



NACO

# NEWS

National AIDS Control Organisation

India's Voice against AIDS

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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Launch of  
Viral Load testing for PLHIV  
February 2018

- Dr. NARESH GOEL, DDO, NACO
- Dr. MENK BEKEDAM, WHO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE
- Sh. ALOK SAXENA, JOINT SECRETARY, NACO
- Ms. ANUPRIYA PATEL, HIGH WALK WISE, NACO
- Sh. JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA, ASST. TO CHIEF MINISTER, MP
- Sh. SANJEEVA KUMAR, AS & SO, NACO
- Dr. BILALI CAMARA, COUNTRY DIRECTOR, UNAIDS



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



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# From the Desk of Patron

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This edition of NACO News will be the snapshot of various activities undertaken during the period of January to March, 2018. To begin with, I welcome you all for stepping in the another edition.

As we are aware that National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) has scaled up Viral Load (VL) testing programme in the country. In the recently concluded event, Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched an initiative under which free viral load test would be provided at least once a year to the 12 lakh people undergoing treatment for HIV/AIDS in the country.

Run for the cause is always special to me and in solidarity with Children Living with HIV (CLHIV), NACO had participated in 10K Marathon organized by IDBI in New Delhi. The CLHIVs from Snehagam not only participated but also completed the marathon in record time which shows that even being HIV positive, one can live healthy following the healthy lifeskills.

In order to ensure the last mile connectivity which includes people living in prisons and other closed settings, HIV intervention in Prisons and other closed settings was launched in Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. The outcomes of earlier intervention implemented in Punjab, Chandigarh, North-Eastern States, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand reiterates the significance of rapid of expansion of the intervention in all the States.

I hope you have the benefit of going through the newsletter. I look forward to your feedback.

Wish you all best luck!



**Shri Sanjeeva Kumar**  
**Additional Secretary (Health) and Director General**  
**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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# From the Desk of Joint Secretary

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I am happy to write the message for the first edition of the new Year. By the time it will reach in your hand, we would have completed the exercise of developing Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the year 2018-19. In this quarter we have to consolidate and review the activities undertaken in the last 3 quarters so that the new targets for 2018-19 can be set to meet the goals set by AIDS Control Programme.

To provide concrete roadmap towards implementation of newer methods of HIV Surveillance and Estimation in India conforming to global standards, 'Expert Consultation on Newer Methods of HIV Surveillance and Estimation in India' was organized by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), in collaboration with UNAIDS, WHO and CDC with the objective.

I am pleased to inform that 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Body of National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) was held in NACO in which proposal for creating a vertical within MoHFW for Blood Transfusion Services and Cellular Therapies, and review & revision of National Blood Policy 2002 were discussed.

Summing up my words, Please feel free to share your valuable thoughts & feedback for the betterment of the edition.

I wish all readers 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**



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# From the Desk of Editor

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## Viral Load Testing

Preventing drug resistance and detecting treatment failure early is essential to reduce morbidity and mortality among PLHIV. To achieve this mission a massive scale-up of Viral Load (VL) testing has been planned & operationalised by NACO and SACS all over India.

Health & Family Welfare Minister Hon'ble Sh. J.P. Nadda Ji launched the movement of VL testing for all PLHIV on treatment in Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at a big function attended by many PLHIV, civil societies, UN organization, development partners, and state & ministry officials.

This big step of testing all 12 lakh PLHIV on treatment requires support and cooperation of all and will immensely help PLHIV to know the effectiveness of their treatment. It will also be useful for timely interventions like focus on adherence, changing drug regimen, early detection of failure and saving PLHIV from undesirable opportunistic infections.

VL testing scale-up has taken off successfully and by now more than 25000 PLHIV from 525 ART centres have been tested by the outsourced agency. Also 64 VL testing machines in Medical Colleges have been delivered and are in various stages of installation & functionality. Once fully operationalise, NACO will have one of the largest VL testing programmes in the world.

It is also to be noted that for now CD4 testing will continue and detailed guidelines for this purpose have been prepared and circulated to all concerned. Training of trainers has also been held for MOs of ART centres.

We are also in the process of making an integrated software to analyse results so that on a click of a button various parameters including results of CD4 & viral load are available to MO, ART centres to facilitate decision making for better care & treatment of PLHIV. Once again I reiterate our commitment to achieve eliminating AIDS by 2030.

Jai Hind



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

# COVER STORY

## Launch of Routine Viral Load Testing



Shri J. P. Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, along with other dignitaries during the launch of "Viral Load testing for all People Living with HIV/AIDS"

Shri J. P. Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, launched the "Viral Load testing for all People Living with HIV/AIDS" on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. The initiative will provide free of cost viral load testing for more than 12 lakh PLHIV on treatment in the country, at least once a year.



Shri J. P. Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare during the launch

Hon'ble Union Minister further announced, that 'Treat All', Viral Load test is a big step forward in treating and monitoring people living with HIV. This Viral Load test is of immense importance to monitor the effectiveness of treatment of patients taking lifelong Antiretroviral Therapy.

Shri J. P. Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare said that it is the 90-90-90 strategy which we have topped it; we have been successful in 90% of the population, PLHIV to know their status. We are very close now to giving the ART treatment to 90% of the people, PLHIV and today after this in coming months we will be successful in trying to see to it that 90% of the population, PLHIV will get their viral load suppressed within the limits."

Gathering of around 600 people from various sectors like SACS, communities, development partners, etc. were the part of this historic mega event.

Ms. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India stressed that it is indeed great day for all of us for fighting HIV/AIDS with a named to be eliminated in India, we are committed to provide any support require from our end.



Ms. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare

Government of India strives to attain the Sustainable Development Goal of elimination of AIDS by 2030. To achieve this, fast track targets of 90-90-90 i.e. 90% of all people living with HIV know their status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection receive sustained Antiretroviral therapy; and 90% of all people receiving Antiretroviral therapy, are virally suppressed; are to be attained by 2020.

Currently, PLHIV on first line ART are monitored by six monthly CD4 count testing to ascertain the treatment response. Those with immunological failure along with other supportive clinical criteria undergo targeted viral load testing for switching over to second line ART. Now, NACO has introduced routine viral load monitoring of all patients on ART in a phased manner.

Broadly there are three strategies

- » Public Private Partnership model by engaging Metropolis started in a phased manner. 5449 tests have been done till March, 2018. Approximately, 2,10,000 tests are to be conducted in one year through this mode.
- » Scale up of Public sector Viral Load laboratories. Under support from GFATM, viral load testing laboratories are planned to be set up to meet the demand of VL tests of more than a million per year.
- » Utilization of CBNAAT machines under Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP). As part of convergence between RNTCP and NACO, the spare capacity of CBNAAT under RNTCP will be utilized for testing for HIV-1 Viral Load. North Eastern states, remote & hilly areas will be prioritized for testing on CBNAAT.

### Benefits of Viral load (VL) testing:

VL testing in routine monitoring will be immensely useful for:

- » Early detection of failure among PLHIV on 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment
- » Bringing focus on adherence to treatment to reduce Lost of follow-up (LFU)
- » Reducing occurrence of drug resistance to Antiretroviral therapy
- » Empowering Medical Officers at ART centres in quick decision making
- » Help in leading longer healthy life for PLHIV



*“Viral load testing is gold standard of HIV treatment monitoring and it ensures widespread and well established benefits in terms of timely monitoring of treatment adherence and efficacy”*

**Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO**

*“First of all, hearty welcome to all, I am grateful that Hon’ble HFM took time out from the busy schedule”*

**Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO**





*“Viral load testing represents a substantial cost in resource-constrained health care systems but I am glad that NACO has adopted cost-effective measures ensuring the pathway to health improvement”*

**Dr. Timothy Holtz, Programme Director CDC**

*“90-90-90- means there is right treatment; first part 90 being diagnosed-last part 90 is extremely important, it is important for earlier 90 too: it would also mean that people would start looking at it from secondary lines, that if things are not exactly fine, that now you be early be able to detect, people living with disease also understand that this not only works well, but this mechanism works on a regular basis and mechanisms are in place”*

**Dr. Henk Bekedam, WHO Country Representative**



*“Let us be people centred and efficient in what we do at any levels. In one word, let us take AIDS, TB and Hepatitis out of isolation. Multi-disease elimination strategy makes sense because it saves more lives at reduced economic cost.”*

**Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS**

*“We would continue to work in the direction of creating an enabling environment and a better place, for the people living with HIV”*

**Dr Naresh Goel, DDG (LS), NACO**



**Ms. Smita Mishra  
Lab Services Division, NACO**



# PROGRAMMES

## Launch of HIV Intervention in Prisons and Other Closed Settings

### Rajasthan



Participants during the launch of HIV Intervention in Prisons and Other Closed Settings in Rajasthan

HIV intervention in prisons and other closed settings was launched by Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary and Director General, NACO, in Jaipur on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in the presence of Smt Veenu Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Health Services, Govt. of Rajasthan; Shri Bhupendra Singh, Director General of Prisons, Govt. of Rajasthan; Shri S.K. Jain, Member Secretary, State Legal Service Authority; Dr. S. Venkatesh, DDG, NACO; Dr. S.S. Chouhan, Project Director, Rajasthan SACS and Dr. Sai Subhashree Raghvan, Founder and President, SAATHII.



Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society and Dept. of Prisons, Govt. of Rajasthan signed MoU to rollout HIV intervention in prisons and other closed settings

Senior officers from dept. of Prisons, Social Welfare, Health, Women & Child Development, State Police, State Legal Service Authority, NGO/CBO, Swadhar and Ujjawala Homes were also

present in the meeting. Shri. Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary and DG, NACO, highlighted that the present strategy of National AIDS Control Programme is to

ensure the last mile connectivity, which include people living in prisons and other closed settings. He said the outcomes of intervention implemented in Punjab, Chandigarh, North-Eastern States, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, reiterates the significance of rapid expansion of the intervention

in all the states. Smt Veenu Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Health Services, Govt. of Rajasthan, expressed that the new intervention will enable screening of every inmate for HIV and link the HIV infected inmates to treatment services and ensure adherence within prison and post release.

Dr. Venkatesh, Deputy Director General, NACO, advised Rajasthan SACS to focus on establishing services facilities including Facility Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres; and Link ART centres in prisons and other closed settings where large number of inmates living.

## Haryana

HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care Programme in prisons and other closed settings for Haryana, was launched in 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at a high level meeting, held in Chandigarh, by Shri K.L. Panwar, Hon'ble Minister of Prisons, Govt. of Haryana, in the presence of Mr. Amit Jha, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Haryana; Shri Vivek Joshi, Principal Secretary, Women & Child Development, Govt. of Haryana; Dr. K.P Singh, Director General of Prisons, Govt. of Haryana; Capt. Lakhwinder Singh Jakher, Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Punjab; Shri Jagjeet Singh, Inspector General of Prisons, Govt. of Haryana, Shri Mohinder Singh, Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau; Dr. Veena Singh, Project Director, Haryana SACS and Dr. Satish Aggarwal, DGHS, Govt. of Haryana.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Haryana SACS and State Prisons Department. The launch event



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Haryana SACS and State Prisons Department

was attended by more than 150 participants were from Law enforcement agencies, health and other NGOs. While speaking at the launch function, Sh. K.L. Panwar, Hon'ble Minister of Prisons, prison authorities to make HIV prevention and treatment services as an integral part of the health system in prison settings. Sh. Amit Jha, Principal Secretary, Health, made a suggestion to provide free treatment for Hep-C, Tuberculosis and Syphilis along

with HIV testing and counselling facilities and suggested SACS to take measures to ensure that no inmate is discriminated on the basis of HIV positive status or otherwise. Shri. Vivek Joshi, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, highlighted various kinds of health services, provided to inmates living in State-run Homes in Haryana. Shri Mohinder Singh, Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, briefly presented the sections related to drug use and HIV in NDPS Act 2014.

Dr. Veena Singh, Project Director, SACS Haryana highlighted that SACS is reviving the Targeted Intervention (TI)

programme, for all High Risk Groups (HRGs) in the state. Shri. Lakhminder Singh, Inspector General of Prisons,

Punjab, shared the experience of scaling up the intervention across all central prisons in the state.

## Madhya Pradesh



Dr S. Venkatesh, DDG, NACO along with the dignitaries during HIV & TB intervention in prisons & other closed settings in MP

HIV & TB intervention in prisons & other closed settings in Madhya Pradesh, was launched by Dr S. Venkatesh, DDG, NACO, Shri G. S. Meena, Addl. Director General of Prisons & Correctional Services, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Shri Umesh Kumar, Project Director, MPSACS and Dr Atul Karate, State TB Officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, attended high level meeting

held in Bhopal, on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. During the event, an initiative, titled “ABHIYAN SHURUWAT”, was also launched to enhance early identification of HIV positive clients. Dr S. Venkatesh, DDG, NACO, said the results achieved through the implementation of HIV interventions in 260 prison sites across 25 State provide strong evidence to intensify the interventions across other

prisons in the country. Representatives from various departments, including prisons, State Police, Directorate of Health Services, Women and Child Development, law enforcement agencies, partner NGOs, SAATHII, TI representatives, officers from NACO, Swadhar & Ujjawala Homes, were present during the meeting.

**Mr. Abraham Lincoln, Technical Expert-Harm Reduction**  
**Ms. Sophia Khumukcham, Program Officer-IDU**  
**Ms. Kim Hauzel, Technical Officer-IDU**



## Expert Consultation on Newer Methods of HIV Surveillance and Estimation in India

India has one of the largest, most robust and consistent HIV surveillance system, covering around 90% of all districts. It has many facets with HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS), Behavioural Surveillance System (BSS), Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) and HIV Estimations as core components. The system has evolved over the years and has been recognized by independent experts as a fully functional surveillance system. One of the key strengths of the Indian surveillance system is its capacity for regular review and subsequent improvements. In continuation of the same, 'Expert Consultation on Newer Methods of HIV Surveillance and Estimation in India' was organized by (NACO), in collaboration with UNAIDS,

“Disease surveillance is the stethoscope of a public health professional and an extremely important public health function”, Dr. Athani during his inaugural address.

“India’s AIDS response is an evidence driven program. While the strategic information systems have been working extremely well, a need is felt to review it in the new era of global and national commitments, to end AIDS by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. This consultation is core to the endeavours being made under



Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO addressing the gathering during the Expert Consultation

WHO and CDC, during 21–24 March, 2018.

Dr B.D. Athani, (Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India) was the Chief Guest while Shri Alok Saxena (Joint Secretary, NACO) presided over the inaugural session. Dr. Bilali Camara (UNAIDS India), Dr. Nicole Seguy (WHO

India), Dr. Timothy Holtz (CDC India), Ms. Sara Heydari (USAID India) also graced the occasion. The meeting was attended by national experts as well as international experts from UNAIDS Geneva, WHO Geneva, East-West Centre Hawaii, CDC Atlanta and UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia-Pacific region.



Participants during the Expert Consultation on Newer Methods of HIV Surveillance and Estimation in India

NACP to take the Strategic Information Management System to the next generation which provides actionable evidences in most efficient way to achieve the best possible prevention, testing, care, support and treatment services

to our communities”, said Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, during his presidential address.

Dr. DCS Reddy, Dr. Arvind Pandey, Dr. Shashi Kant and Dr. Sanjay Mehandale were felicitated for their contribution



in ensuring that national AIDS response has one of the best surveillance system that keep on evolving and expanding providing the best evidences in most cost-efficient ways.

During the consultation, Dr. S. Venkatesh (DDG, NACO) noted, "Use of data is fundamental to enable efficient and sustained public health response. Three questions remain critical in this regard: what data shall be collected, how it shall be collected and then how it

should be used to help in designing and implementation of an effective response".

The consultation aimed to provide concrete roadmap towards implementation of newer methods of HIV Surveillance and Estimation in India, conforming to global standards. Topics pertaining to programme-based surveillance, district level estimations, population size estimations, HSS plus and integrated Surveillance for HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis were discussed during the

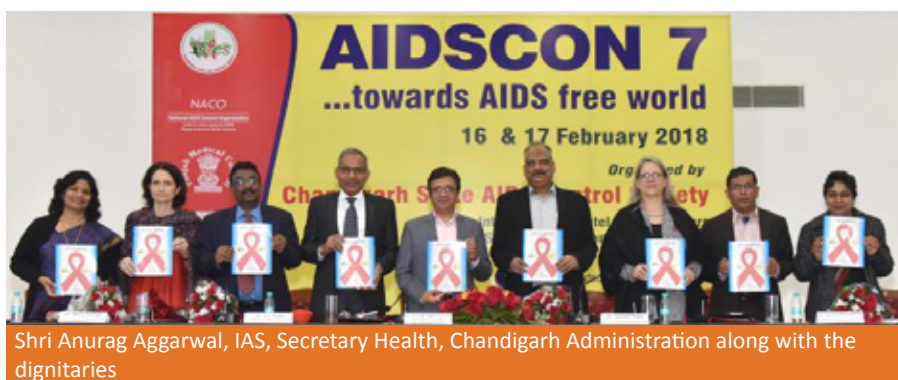
meeting. International experts highlighted approaches adopted by different countries and the practical considerations.

As an outcome, participants agreed that "data from the surveillance, estimates and programs, represent different pieces of information which together provide better perspective on the HIV epidemic and response. Each piece is important and should not be seen in isolation.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar  
PO (Surveillance)

## AIDSCON 7 – Towards AIDS Free World

The National Conference on HIV/AIDS was organized for the 7th consecutive year, by the Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in the IMA Auditorium, Chandigarh. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Anurag Aggarwal, IAS, Secretary Health, Chandigarh Administration.



Shri Anurag Aggarwal, IAS, Secretary Health, Chandigarh Administration along with the dignitaries

In the conference, Dr. Naresh Goel, Deputy Director General and Dr. R.S. Gupta, Deputy Director General, NACO, outlined the targets of achieving 90:90:90 by 2020 and ending AIDS by 2030. The global partners were represented by Dr. Nicole Seguy, Team Leader, Communicable Disease, WHO India, Dr. Savina Ammassari, Senior Strategic Information Advisor, UNAIDS & Dr. Bitra George, Country Director, FHI360, New Delhi, outlined

the policies to end AIDS by 2030. The key technical session comprised of blood safety, HIV/AIDS Act 2017, emerging issues in HIV prevention & care, youth & HIV/AIDS, HIV and opportunistic infections, IEC & mainstreaming.

A play on stigma in HIV/AIDS stigma was performed by students of GMCH-32, Chandigarh. The play highlighted on how lack of awareness about HIV transmission, creates unnecessary stigma for PLHIV

and they are denied basic rights. Two short films also displayed- one showing the internal conflict of the person about his sexual orientation. In another movie, efforts of a teenager boy to share with his mother about his sexual orientation.

The topics covered under session paper presentation, were Prison Intervention Program in Uttarakhand State, by Technical Support Unit for Uttarakhand, SACS: An initiative of the Technical Support Unit

and Uttarakhand SACS, Dehradun, Improving efficiency of programmes, to reach 90-90-90 for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, using IT solutions, CO strength, vulnerability reduction and safe sex behavior- A study among

FSWs in 5 states of India, hotspot and service mapping using google maps, etc. A quiz competition, where participants attempted to answer correctly, was also conducted. Focussing on the status of

Chandigarh, the prevalence among general population and high risk groups has declined for general clients tested is 0.8% and for pregnant women is 0.09%, which is a proxy marker for prevalence in the community.

**Ms. Teenu Khanna**  
Chandigarh SACS

## Workshop on National Data Analysis Plan under NACP

In order to build the capacity in developing data analysis plan and address the programme needs with respect to evidence and research and make the best use of available data, a workshop on NDAP was organized from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at New Delhi. A total of 23 Analysts from various reputed research institutes & organisations working on HIV/AIDS research participated. During the workshop renowned experts from NARI, NIMS, RMRIMS, ICRW, Medical Colleges, Population Council, FHI, WHO, CDC etc. had guided and mentored the participants. The unique 'learning by doing approach' was adopted with significant proportion of the training being conducted in group work. The workshop followed conducting interactive technical sessions, which further led to finalization of analysis protocols under guidance of mentors in the group work.



Dr. Timothy Holtz, Programme Director CDC addressing the Workshop on National Data Analysis Plan under NACP

One of the agenda under Data Analysis and Dissemination Unit at NACO is to undertake technical work related to data generation, analysis and use at National Level and promote & mentor the work at State and District levels which involves regular data quality monitoring, data validation and cleaning, analysis of epidemiological, programme and research data, and capacity building of programme managers, researchers and young scientists through the data analysis plan workshop. National Data Analysis Plan (NDAP) is a flagship initiative of

the Data Analysis and Dissemination Unit – NACO under the NACP.

NACO has undertaken several initiatives with strong technical support from reputed institutions/ organisations, especially in the areas of Data Analysis and Data Triangulation. NDAP will continue this legacy and will foster the institutional linkages further. The rich expertise available with the institutions and organisations in India will be leveraged in a mutually productive manner to undertake systematic analysis of the available data.

### The main objectives of NDAP are as follows:

- » To identify topics/thematic areas that can be studied by analysing available information
- » To structure analysis by identifying key questions and appropriate methodology/tools for analysis
- » To commission analysis through a collaborative approach involving institutes, programme units & senior experts as mentors, with agreed timelines

- » To consolidate, discuss & disseminate the analytical outcomes for programmatic use from time to time
- » To promote scientific writing within the programme in the form of scientific papers/ articles/ reports/ technical briefs etc

Mr. Padum Narayan  
Data Analysis & Dissemination Unit, NACO

## 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Body of the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC)

The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of governing body of the NBTC, was organized under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO along with the President of NBTC on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. The meeting was attended by Joint Secretary, NACO, Member Secretary, NBTC, Officers from MoHFW, DGHS, DCG (I) Delhi, DG AFMS, IRCS, IMA, MCI, NACO representatives of the NGOs, Medical Professionals, Transfusion Medicine Experts & private blood bank. During the meeting, an overview of the activities, conducted by Blood Transfusion Services in the year 2017 were highlighted. The



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO chairing the meeting of Governing Body of the NBTC

report of the Expert Working Group constituted under the Special DGH for revision of manpower norms, for Blood Banks and Blood Transfusion Services, report submission to

NHRC, proposal for creating a vertical within MoHFW, for Blood Transfusion Services and Cellular Therapies, and review & revision of National Blood Policy 2002, were also discussed.

## Voluntary Blood Donation (VBD) at NACO

Leading from the front NBTC, NACO proposed to organize VBD Camp, in every quarter of the year, with the active support of Dr. RML Hospital Blood Bank. The VBD Camp was organized at NACO, on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 wherein 37 Donors came forward for blood donation.



Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG, NACO along with the team during the Blood Donation Camp

Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG, NACO  
Mr. Jolly J Lazarus (VBD), NACO



## IDBI New Delhi 10 K Marathon



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO with CLHIV and participants during the Marathon

National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) in collaboration with UNAIDS participated in the recently held 10 K Marathon organized by IDBI on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in New Delhi. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary & DG, NACO along with Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Coordinator, UNAIDS (United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS) and former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar flagged off the historic run in JLN stadium.

Eight Children living with HIV (CLHIV) including five boys and three girls from Snehgram, Bangalore ran and completed 10K marathon in the record time. The children met and shared their experiences with legendary cricketer Shri Sachin Tendulkar after the marathon. The main objective was the dissemination of the message that people living with HIV are as healthy as normal people. The marathon in itself was a huge success as it brought together all the young people living with HIV. They joined hands in the run, showing their best to the world. Ms Nandini Kapoor Dhingra, UNAIDS, Dr Asheber Gaym and Dr Apoorva Chaturvedi from UNICEF also participated in the event.



Former Captain and legend of the Indian cricket world, Sachin Tendulkar flagging off the Marathon

Ms. Neha Pandey  
IEC & MS Division, NACO

## Financial support from Gram Panchayat general funds for prioritized CABA needs

As a part of inter-sectoral collaboration and integration with government line departments, to mainstream the issues of Children Affected by AIDS (CABA) and families, APSACS and KHPT team regularly meet and

sensitizing various government line departments i.e. Women & Child Development, Civil Supplies Corporation, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Social Welfare & SC Finance Corporation, Education, Housing, Skill

Development corporation and advocating with the government official's respond to prioritized and immediate needs of CABA/Families. A meeting was held with Shri. B Ramanjaneyulu, I.A.S, Commissioner and Mr. M



Sudhakara Rao, Additional Commissioner of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh. A list of 76 villages in East Godavari, Guntur & Krishna districts of AP along with joint request letter (KHPT & TNP+ PLHIV network), to allot Gram Panchayat funds towards prioritized needs of community was submitted.

Mainstreaming efforts with the Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, has resulted to the issuance of government order, requesting to provide financial support from Gram Panchayat general funds to prioritize needs, like nutrition, education, vocational skill building, livelihood cum income generation activities and other

important needs of children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and their families. In addition, Gram panchayats will also incur expenditure up to 10% of their own source of income on sectoral functions, such as Health, Education, Welfare, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

**Mr. Ravi Bhushan**  
IEC & MS Division, NACO

## DAPCU's Blog: Role in addressing Stigma and Discrimination and mobilizing support for High Risk Groups and People Living with HIV (PLHIV)

The group practicing high risk behaviors and PLHIV, continue to experience stigma and discrimination in their day to day life, which limits their access to health services, legal aid and social entitlements. DAPCUs, in coordination with NACP facilities, the district administration, health and other line departments, have

been striving, to mobilize support and address stigma and discrimination, faced by high risk groups and people living with HIV. As a result of concerted efforts, progress has been made in the past few years, in bringing down incidents of stigma and discrimination, increasing access to health services,

improving knowledge of legal protections and strengthening linkages with government social benefit scheme through blog post. The blog post, provides an opportunity for sharing success stories and highlighting specific steps taken by DAPCUs, to resolve cases of stigma and discrimination faced by the community.

### Stigma and Discrimination case:

*Tuticorin - DAPCU encountered a discordant family couple issue. The wife was diagnosed positive and husband wanted to file a divorce. In such a situation, DAPCU acted on a request from the ART Center and arranged for a family counselling which in turn prevented the couple from getting separated.*

### Break up of cases as follows till date:

| S.no         | District    | Received  | Cleared  | Pending  |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1            | Cuddalore   | 4         | 2        | 2        |
| 2            | Kanyakumari | 3         | 3        | 0        |
| 3            | Madurai     | 1         | 1        | 0        |
| 4            | Salem       | 1         | 0        | 1        |
| 5            | Theni       | 1         | 1        | 0        |
| <b>Total</b> |             | <b>10</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>3</b> |

**Dr. Govind Bansal, DNRT**  
**Mr. Suneel K Chevuu, DNRT, NACO**

# STATES

## West Bengal

### HIV screening of pregnant women in National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)

West Bengal has stepped into another avenue, to increase HIV testing coverage of the pregnant women in the set up of NUHM. The aim of the program is to screen pregnant women for HIV-those, who are registered with Urban PHC, Urban CHC or during Urban Health and Nutrition Day (UHND). The program was piloted in one district i.e North 24 PGS which has huge number of municipalities within the district and where, so far, HIV screening coverage of pregnant women is less than 85%. Necessary training of the staff was given in collaboration with AHANA program, of Plan India and order for implementation of the program was issued by Mission Director NHM.

As per protocol, FTS i.e First Tier Supervisor of the UPHC, is performing HIV screening, along with Hemoglobin testing.



The staff performing HIV screening along with Hemoglobin testing

### Sensitization of officials under Department of H&FW regarding Transgender issues

On 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 sensitization programme on transgender issues was held, 2018 with the officials of the Dept. of H&FW, in collaboration with the West Bengal Transgender Development Board, under Dept. of WCD. The programme was attended by Sri Subhajit Chatterjee, Deputy Project Director of WBSAP&CS, Dr. Biswaranjan Satpathi, Advisor to the H&FW, WB, DHS Dr. Ajay Chakraborty, Dr. Debashis Chakraborty, DME, Prof. Dr. Pradip Saha, Director, Institute of psychiatry, Sutanuka Bhattachariya, Aparna Banerjee, Member, WBTGDB, Dr. D.N. Goswami, JDTI, WBSAP&CS and Sri Biplab Das, Nodal officer WBTGDB

& JS H&FW. Dr. Manabi Bandyopadhyay, Vice Chairperson of WBTGDB discussed about the stigma discrimination and violence faced by the TG people.



Dignitaries during sensitization programme on transgender issues

Ms. Sumita Samanta  
West Bengal SACS

## Chhattisgarh

### Workshop on HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017

A State level workshop was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 in Raipur for drafting state specific Rules for HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Subrat Sahoo, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh. While inaugurating the workshop Shri Sahoo said that the Guidelines and Rules need to be framed keeping in mind the demography and social indicators of the State (with emphasis on literacy and tribal areas).

Smt. Ranu Sahu, Director Health & Project Director CGSACS shared that 29,000 PLHIV are registered at ART centers and efforts are being made to generate awareness and Viral Load Testing Machine shall be established in April by the Central Government.

Dr. Rajesh Rana, NACO, highlighted key provisions and clauses of HIV/AIDS Act. The Act



Shri Subrat Sahoo, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare addressing the workshop

has provided a robust Grievance Redressal Mechanism by provisioning Ombudsman at State level and Complaints Officer at establishments. Confidentiality and informed consent have been given special emphasis. The Act also provides an enable environment for safe living of PLHIV and their children. He also presented the draft Model State Rules prepared by the Committee of Experts constituted by Central Government on Ombudsman.

During the consultation, key departments, NGOs, CBOs, PLHIV network and other stakeholders provided inputs on the draft models for customizing it as per states specific needs.

In the State of Chhattisgarh 125 ICTC centers, 4 OST Centers, 1 ART Plus Centers, 5 ART Centers, 12 Link ART Centers, 30 Suraksha Clinics and 35 NGOs are working for the HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention Programme.

**Mr. Ajay Singh**  
Regional Director

## Nagaland

### Red Ribbon Club (RRC): HIV & AIDS Awareness Week



Members of Red Ribbon Club during HIV & AIDS Awareness Week

The Pranabananda Women's College Red Ribbon Club, Dimapur, Nagaland conducted HIV & AIDS Awareness Week from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018, on the theme, "Role of Women in Preventing HIV& AIDS". A Poster Campaign, Essay Competition and Seminar were organised at the College Auditorium.

## Training of Teachers on AEP

NSACS in collaboration with URA College of Teacher Education conducted a one day training on AEP on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 on the

issues of teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and its consequences and Stigma & discrimination. 182 Teachers

(Both Govt & Private) attended the training programme.

Mr. Ainato Yeptho  
Nagaland SACS

## Jammu & Kashmir

### Meeting on Social Protection for PLHIV

In order to understand and mitigate various issues and problems faced by the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), a one day seminar was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 in the Chest Diseases Hospital, GMC, Jammu wherein Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Project Director, J&K State AIDS Control Society, was the Chief Guest. During the seminar, Project Director assured PLHIV, that the Government will try to facilitate financial assistance the maximum number of beneficiaries. The seminar was attended by Mrs. Deepika B. Thakur, Deputy Director IEC, Dr. Vijay Verma, Senior Medical Officer, ART Centre GMC Jammu, Dr. Yashpal Karsayal, Assistant Director BSD, Ms. Sonia, Project Manager, Vihaan etc.



Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Project Director, J&K addressing as a Chief Guest

Mr. Rishesh Khajuria  
J&K SACS

## Rajasthan

### State level Sensitization Workshop



Experts and participants during State level Sensitization workshop in Rajasthan



Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society, organized a one day state level sensitization workshop with the organizations associated with the Ministry of Youth Affairs on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 involving the Department of Youth, Youth Board, Rajasthan with an objective to provide comprehensive and correct

knowledge on the ways to prevent HIV infection among youth. Another workshop was held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, in Jaipur, Rajasthan, in joint collaboration with Bank/Insurance SC/ST/OBC minority employee welfare council, to spread the awareness and prevention messages, among the workers

and to adopt the work place policies in managing and handling the cases of People Living with HIV. As an outcome, President of All Bank/Insurance SC/ST/OBC minority employee welfare council, has assured to incorporate HIV as a training agenda in SBI training.

Rajasthan SACS



## Punjab

### Free HIV Testing and Awareness in Swadeshi Mela

Five days awareness campaign was organized in Swadeshi, in Chandigarh, which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana and

Sh. Brahm Mohindra, Hon'ble Health Minister, Punjab presided the mela. On this occasion, Sh. Sanjay Tandon, Chandigarh BJP President; Sh. Kamal Sharma, Former

Punjab BJP President and Chandigarh Mayor, Asha Jaswal, were also present. During the event, 500 people were tested with zero positivity.

### HIV/AIDS awareness tableau bagged third position

HIV/AIDS awareness tableau, prepared under the supervision of Dr. Narinder

Kumar, Civil Surgeon, was displayed on the eve of the Republic Day, at a district level

function at Fazilka and the tableau, bagged third position in the competition.

**Ms. Rekha  
Punjab SACS**

## Tamil Nadu

### Celebration of Samathuva Pongal



This year, TANSACS celebrated this year "PONGAL with the key stakeholders, as "SAMATHUVA PONGAL" on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at the state level and in all the 55 ART Centres, by inviting the District Administration, Hospital Administration, PLHIVs, CBOs & NGO's. Samathuva Pongal Celebration was chaired and inaugurated by Dr. C. Vijaya

Baskar, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family welfare, Govt of Tamil Nadu Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary for Health & Family Welfare and Dr. K.Senthil Raj, I.A.S., Project Director / Member secretary, TANSACS were also present.

In order to commemorate the 20 years of successful completion of ICTC services, a Logo & Tagline contest was organised. The winner of the contest was announced by Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family welfare. The winner of the best Logo contest was Mrs.

G. Vani, ICTC lab technician, TVMCH, Tirunelveli district and the winner of the best Tagline contest was Mrs. K. Akilandeshwari, Assistant professor, Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College, Tiruvarur. He also launched the newly developed website of TANSACS, [www.tansacs.in](http://www.tansacs.in), and inaugurated the WiFi for TANSACS office. Samathuva Pongal Event has created a good platform among the partners and the service providers to join together for Hands up for HIV Prevention at the state and district levels.

**Mr. M.S.Pugazh  
Tamil Nadu SACS**

## Pondicherry

### International Women's Day: Awareness Rally



Rally flagged off by Hon'ble Health Minister Thiru. Malladi Krishna Rao, Thiru Jayamurthy M.L.A, in the presence of Dr. K.V. Raman, Director of Health and Dr. S.Jayanthi, PD, Pondicherry SACS

Awareness Rally was organized jointly with Indian Medical Association (IMA), Puducherry, to create awareness about HIV/AIDS, Anemia and Breast & Cervical Cancer in women, on International Women's Day held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 in Puducherry. It involved 400 female students from various college Red Ribbon Clubs.

Mr. M.Krishnamurthy  
Pondicherry SACS

## Mumbai

### Advocacy & Social Protection Camps at Rationing Offices



Discussion is in progress during Advocacy & Social Protection Camps at Rationing Offices

To enhance access of schemes by PLHIV/CLHIV/FSW/TG, two regional advocacy programs were conducted at D & E region for 87 Rationing Officers and Asst. R.O. & Inspectors. Dy. Controller, rationing, instructed the officers to provide full support to MDACS & NGOs, in terms of HR & other logistics arrangements during the camps.

**Outcome:** 78 cards are in the process for Anna Suraksha Yojana (ASY) stamp, 203 cards are in the process for Aadhar ceding, 6 will be transferred as per the need, 1 CLHIV's name was added to the ration card.

Ms. Dnyaneshwari Pujari  
MDACS

## Andaman & Nicobar

### Voluntary Blood Donation Camp



A & N AIDS Control Society, organized in total 39 Voluntary Blood Donation Camp, at South Andaman district, in which 4729 units of blood were collected.

Dr. Jahanara Yasmeen,  
A & N AIDS Control Society

# EVENTS

## National Youth Day

National Youth Day is celebrated in India, on 12<sup>th</sup> January, on the birthday of

Swami Vivekananda. The day remembers the philosophy of Swami ji and the ideals for

which he lived and worked. He is a great source of inspiration for the Indian Youth.







सही परवर्तिश का इम्तिहान  
करो पास, बच्चों से HIV  
पर खुल के करो बात

⊗ असुरक्षित यौन संबंध से दूर रहें ⊗ एच.आई.वी. संक्रमित सुई का इस्तेमाल न करें

सरकारी अस्पतालों में एच.आई.वी. की जांच एवं इलाज गुप्त और मुफ्त.  
अधिक जानकारी के लिए टेल फ्री नम्बर 1097 पर कॉल करें।



**Patron:** Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary (Health) and Director General, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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