkars Occupational Health & Research Centre and Indian Medical Association, Ponda under the Employer Led Model in April 2019. Mr. Damodar Kochkar, President Verna Industrial Association gave the welcome address. He said that Verna Industrial association has signed a Letter of Intent and he urged all the industries to sign MoU/Lol with GSACS to fight against HIV/AIDS. Executives from ten industries participated in the program.

Dr. Survesh Dubhashi, President IMA, Ponda also addressed the gathering and requested all the industries to fight against HIV and AIDS. Dr. Chandrakant Porob, CMO, GSACS gave a presentation on overview of the HIV/AIDS and its current status in Goa. He explained the Employer Lead Model Program in detail and appealed all participants to play a crucial role in eradicating HIV/AIDS. A Film show on Teach AIDS was showcased to sensitize the participants. IEC posters were exhibited and presented to the industries. Verna Industrial association has signed a letter of intent with GSACS which was presented by president Verna Industrial Association Mr. Damodar Kochkar to GSACS. Dr. Dhaimodkar also spoke on the occasion and urged everyone to join hands and initiate the ELM program in their industries.



# HIV/AIDS SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME FOR KADAMBA TRANSPORT CORPORATION EMPLOYEES



HIV/AIDS Sensitization programme for employees of Kadamba Transport Corporation was conducted in May, 2019 at Kadamba Bus stand, Panjim. This is an important annual sensitization activity for groups of employees with messages of prevention and safe behaviours. The special emphasis of the programme was to promote the idea of Positive living and creating positive spaces by enabling healthy environment for people living with HIV. KTCL offers 100% concession for intra-state travels to all PLHIV.

This year the corporation has expressed a desire

to organize sensitization and testing camps at its four major depots. The General Manager of KTCL Corporation Shri. S. L. Ghate addressed the gathering and urged the employees to take protective measure for HIV prevention and be sensitive towards the PLHIV who travel through KTCL buses. The C.M.O, GSACS Dr. Chandrakant Porob also addressed the gathering. Dr. Shivali Prabhudesai A.D. (CST), Dr. Veena Volvoiker A.D. (BSD) conducted the sessions on basics of HIV, STI and available services. Ms. Shanti from Vihaan C. S. C. also shared her ideas about positive living.

# HIV/AIDS SENSITISATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.



Glimpses of sensitization session

A sensitization programme for employees of Konkan Railway Academy was held in the month of April, 2019. Officials of GSACS interacted with the audience over a range of topics related to HIV & AIDS. Ms. Sunita Arudra discussed the association of GSACS with Konkan Rail Academy and explained about the services offered by GSACS, to all PLHIV. Dr. Shivali Prabhudesai spoke about ART and STI related issues.

The participants interacted with resource

person and cleared their doubts regarding the topic openly.

Pendrives including teach-AIDS content in Hindi and English languages were given to play at various spots of different stations. Officials from GSACS were also requested by the authorities of KRC to conduct a similar session at the training academy in Ratnagiri as well. The request was conveyed to MSACS along with contact numbers of the concerned authorities.

## AWARENESS PROGRAMME WITH TECH MAHINDRA SMART ACADEMY - DELHI SACS



Guest Lectures on HIV/AIDS Awareness were conducted at Tech Mahindra Smart Academy, Delhi Campus. Ms. Sujita Gahlaut, AD (YA) and Mr. R. K. Tyagi from Delhi State AIDS Control Society conducted these lectures in June, 2019. The activity was conducted to spread awareness among students on issues related to HIV awareness and prevention activities in order to encourage students to develop an understanding, acceptance and to promote zero discrimination towards HIV patients. The session was based upon dual interactions

between students and session facilitator that enabled an environment before students to ask their doubts openly.

## AWARENESS PROGRAMME WITH NCC STUDENTS - DELHI SACS

An awareness session was conducted with NCC cadets at NCC Bhawan, Rohini by DSACS officials in June, 2019 on issues related to HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. These cadets were also educated about safe sexual practices and to adopt responsible behaviours.

Facilitators were also felicitated by the Commanding Officer, Col. Poonish Sreen.





# EVENTS

## CELEBRATION OF WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY MAULANA AZAD MEDICAL COLLEGE, DELHI

Delhi State Blood Transfusion Council in collaboration with Delhi State AIDS Control Society organized an event on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC).

World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) is celebrated every year on 14<sup>th</sup> June, commemorating the birthday of Dr. Karl Landsteiner, as Austrian biologist and physician who discovered Blood Groups.

Sh. Satyendar Kumar Jain, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family welfare, Govt. of NCT, Delhi graced this function as Chief Guest. Sh. Sanjeev Khirwar, Principal Secretary (Health)/President, State Blood Transfusion Council, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Dr Sanjay Tyagi, Dean MAMC were Guest of Honour at the event. The event was also participated by Dr. A. K. Puri, DDG (NACO) and Dr Shobini Rajan, Director, National Blood Transfusion Council.



Sh. Satyendar Kumar Jain, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family welfare, Govt. of NCT, Delhi addressing the gathering

### Quote

*"I appeal all the citizens to regularly donate blood especially on their birthdays and urge voluntary blood donors to motivate their peers to be voluntary donors."*

Sh. Satyendar Kumar Jain, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family welfare, Govt. of NCT, Delhi

Regular voluntary blood donors, organizations involved in promoting voluntary blood donations and life time achievers involved in blood donation programme were also felicitated during this event.



Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare in his public address also appreciated a number of doctors in government and private hospitals for voluntarily donating blood on regular basis. He also stressed upon the importance of awareness campaigns and appreciated the use of special social media campaign through Facebook to promote voluntary donations in Government blood banks at Delhi.

Sh. Satyendar Kumar Jain, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family welfare, Govt. of NCT, Delhi felicitating donors and donor organization during the programme.

## CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY AT GOA



Project Director Dr. Jose D'Sa during the event



Dr Niliskha Gomes, In-charge - Blood Bank, North Goa District Hospital, Mapusa, delivered the key note address to the audience

A State level function was held at Seminar Hall, Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa to observe World Blood Donor Day. The Theme for this year campaign was 'Safe Blood for All.' The theme encouraged more people from Goa to become blood donors and donate blood regularly.

Shri Sanjeev Dalvi, Director, Directorate of Health, was the Chief Guest at the event and Shri Nagaraj Honnekeri, Director, Directorate of Health Services was the Guest of Honour. Shri Gaurish Dhond, President of Red Cross Society Panjim, Dr. Savio Rodrigues, Professor & Head of Microbiology, Dr. Niliskha Gomes, In-charge - Blood Bank, North Goa District Hospital Mapusa, Dr. Jose D'Sa, PD, GSACS, Dr. Chandrakant Porob, CMO, GSACS were also present at the function.



Audiences at the World Blood Donor Day

Nine organisations were felicitated during the event, namely, The Commanding Officer Bambolim3 TTR/5TTR, Betts India, Commscope (Andrew Telecommunication Ltd.), Village Panchayat Nagoa, Canacona Saraswath Samaj, Lions Club of Cavelossim, Helpline Ponda, Glenmark, Colvale, Hanuman Sports and Cultural Club, Taleigao for their exemplary contribution in the field of blood services in Goa.

Goa SACS also conducted a blood donation

camp and a phone-in programme with AIR, Panjim. The Programme was very informative and highlighted issues related to safe blood and need of blood products and encouraged the youth to donate blood voluntarily and regularly.

## WORLD BLOOD DONORS DAY CELEBRATIONS TAMIL NADU

TANSACS and TNSBTC in association with Tamil Nadu Police Department have inaugurated Mega Voluntary Blood Donation Camp on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019 at Rajarathinam Stadium, Chennai and organized Voluntary Blood Donation Camps throughout Tamil Nadu. The initiative achieved huge success throughout the state. Active participation from Senior Officials motivated and ensured participation from the bottom most employees. During the camp 9,087 units of blood were collected from Police Department throughout the state.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, presided and inaugurated the camp

At Chennai, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu, Shri Karuppa Gounder Palanisamy, inaugurated the programme. The programme was also attended by Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Hon'ble Rural Development and Implementation of Special Programme, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments and Hon'ble Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports Development.

Also, throughout the state, rallies were carried out in 32 districts with the support of District Blood Transfusion Officers to promote the need and importance of regular voluntary blood donation among general public. Each district has organized Human Rally/Chain and around 10,320 students participated to create awareness to the public throughout Tamil Nadu. Also, on this occasion, 1,664 regular Voluntary Blood Donors were honored by the District Collectors throughout the state and 83 Voluntary Blood Donation camps were conducted and 4,702 Blood units were collected from voluntary blood donors.



# WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY CELEBRATIONS IN MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, Meghalaya State Blood Transfusion Council in collaboration with Directorate of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Meghalaya, organized the State Level Observation of World Blood Donor Day 2018, at Don Bosco Youth Centre, Shillong, in the presence of Dr. S. Lyngdoh, Project Director, MACS, Dr. C. Budnah, Member Secretary, State Blood Transfusion Council, Meghalaya, all former

Project Directors of Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, Red Ribbon Clubs, NSS Unit and others.

Activities like music performance by bands, prize distribution for significant contribution in the field of Voluntary Blood Donation at state level and blood donation camps were also conducted in order to raise awareness among all groups of population.



Glimpses of VBD

PD, Meghalaya SACS

# OBSERVANCE OF WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY- PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry SACS observed World Blood Donor Day by conducting an awareness rally that involved more than 150 college students from various colleges. The rally was flagged off by Sh. Malladi Krishna Rao, Hon'ble Health Minister, Puducherry. Other dignitaries present in the rally were, Sh. Prashant Kumar Panda, IAS, Secretary to Govt. (Health), Dr. K. V. Raman, Director of Health, Dr. Mohan Kumar, Mission Director, NHM, Dr. Sujatha, Medical Superintendent, Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Women & Children Hospital and Dr. S. Govindarajan, Project Director, Puducherry AIDS Control Society cum State TB Officer, Puducherry.



The rally was routed through important streets which have high activity in terms of traffic to reach out to maximum number of people in order to generate awareness regarding the need of Voluntary Blood Donation. Jingles on FM were also played across Puducherry to motivate the listeners and call them to donate blood voluntarily in camps.

The rally was headed by a man portraying the role of Shiva with a banner in hand that had a written message of 'Blood Donors are God'. The idea was highly appreciated by Hon'ble Health Minister. Banners were also displayed at all

PHCs/CHCs on this occasion. Three Govt. Blood Banks i.e. JIPMER Hospital, Indira Gandhi Medical College & Indira Gandhi Govt. General Hospital and Post Graduate Institute were involved in this 'Mega Voluntary Blood Donation Camp' which created awareness among the general public. A total of 130 units of blood were collected through this camp. Hon'ble Health Minister of Puducherry donated blood for the 56<sup>th</sup> time. An information dissemination session of the HIV/AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017 and its salient sections was also conducted during the event, to educate the officials and all other participants.

## OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Meghalaya AIDS Control Society in collaboration with Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya, Manbha Foundation and other stakeholders organized the state level observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at Don Bosco Youth Centre, Shillong.

Chief Guest of the event was Sh. H. Marwein, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, and other dignitaries included Dr. L. M. Pdah, DHS (MCH & FW), Govt. of Meghalaya, Sh. K. Shabong, Anti-Narcotic Task Force, Superintendent of Police, Shillong, members of NGO and students from many schools across the capital. Besides the official ceremony, a rally was also organized. Sh. S. A. Rynjah, MPS, Superintendent of Police (City), East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, flagged off the rally in which more than

250 students including Bharat Scouts and Guides, Sports Authority of India, participated to help raising awareness among youth.



## HIV/AIDS AWARENESS, BASIC TRAINING FOR WORKERS IN GUJARAT

GSACS organized a basic training session on HIV/AIDS awareness in Torrent Power Company Limited at Ahmadabad for the workers. During the training the staff members were sensitized about the topic. The session went highly interactive in which workers openly asked their queries and clarified their myths. Technical guidance in the session was provided by Mr. Manu Vaghela, AD (MS) and Mr. Virat Nagar, Technical Expert (Partnership & Advocacy), TSU.





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