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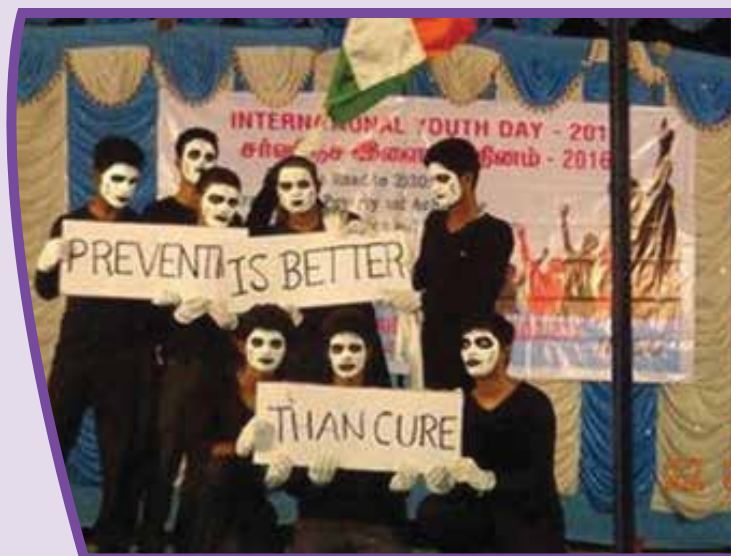
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## FROM THE DESK OF JOINT SECRETARY

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our July issue of NACO News. First of all, I would like to appreciate contributors for their efforts. I would also like to take this opportunity to share the activities which have been successfully undertaken by NACO during the period of July to September, 2016.

In this edition, the cover story is on Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of NACP-IV and a Dissemination Workshop to release the report of the MTA of NACP IV on 4th August 2016 in New Delhi. I would also like to highlight following key recommendation of the MTA:

1. Adapt TI strategies to match changing dynamics of key and bridge populations.
2. Target to improve yield of detection through strong linkages with other components, roll out newer strategies such as community based testing, population and geo-prioritization strategies.
3. Strengthen STI programme management through involvement of apex centres, rational use of counselors, ensuring timely and adequate supply of essential commodities, etc. and target efforts towards elimination of parent to child transmission of Syphilis
4. Strengthen the functioning of NBTC & SBTC in all states through provision of adequate resources.
5. Consider revising the eligibility criterion for treatment initiation to CD4 500 and to introduce 'Test & Treat' for key population and sero-discordant couples, with due consideration to system strengthening to take additional load.
6. Strengthen SIMS as an effective integrated tool for programme management to ensure linkages across all programme components for effective individual-level case tracking over prevention-care continuum.
7. Revitalize IEC strategies by shifting to interactive formats, harnessing channels for specific audience segments such as migrants & MSM, upgrading the IEC material and making them relevant to the changing context and newer programme guidelines.
8. Focus on institutional strengthening – filling of vacancies, capacity building and strengthen supervision – to reinvigorate the programme.
9. Streamline financial management at SACS and peripheral units for effective transfer and utilization of financial resources.
10. Undertake a comprehensive uplift of procurement and supply chain functions under NACP.

In the Programme section, the entire national level activities -Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) workshop and World Hepatitis Day in Mumbai successfully held where in the Guest of Honor was Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Smt. Anupriya Patel.

I would also like to reflect that in the era of Digital India, NACO has also taken a lead on Information Technology (IT) initiatives like mandate to submit files and communication through e-office and revamping of NACO website and one of the most remarkable events 4th Hijra Habba event also held successfully. In continuation to the proposals, schemes and events organized at State level are covered under section "From the States".

Through this issue, we tried to summarize most of the key activities which NACO had undertaken and also assures to continue the pace to our goals.

We hope to looking forward to receive your valuable comments and feedback.

**Dr. C. V. Dharma Rao**  
**Joint Secretary, NACO**  
**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,**  
**Government of India**

# COVER STORY

## MID-TERM APPRAISAL OF NACP-IV

Vibrant strands of prevention-focused policies, evidence-driven strategies, community-centric approaches, designs for scale, dynamic multi-stakeholder response, openness for innovation and country stewardship has led to the success of India's journey on HIV response and setting a model for the rest of the world.

The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) is currently in its fourth phase. The NACP IV was approved in 2013 and thereafter, from 2014 onwards with revised funding patterns and implementation mechanisms, the NACP IV aims to consolidate the gains made till NACP III while making further strides with a goal of accelerating reversal and integrating response.

The NACP IV has reached the mid-point and with the context of new global targets & recent international recommendations, addressing the unfinished agenda, longstanding systemic issues, mixed epidemic scenario with divergent prevention & treatment needs, and financial constraints & fund flow issues affecting the

scale and quality of operations, it was felt to undertake a Mid-term Appraisal (MTA) of the programme. The MTA of NACP IV was conducted to review the progress made so far, document the achievements, and identify the opportunities, bridging critical gaps and challenges of the programme as well as offering recommendations for on-course corrections and the planning of next phase.

The MTA has been one of the large, intense and a unique exercise wherein the partners (national/international/ bilateral/ multilateral) of NACO, technical experts, representatives of community & civil society organization had actively participated & demonstrated a perfect example of synergy. It had brought all the stakeholders & community voices to one platform & has ensured that all the perspectives are given consideration.

NACO has formed a High Level Committee to consolidate the national response towards HIV/AIDS based on the MTA of NACP IV and repositioning of NACO to meet new challenges.

### SNAPSHOT OF NACP IV PLAN

#### GOAL: Accelerate Reversal & Integrate Response

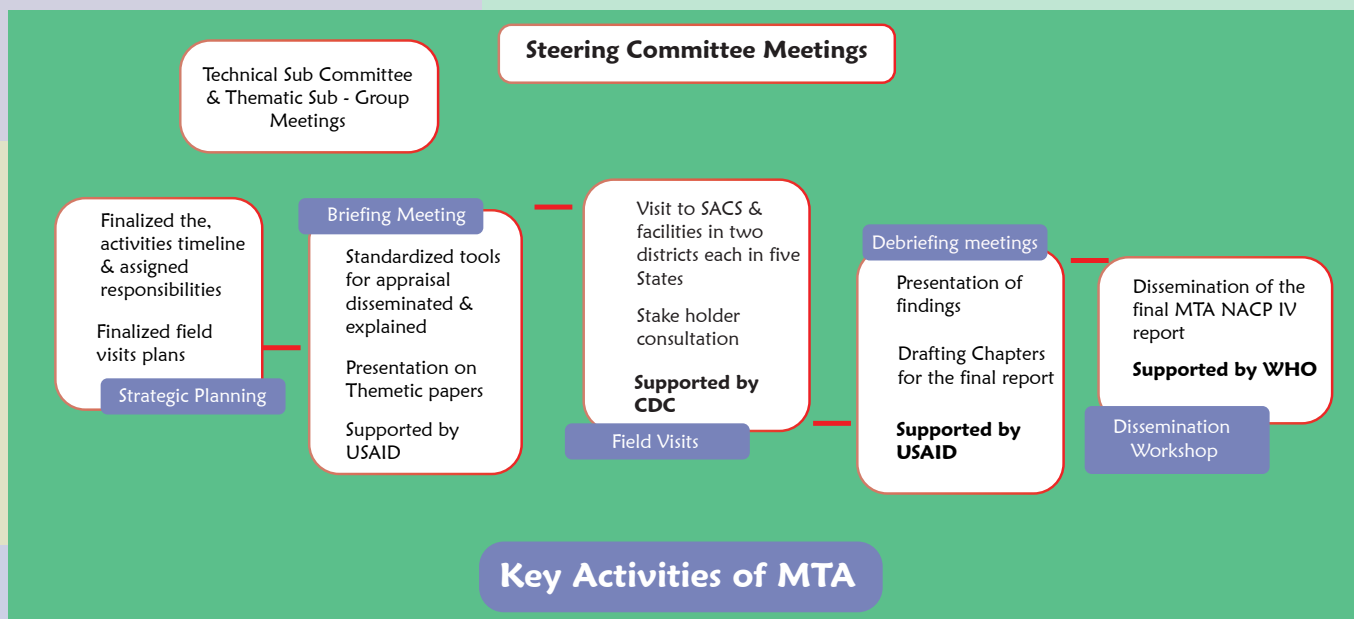
##### OBJECTIVES:

##### KEY STRATEGIES:

- Reduce new infections by 50% (2007 baseline of NACP III).
- Provide comprehensive care & support to all persons living with HIV/AIDS & treatment services for all those who require it.

- Intensify & consolidating prevention services, with a focus on HRGs and vulnerable population.
- Increasing access & promoting comprehensive care, support & treatment.

## JOURNEY OF THE MTA



## RELEASE OF THE MTA REPORT

NACO organized a dissemination workshop to release the MTA report of NACP IV on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 in New Delhi. The Project Directors of all the SACS, representatives of the partner organizations, technical

experts, representatives of communities, civil society organizations were invited to this workshop. Dr. Ajay Chauhan, Director (Finance), NACO had briefly presented a snapshot of the journey of MTA.



Releasing of Mid Term Appraisal of NACP Phase IV during dissemination workshop on MTA

Addressing the participants, Dr. C. V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO highlighted & presented the following key recommendations of the MTA

- 01 Adapt TI strategies to match changing dynamics of key & bridge populations
- 02 Target to improve the yield of detection through strong linkages with other components, roll out newer strategies such as community-based testing, population, & geo-prioritization strategies.
- 03 Strengthen STI programme management through involvement of apex centers, rational use of counselors, ensuring timely and adequate supply of essential commodities, etc. & target efforts towards elimination of parent to child transmission of Syphilis
- 04 Strengthen the functioning of NBTC & SBTC in all states through the provision of adequate resources
- 05 Consider revising the eligibility criterion for treatment initiation to CD4 500 & to introduce 'Test and Treat' for key population and serodiscordant couples, with due consideration to system strengthening to take additional load.
- 06 Strengthen SIMS as an effective integrated tool for programme management to ensure linkages across all programme components for effective individual-level case tracking over the prevention-care continuum
- 07 Revitalize IEC strategies by shifting to interactive formats, harnessing channels for specific audience segments such as Migrants & MSM, upgrading the IEC material and making them relevant to the changing context & newer programme guidelines
- 08 Focus on institutional strengthening – filling of vacancies, capacity building & strengthen supervision – to reinvigorate the programme
- 09 Streamline financial management at SACS and peripheral units for effective transfer & utilization of financial resources
- 10 Undertake a comprehensive uplift of procurement and supply chain functions under NACP



**A Group picture during dissemination workshop on MTA**

The Guest of Honor, Dr. Henk Bekedam, WHO Country Representative, Mr. John D Blomquist, Program Leader for Human Development & Lead Economist for the World Bank, Mr. Oussama Tawil, Country Coordinator, UNAIDS, Dr. David Nelson, Deputy Director for the Division of Global HIV & TB (DGHT) & Deputy Director, CDC, India were also present during the event.

Shri N. S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO acknowledged the support of the partners & engagement of technical experts and representatives from the communities, CSOs, & States AIDS Control Societies (SACS).

Shri Kang mentioned that the MTA has brought out the issues and challenges that each programme component is facing or is going to face in the coming time. He reiterated that the MTA report - which has come out at this very opportune moment is expected to make necessary on course corrections, provide guidance and support in formulating strategies for the next phase of NACP.

**Mr. Jimreeves K.  
& Mr. Utpal Das, NACO**



# Programmes

## "KNOW HEPATITIS - ACT NOW": WORLD HEPATITIS DAY



Keynote Address by the Guest of Honor on the World Hepatitis Day

The National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), organized a national event on World Hepatitis Day in Mumbai on 28th July, 2016. The theme for this year's World Hepatitis Day was "Know Hepatitis - Act Now". The Guests of Honour for the event were Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel & Actor Shri Amitabh Bachchan. Many senior officials from the MoHFW and WHO graced the event along with representatives from different national and international organisations.

In the address by Hon'ble MoS, she mentioned that India has burden of Viral Hepatitis & represents approximately 40% of Hepatitis B and 20% of Hepatitis C carriers in the South / South East Asian Regions. The Government of India realizes the importance of Hepatitis prevention and is aware that India is endemic for Hepatitis B. Hence, through Ministry's flagship programme – Indra Dhanush, the Government plans to vaccinate all children up to the age of two years by 2020 for seven diseases including Hepatitis B. Smt. Anupriya Patel said, that the work has been taken up on a war-footing & in the first phase 7.6 million children have been immunized.

The Hon'ble Minister also informed that it is proposed to include Hepatitis in the new Health Insurance Scheme.

The Bollywood superstar Shri Amitabh Bachchan, who is the brand ambassador for creating awareness about Hepatitis, called for higher budget to be invested in the prevention of the fatal disease. He said that the awareness needed to be extended on to the 'Aanganwadis', the government-run women & children centres. "There are various programmes that government runs. We need to have a designated amount of budget put across towards Hepatitis so that we can all work towards its eradication" he said. Advising those afflicted with liver ailments not to lose heart, the 73-year-old actor said, "If I am standing here today, you are looking at a person who is surviving with 25 percent of liver. That is the bad part. But the good part is you can survive even with 12 per cent. So anyone can survive by taking medicines and regular tests."

According to WHO, 400 million people around the world are infected with hepatitis B & C, more than 10 times the number of people living with HIV.



Dignitaries releasing report on Blood Bank Assessment during World Hepatitis Day

Ms. Richa Pathak, NACO

## NATIONAL EVENT ON TRANSGENDER & HIJRA COMMUNITIES - HIJRA HABBA



4<sup>th</sup> National HijraHabba organised by India HIV/AIDS Alliance's Wajood programme

The 4<sup>th</sup> National Hijra Habba organised by India HIV/AIDS Alliance's Wajood programme & funded by an Amplify Change grant held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016 in New Delhi. The Hijra Habba is a forum for outreach & dialogue between government stakeholders & community leaders. The theme of this year's event was "Equity, Empowerment & Access for India's Transgender & Hijra Communities." The aim of national Hijra Habba 2016 was to highlight on the National & State level issues & barriers towards the suspension of the productive policies for the welfare of the Transgender community.

In India, transgender & hijra people are experiencing legal marginalization & social exclusion due to their gender identities & hetero normative expectation of our society. Though transgender were acknowledged as a "Third Gender" after the NALSA judgment by the Supreme Court of India in 2014, there has been a delay in

implementing policies & social welfare programming in line with the ruling. The Supreme Court responded recently to a petition that affirmed a broad definition of "Transgender" persons, and recently the Parliament of India with support from the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi passed the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill. From 2010 to 2016, Alliance India's Pehchan program organized an annual advocacy event at national & state levels called the HijraHabba to mobilize transgender & hijra communities & create a space to raise community priorities with key stakeholders & policy makers.

While speaking during the event Dr. C. V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO emphasized that the society seldom recognize the trauma, agony & pain which the Transgender community undergo, nor appreciates the inherent feelings of the Transgender community:

**Shri N. S. Kang, Secretary and DG, NACO** appreciated the concerns of TG and also patiently heard and replied to their queries. He assured that NACO will work in close coordination with the community.

**Dr. K.P. Solanki, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha** shared his diverse experiences of social stigma & discrimination faced by the community.

**Shri Oscar Fernandes, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha** in his address to the community people spoke about the TG Rights Bill, passed by the Rajya Sabha.

Ms. Simran



## NATIONAL LEVEL WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION



**Dignitaries addressing participants during Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Workshop**

The Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) workshop, one of the unique workshop primarily focused on National and State IEC, Youth & (MS) Mainstreaming officers to make them acquainted with the latest developments in the field of SBCC through theories, models, planning, monitoring & evaluations activities, was held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 in Gurugram. The workshop was supported by C4D section of UNICEF, Delhi. There were around 35 participants from

NACO State AIDS Control Society, Regional Coordinators & representatives from programme divisions. Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO inaugurated the workshop. In the inauguration session Joint Secretary, NACO, Project Director (PD), DSACS, DDG (IEC & LS) & Chief C4D were also present.

The 4-day SBCC workshop covered session based on PPTs, videos, practicals, group activity followed by mock sessions related to Evolution of theories, Socio-Ecological Model, SBCC Approaches, Behaviour Change Process & Supportive Environment, Planning for HIV Program, SBCC Interventions, Monitoring of SBCC Interventions, creating a positive learning environment & Post-training assessment. At the end of the workshop, 10 Master Trainers (Regional Coordinators & representative from states) has been identified for the similar pattern of SBCC workshop & training in their respective regions.

**Ms. Neha Pandey, Consultant (IEC & Mainstreaming), NACO**

## REVIEW OF AIDS CONTROL PROGRAMME IN MEGHALAYA BY HON'BLE MOS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



**Hon'ble MoS interacting with service centres like ICTC, ART Plus, Surasksha Clinic of the Civil Hospital, Shillong**

The Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, Smt. Anupriya Patel, during her Meghalaya visit from 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2016, reviewed the AIDS Control Programme being implemented by Meghalaya State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 in Shillong, Meghalaya.

The review meeting started with the presentation by Dr. R.S. Gupta, DDG (CST & BTS), NACO, giving an overview of the AIDS Control Programme at National & State level. It was followed by the comprehensive presentation by the Project Director on the progress being implemented by MSACS. The

review meeting was attended by Programmes Officers, SACS Officers, Regional Coordinators, Deputy Team Leader and Technical officers of North East Technical Support Unit (NETSU), field level staffs from NEIGRIHMS & other representatives from NACO.

A presentation by Deputy Team Leader, NETSU on the status of implementation of Targeted Intervention programme highlighted support being provided by NETSU for strengthening the TI programme in all North Eastern (NE) States.

The Hon'ble MoS also made field visit to the service centres like ICTC, ART Plus, Surasksha Clinic of the Civil Hospital, Shillong. During the media interaction, Smt. Patel expressed her pleasure to be in Meghalaya and appreciated the efforts being put in by MSACS & NACO in successfully implementing the AIDS Control programme. Applauding NACO for its commendable job she told that India's AIDS Control programme is one of the ambitious and globally acclaimed programme. A Folk form "Phawar" also performed. The Folk performers were "Moithla" from Mawkarwat, who also won the last "Pawar Star" competition.

The Hon'ble MoS released the newly designed NACO's Newsletter & also felicitated the best performing facility/ individuals of MSACS. The Hon'ble MoS also interacted with "DYMBUR" winners of the last years' competition

with PLHIV & appreciated the courage & their inbuilt strength to fight against HIV/AIDS. The Project Coordinator CHC, VIHAAN project spoke on behalf of the Meghalaya Positive Network wherein she shared that the stigma & discrimination is still an issue for the PLHIV Community.

**Ms. Neha Pandey, Consultant (IEC & Mainstreaming), NACO  
& Ms. Lalnunmawii Pachuau, MSACS**

## THE FIRST MEETING OF JOINT WORKING GROUP BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND NACO

The First National level meeting of Joint Working Group was held between, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability (DEPwD) and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Awanish K. Awasthi, Joint Secretary, DEPwD and co-chaired by Dr. C.V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO.



The first meeting of JWG chaired by Mr. Awanish K. Awasthi, JS, DEPwD

- The meeting started with a brief presentation made by National Consultant (IEC and Mainstreaming) NACO. After detailed discussion, a roadmap for implementation of MoU was arrived at and some noticeable decisions were also taken in the JWG which are as follows:
- DEPwD would organise mega Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Pandit Deed Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for Physically Handicapped, Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2016 on this occasion of World AIDS Day with support of NACO.
- HIV testing will be initiated at 2 National Institutes located in Cuttack and Kolkata for which complete know-how and technical support including training of the staff etc, will be provided by NACO. Information on tests undertaken will be shared and reactive tests will be referred to the nearest stand alone ICTCs.
- A prototype of IEC material for awareness generation, services and training capsules for incorporation in the syllabus of Special Education of Rehabilitation Council of India will be provided by NACO.
- DEPwD will organise a National Level Consultation on HIV and Disability involving all stakeholders working on Disability and HIV / AIDS. NACO will provide support for this consultation.

**Mr. Ravi, NACO**

## OUTDOOR CAMPAIGN ON HIV / AIDS

The National AIDS Control Organisation implemented second phase of 360 degree multimedia campaign for Condom Promotion. The campaign was executed in the month of July-August, 2016 on various mediums like Cable and Satellite Channels, Doordarshan, All India Radio, Pvt FM Channels, Digital Cinemas, Outdoor, Internet Portals and also through social media platform of NACO like FB, Twitter(MoHFW), Flicks etc.

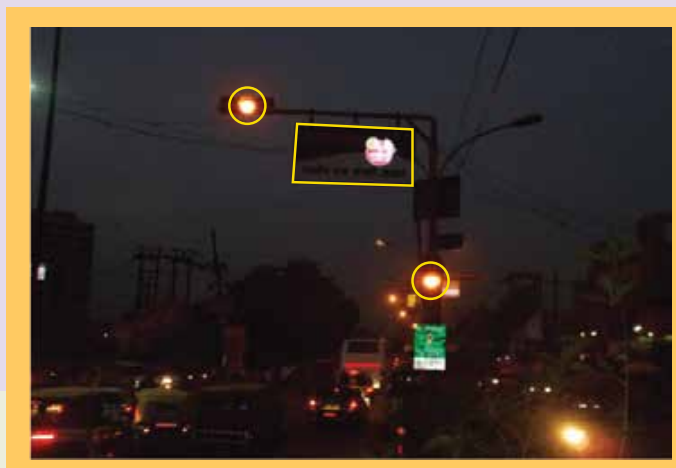
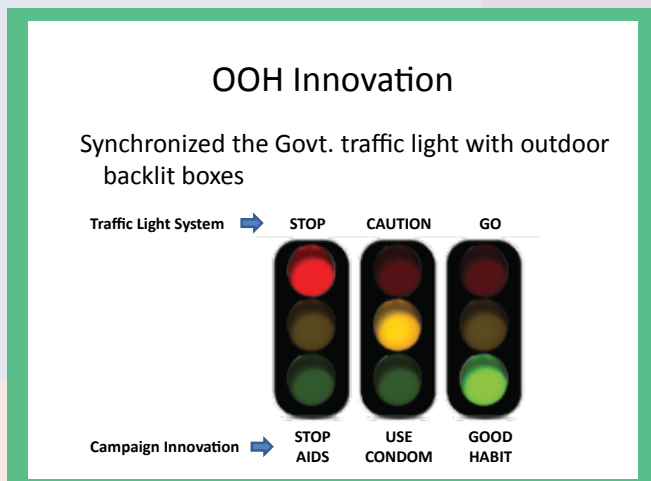
During the campaign an innovative approach for Outdoor medium was experimented at different location across the country. Under this, Synchronization of traffic signal was done with outdoor backlit boxes.

### Activity Locations

Near the traffic signal innovation at Labour Chowk, Noida, Sec 62

- Covered the area with bunting
- Distributed free condoms

Installed Sun boards at Public Utility near New Delhi Railway Station, GB Road, Old Delhi Station & Khan market.



Ms. Neha Pandey & Nidhi Rawat, Consultant (IEC & Mainstreaming), NACO



## MEETING OF ETHICS COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

The twelfth Meeting of the NACO-Ethics Committee was held under the Chairmanship **Dr. Srikanth Tripat & Dr. Ravi Verma**, Vice-Chairperson on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016 at NACO, New Delhi. Three research protocols covering thematic areas of nutraceutical for patient management, STI Gonococcal antimicrobial programme & HIV Counselling & Testing Services were reviewed and recommended. The Committee ensured that the sensitivities and ethical obligations towards the vulnerable & marginalised groups are adequately addressed in the research studies. The said studies will be initiated shortly.

**Ms. Vinita Verma, PO ( E&OR )**

## LAUNCH OF PRISON HIV INTERVENTION IN MIZORAM, PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH & IMPHAL

With the high prevalence of HIV among prison inmates, the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in collaboration with FHI 360 & Mizoram State AIDS Control Society launched Prison HIV Intervention Programme in Mizoram on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

Launching the programme, the Mizoram Health Minister Shri Lal Thanzara said, "I am happy that NACO has started the prison intervention as we are aware that majority of the inmates fall into the category of High-Risk Group, vulnerable to HIV." The Hon'ble Minister also released 'HIV Prevention, Care & Treatment Services in Prisons of North Eastern States of India' guideline/module for the intervention prepared by FHI 360 (The Science of Improving Lives).

The meeting chaired by Mr. Lalrinliana Fanai, Commissioner & Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram. Dr. C.V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO, Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, Deputy Director General (TI) NACO, Dr. Bitra George, Country Director, Family Health International

(FHI 360) and Dr. Lalmai Sawmi Sailo shared their views.

The goal of the intervention programme is to improve access and quality of HIV prevention, care and treatment services for people living in prisons. The project will cover Aizawl Central Jail and district jails. Forty per cent of the inmates of Aizawl central jail are said to be injecting drug users.

The statistics collected by State Excise and Narcotics department indicate that since 1991, considerably more drug-related deaths in Mizoram have been noted due to prescription drugs, mainly Spasmo-proxyvon and Parvon Spas, than to heroin. With the shift to injecting drug use and the accompanying sharing of needles, HIV started to spread in the drug users' community. Injecting drug use is the second most common form of HIV transmission in Mizoram next to unprotected sex.



**Group Picture during Launching of Prison HIV intervention Programme, Mizoram**



**Shri N.S.Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO addressing the event**

The other HIV prevention, treatment & care programme for Punjab and Chandigarh prisons was also launched by Shri N.S. Kang, \*Additional Secretary & DG, NACO, on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 in Chandigarh. The event was attended by Punjab's Principal Secretary Health, Smt. Vini Mahajan, & Punjab's Principal Secretary Home (Prisons), Shri Sanjay Kumar.

While speaking at the function, Shri N.S. Kang, \*Additional Secretary & DG, NACO said most of the drug users end up in Jails due to their involvement in petty crimes and then it becomes the responsibility of the prison department to provide them with necessary preventive & treatment service for various health issues including HIV/AIDS. Smt. Vini Mahajan, Principal Secretary Health, Punjab, said that Health Department is committed to support the Prisons Department to provide adequate medical care to people lodged in Punjab Jails. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Principal Secretary Home (Prisons), Punjab, thanked NACO for launching this important initiative to address HIV issues amongst

prison inmates.

Shri Hussan Lal, Project Director, Punjab State AIDS Control Society, Shri Victor Emmanuel, Regional Director & Dr. Rebecca, Project Director from Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA), Shri M.K Tewari, Additional Director General of Police (Prison), Shri B.K. Uppal, Additional Director General of Police (Welfare) Dr. Vanita Gupta, Chandigarh SACS, officers from NACO, officers from departments of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab, Home (Police & Prisons-Superintendents of Jails, Narcotic Control Bureau), and representatives from NGOs & members of Emmanuel Hospital Association were also present during the launch.

One more HIV prevention, care and treatment programme was launched in Sajiwa central jail (Manipur) by Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO during an event held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 at Sajiwa Central Jail, Imphal. The programme was attended by Additional Director General of Police (Prisons) Shri P. Doungel and Project Director, Manipur State AIDS Control Society, Shri Hungyo Worshang.

HIV testing and counselling; referral and linkages for treatment including HIV/STI/TB/HepC/OST/drug de-addiction are the three major components in the prison HIV programme, he added.

Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO; Additional Director General of Police (Prisons) **Shri P Doungel**; Country Director FHI 360 **Dr. George Bitra**; MACS Project Director **Shri Hungyo Worshang**; Deputy Director General (TI) NACO, **Dr. Neeraj Dhingra** and Public Health Specialist, CDC, **Dr. Sampath Kumar** jointly released the brochure during the inaugural function. Union Secretary & Director General of NACO, **Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO** also inaugurated the facility integrated ICTC in Sajiwa Central Jail.

Additional Director General of Police (Prisons) P Doungel thanked NACO for initiating HIV intervention in Manipur prisons. While speaking at the function, Deputy Director General (TI) NACO, Dr. Neeraj Dhingra reinforced the sustainability of HIV interventions in Sajiwa central jail and in order to ensure that, he requested Manipur State AIDS Control Society to institutionalize a mechanism in coordination with State Prison Department and FHI 360.

**Ms. Sophia Khumukcham,  
Mr. Abraham Lincoln,  
Ms. Kim Hauzel,  
Mr. Chin Samte, NACO**

\* In this edition in some articles the designation of Shri N.S.Kang has been put as Additional Secretary & DG. Shri Kang was appointed as Secretary & SG, NACO on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 therefore the article before this date has designation as Additional Secretary & DG, NACO

## METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT LAUNCHED IN INDIA

Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO launched Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) with Methadone at Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. Deputy Director General (TI), NACO, Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, Director, RIMS, Prof Chongtham Arun kumar, FHI 360 Country Director, Dr. Bitra George, RIMS Department of Psychiatry, Head Dr. N Heramani, Prof R K Lenin of RIMS, Manipur State AIDS Control Project Director (MACS) Shri Hungyo Worshang; Deputy Director, CDC/India, Shri David Nelson & Dr. Sampath Kumar, Public Health Specialist, CDC/, India also attended the inaugural function held at Jubilee Hall, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS).

Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO in his keynote address highlighted that launching of Methadone service under Harm Reduction Programme adds another link for treatment options for people who inject drugs. He said that NACO has been providing only buprenorphine as a drug of choice for Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) so far through NGO and Public Health facilities. National and regional level consultations held with key stakeholders including UN agencies, medical institutes, community representatives and subject knowledge experts in the last eighteen months helped NACO to develop a

well-calibrated process for initiating Methadone service in the country, he added. He applauded that many best practices with regard to providing HIV prevention & treatment services for people who inject drugs have been incorporated into National harm reduction strategy based on the model demonstrated by Manipur. He advised the team at RIMS and NACO to carefully look into the procurement of drugs, supply chain mechanism, storage & building the capacity of staff to ensure quality service delivery. He thanked RIMS, Nossal Institute of Global Health (NIGH), University of Melbourne, Australia, PHFI (Public Health Foundation of India), EHA (Emmanuel Hospital Association), AIIMS (The All India Institutes of Medical Sciences), Manipur SACS & community representatives for all their contribution in this important initiative.

Prof. R. K. Lenin, nodal officer from RIMS for Methadone programme said that clinical and research are the two critical components under this initiative. He further said that the institutional mechanism has already been established in order to provide both Buprenorphine and Methadone under one roof at RIMS. Dr. R K Lenin highlighted that staff members involved in the implementation of Methadone have been trained through an intensive residential training programme.

**Ms. Sophia Khumukcham,  
Mr. Abraham Lincoln,  
Ms. Kim Hauzel,  
Mr. Chin Samte, NACO**

## SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, HEALTH & NGOS IN THE CONTEXT OF DRUG USE & HIV



**Secretary & Director General, NACO addressing on Sensitization workshop in Imphal**

Sensitization workshop to enhance partnerships between Law Enforcement Agencies, Health & NGOs in the context of Drug use & HIV was held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 in Imphal, Manipur under the chairmanship of Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO. The workshop provided a stage for discussion and experience sharing in promoting partnerships between key functionaries of law enforcement Agencies (LEA), TI-NGOs and the State health department. More than 115 representatives from law enforcement, TI-NGOs, and the State health department participated in the workshop. The workshop was attended by Commissioner (H&FW), Govt. of Manipur **Shri P. K. Singh, Director**



**General of Police, Govt. of Manipur, Shri L. M. Khaute, Additional Director General of Police (Prisons), Government of Manipur, Shri P. Doungel, Deputy Inspector General (R-I), Government of Manipur, Shri I. K. Muivah, Deputy Director, CDC/India, Shri David Nelson, Deputy Director General (TI) NACO Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, Country Director, FHI 360, Dr. Bitra George, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, RIMS, Dr. Gojendra Singh and Manipur State AIDS Control Society Project Director, Shri Hungyo Worshang.**

While addressing the gathering Shri Kang, Secretary & DG, NACO highlighted the confusion prevailing amongst key functionaries dealing with law enforcement in various agencies. He categorically said that the harm reduction services provided by NACO through NGOs & Govt. Health facilities are legitimate, recognized and approved by the law under Section 71 of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act 2014. He also highlighted that drug users come into the custody of the State (Police or Judicial) should not be denied the access to the health facilities including HIV prevention and treatment services. He requested representatives of law enforcement agencies to refer them for appropriate HIV prevention and treatment services when they come into contact with people who inject drugs. He also mentioned that one out of every ten IDUs is HIV positive in Manipur & recommended for a concerted effort and strong partnerships between law enforcement, Health & NGOs working in the field to contain HIV in the State. The Commissioner (H&FW), Government of Manipur, Shri. P.K. Singh thanked NACO & Manipur AIDS Control Society for scaling up key HIV interventions in the State.

**Director General of Police, Government of Manipur, Shri L. M. Khaute, Deputy Director General (TI), NACO, Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, Additional Director General of Police (Prisons), Government of Manipur, Shri P. Doungel, Deputy Director, CDC/India, Shri David Nelson, Dr. Sampath Kumar, Public Health Specialist, CDC/India, Deputy Inspector General (R-I), Government of Manipur, Shri I. K. Muivah, Country Director, FHI 360, Dr. Bitra George, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, RIMS, Dr. Gojendra Singh, and Manipur State AIDS Control Society Project Director Shri Hungyo Worshang were also present in the workshop.**

**Ms. Sophia Khumukcham,  
Mr. Abraham Lincoln,  
Ms. Kim Hauzel,**

## MEETING OF NATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

National Technical Working Group meeting (NTWG) was convened under the chairmanship of DDG (BSD), NACO on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at NACO. The National level technical working group comprised of key officials from NACO, CTD, experts from WHO, National Institutes, & Civil Societies. NTWG HIV-TB is an important platform to strengthen coordination between NACP & RNTCP for mitigating the burden of HIV-TB in India. NTWG is the key coordination mechanism as per the National Framework for HIV-TB in India to review,

optimize and plan for TB-HIV collaborative activities. National Technical working group has been instrumental in taking key decisions like PITC, CBNAAT linkage, 31<sup>st</sup> project, Public private partnership, revision of recording and reporting, IPT, Daily regimen for HIV-TB etc. Significant progress has been made in the past based on these decisions especially in increasing coverage of testing for TB patients, developing training manuals and guidelines, strengthening coordination at State and District levels, use of rapid diagnostics for PLHIVs, daily ATT etc.

### The Objectives of the meeting:

To review the process of TB-HIV collaborative activities undertaken during 2015-16

To develop strategies & further plan for scale up of newer initiatives –IPT, ICTC-CBNAAT Linkage, Daily regimen TB-HIV, HIV Testing at DMCs

Recommendations for High Priority districts action plan identified after Pragati review

## THE REGIONAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) ON REVISED HIV COUNSELING & TESTING SERVICE (HCTS) GUIDELINES

National HIV Counseling and Testing Services Guideline (HCTS) 2016 has been updated by Basic Service Division (BSD), NACO & approved by Hon'ble Union Health Minister, Govt. of India. The first regional ToT on the revised HCTS guideline 2016 was successfully held at Delhi during 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 to 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at Hotel Premier Inn, New Delhi with support from UNICEF and Delhi SACS. The first ToT consist of five batches (one-day training for each batch), each batch consists of about 50

representatives from Northern states (Chandigarh, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, & Uttarakhand).

The main objective of the training was to create a pool of master trainers on the revised HCTS guideline 2016. The ICTC counselors and District ICTC Supervisors of the above-mentioned states will be considered as the master trainers of HCTS revised guideline 2016 at down level training at their respective state/district level.


**Dr. P. Sujith, NACO**

## NATIONAL LEVEL TRAINING ON DAILY ATT & 3IS FOR ART CENTRES

NACO and CTD have made a decision to provide single window services for the management of HIV/TB co-infections at ART centres so as to improve access to HIV/TB care and ensure seamless services to PLHIV. Further, to reduce the risk of TB transmission, NACO has also initiated measures to strengthen TB infection control practices at ART centres. These measures include intensified Case Finding (ICF) for TB, Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT) for all PLHIV, and robust Airborne Infection Control (AIC) at ART centres to ensure early detection and reduce the risk of TB transmission.

In this regard, the National Training on Daily ATT & 3Is for ART Centres was conducted for staff from ART centres across the country to ensure that all the ART centres are well acquainted with the functional aspects of the new guidelines. The 3-day training curriculum aimed at equipping the staff at ART centres with the knowledge and skills to seamlessly and effectively deliver HIV/TB services to PLHIV and to reduce the risk of transmission of TB at HIV care settings. The strategic approach for the training was defined by the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) for HIV/TB, comprising of senior leadership of NACO and CTD, which held meetings at NACO headquarters in Delhi.

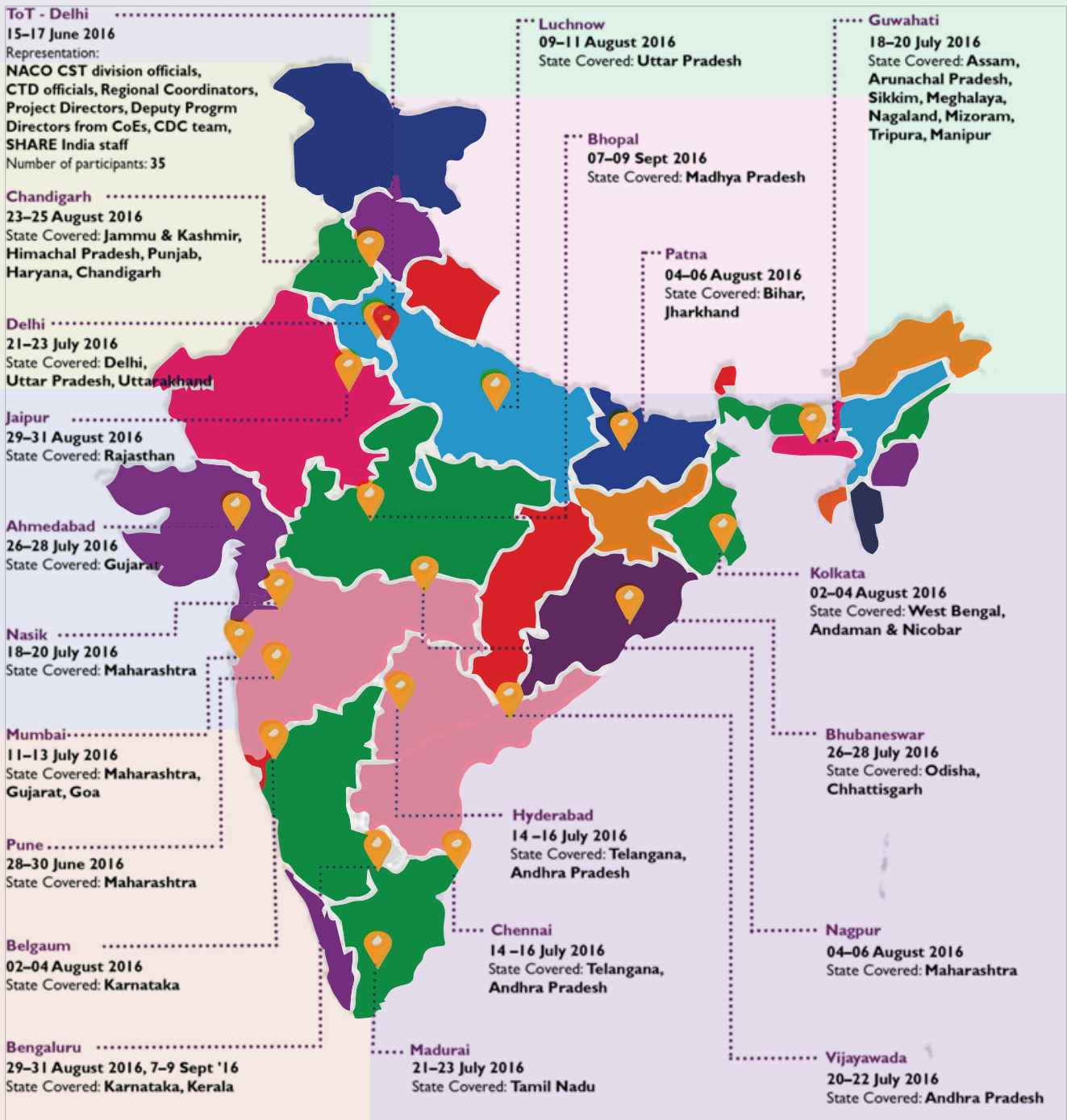
Under this National training programme, a total of 21 batches were conducted between July to September, 2016 to train staff from 510 ART centres. A total of 956 ART staff—including 429 Nodal Officers/Senior Medical Officers/Medical Officers and 527 Staff Nurses / Counsellors—participated in the training.

Batch 3      Hyderabad	
<p><b>Date:</b> July 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2016  <b>Venue:</b> CoE, Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Hyderabad  <b>Represented States:</b> Telangana state and Rayalaseema districts of Andhra Pradesh  <b>ART Centres Covered:</b> 30  <b>ART Staff Trained:</b> 57 (Nodal Officers/Senior Medical Officers/Medical Officers: 26; Staff Nurses/Counsellors: 31)</p>	

The training provided guidance and hands-on experience to ART centre staff to ensure proper implementation of 4S screening, referral and diagnosis of TB infection at DMC/CBNAAT, initiation of IPT, provision of daily ATT, AIC practices, and the use of recording and reporting tools in line with the revised guidelines. The training was organised by the NACO with support from CTD. The CDC - Division of Global Health and TB (CDC-DGHT) India, SHARE India, and WHO India provided assistance in the implementation of the training.

**Dr. Suman, NACO**

# NATIONWIDE TRAINING PROGRAM COVERAGE





## EXPERT GROUP CONSULTATION ON HIV SURVEILLANCE & ESTIMATIONS

India has one of the largest, most robust & consistent HIV surveillance system covering around 90% of the districts. It has many facets but comprised mainly of HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS), Behavioural Surveillance System (BSS), Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) & HIV Estimations. The system has evolved over years and has been recognized by independent external experts as one of the fully functional surveillance systems. The system has been core to explain the HIV

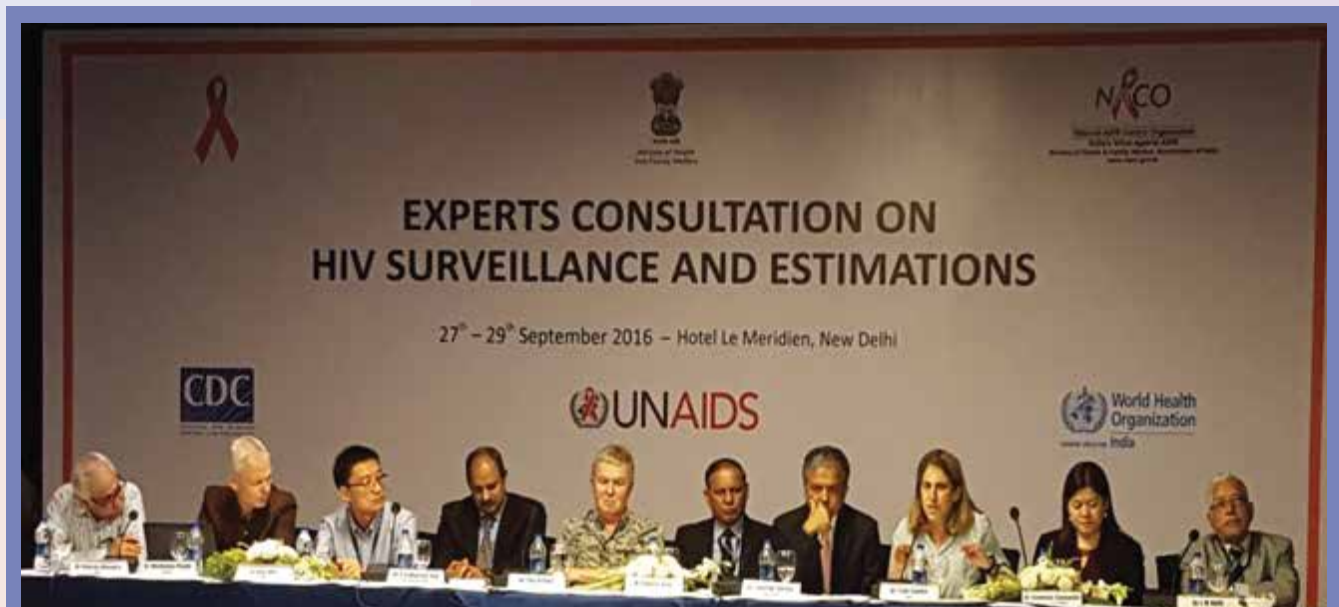
epidemic in the country. It has helped in describing the multiple, diverse sub-epidemics in the country; spreading at different rates in different populations. The system has also helped in identifying different stages of the epidemic in different states; while the prevalence has been declining in erstwhile high-prevalence southern states, the stable epidemic at the high level in erstwhile north-eastern states as well as rising epidemic in northern states has been well described under surveillance system.



A group photo on meeting on Expert Group Consultation on HIV Surveillance & Estimations

However, like any other system, India's HIV Surveillance system has scope of improvements in view of changing epidemic patterns and programmatic considerations. Thus, consultation on HIV Surveillance and Estimations was organized from 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 New Delhi to get a road-map for HIV Surveillance system agenda to improve epidemic tracking for further strengthening of programmatic responses. The consultation was supported by UNAIDS, WHO, & CDC. The consultation had participation from national experts like AIIMS, NIMS, NARI, NIE, CDC, WHO, UNAIDS etc. Country

representatives from Vietnam, Philippines and China also attended the meeting. International experts from East West Centre, WHO Geneva, CDC USA, PEMA, GFATM were also present in the meeting.



Dignitaries on dais during meeting on Expert Group Consultation on HIV Surveillance and Estimations

Closing remarks for the 3 day consultation meeting was delivered by Dr. C.V. Dharma Rao, Joint Secretary, NACO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India. Dr. Rao noted that the meeting was a milestone towards strengthening of HIV surveillance & estimation system in India. He remarked that the quality of discussion was quite high and recommendations were quite pragmatic.

Dr. Bhavna Sangal, NACO

## GOA

## STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION WITH TRANSGENDERS

The Goa State AIDS Control Society strategically organized the first State Level Consultation with Transgender. Abhina Aher, National Programme Manager, HIV/AIDS Alliance on sexual minority program-Chair of Asia Pacific region and founder member of India's first Transgender dancing group called dancing queens was invited to represent the community. Shri Sudhir Mahajan, IAS, Secretary (Health), Shri S. C. Chandak, Registrar High Court-Member Secretary Goa State Legal Services Authority and Dr. Sanjeev Dalvi Director of Health services along with Dr. Jose D'Sa, Project Director Goa SACS were present at the inaugural.



Abhina Aher, National Programme Manager HIV/AIDS addressing the event.

The Health Secretary Shri Sudhir Mahajan while speaking at the inaugural urged people not to discriminate against the transgender. He said that there is a need to highlight the issues of transgender as they are victims of misconceptions.

Mr. S.C. Chandak, Member Secretary, GSLSA also spoke about the need to break the myths & misconceptions surrounding transgender and to respect them in the society. He spoke about the Rights of transgender persons Bill. Abhina Aher while speaking said that there are transgender in Goa who are Goans. The stigma of being a transgender is faced by all transgender even if they are educated & employed. The Project Director, Goa SACS, Dr. Jose D'Sa while delivering the vote of thanks reiterated the commitment to the community and thanked all those who responded and are a part of the consultation.

The Inaugural session was followed by a panel discussion "Scenario of Transgender's in Goa and way forward". The panelists were **Ms. Abhina Aher**- National Programme Manager HIV/AIDS Alliance **Dr. Durga Prasad, Jt. Director, Department of Planning & Statistics**, **Dr. Rajesh Dhume, Senior Psychiatrist, North District Hospital, Mapusa –Directorate of social welfare**, **Mr. Sudesh Gawde, Assistant Director, Department of social welfare**, **Adv. Ryan Menezes, Advocate High Court**, **Mr. Prakash Kamat, Senior Editor National Daily "The Hindu"**, **Dr. Jose D'SA, Project Director GSACS**, **Mr. Ramesh Rathod, Assistant Director, Targetted Intervention-GSACS**, **Ms. Himangi Mhaprolkar**- Clinical Psychologist, Director for Capacity Building for Pechaan and DIVA – moderated the discussion.

## THE MAJOR ACTION POINTS THAT EMERGED FROM THE DISCUSSION WERE:

Involvement of Transgender (TG's) in the process of finalising the questionnaire for the survey of TG's in Goa by Department of planning and statistics. The questionnaire prepared by Department of Social Welfare. The survey is being finalized and scheduled within a period of 3 months.

On the basis of the survey, a committee will be formed at the district level under the chairmanship of the District Collector. The committee will also include two members of the transgender community besides a social worker, psychiatrist etc.

TGs to be included in existing welfare schemes or special schemes will be designed for them for education, employment etc. The entire process to be initiated once the findings of the survey are released.

The media will also support in highlighting issues of stigma or atrocities by police etc.

A crisis management committee to be formed under TI division at SACS along with the TI's as a quick response in case of distress.

**Ms. Sunita Arudra, Goa SACS**



## BIHAR

### OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH INTERVENTION IN COLLABORATION WITH NYKS

Bihar State AIDS Control Society (BSACS) organised rural youth programme for prevention of HIV / AIDS through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan (NYKS) Youth Club. The NYKS has 6 Lakh youth club members which motivates maximum rural youth to know more about HIV and HIV testing.

**Mr. Alok Kumar Singh, Bihar SACS**

## PUDUCHERRY

### SKIT BY RED RIBBON CLUB MEMBERS IN COLLEGE



**Participants play a skit on AIDS**

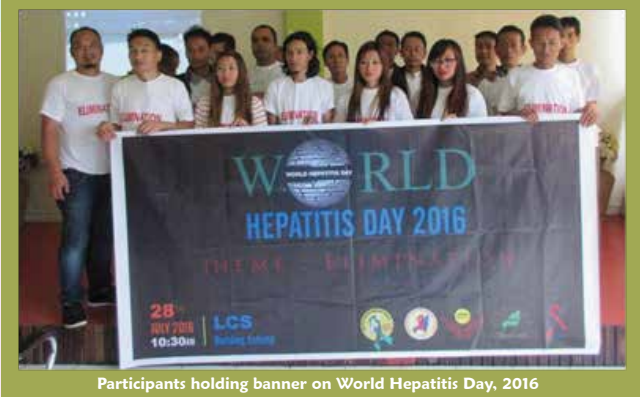
The Pondicherry AIDS Control Society recently reached out to youth to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS and voluntary blood donation. A series of events at Gandhi Thidal that coincided with International Youth Day featured a motorcycle rally, mime, and skit contests by college students and staff of the AIDS Control Society. The members of 24 Red Ribbon Colleges participated in the skit and mime competitions. The Hon'ble Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the Puducherry AIDS Control Society to control the HIV epidemic and raising awareness about the risks as well as to popularise voluntary blood donations. He said that the HIV affected people in the Union Territory would soon get financial assistance. A pledge was administered to the youth in the presence of Shri Kali Muthu, Mission Director, National Health Mission, and officials from Health Department. About 300 students from various colleges participated in the activities. The prizes for the best performing Red Ribbon Clubs for 2015-16 went to Kasturba Gandhi Nursing College, Pillaiyarkuppam, Puducherry, Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts College, Mahe, and Pondicherry Engineering College, Puducherry. The winners later got back on stage to perform skit and mime entertainment.

**The Hindu, Puducherry**

# EVENTS

## REPORTS FROM STATES

World hepatitis day is observed on July 28 to raise global awareness of hepatitis and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. In Nagaland, the day was observed in the state capital Kohima & 7 other districts namely, Kiphire, Mon, Wokha, Mokokchung, Tuensang, Satakha in Zunheboto district & Pfutsero in Phek district. The event was jointly organized by Hepatitis Coalition of Nagaland (HepCoN), Nagaland Users Network and Kripa foundation supported and sponsored by Nagaland State AIDS Control Society and NNP+. The objective of the program was to generate awareness on viral hepatitis infection.



Participants holding banner on World Hepatitis Day, 2016

**Nagaland SACS**

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2016

International Youth Day (IYD) is observed annually on 12<sup>th</sup> August. It is celebrated as an opportunity to celebrate the spirit of youth, worldwide. Youth in India, that constitutes the one-fifth of the total population, has an important role to play as potential group in the shaping up of a global society. Understanding the importance of the same, NACO every year observes International Youth Day through State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) involving the Red Ribbon Clubs (RRCs) in colleges. In the same light, this year, NACO observed IYD 2016, all across India. The observance of IYD 2016 took place in many states at variant dates starting from the August to the month of September 2016. RRCs under the Youth programme of NACO came forward to actively participate in the observance and celebration of the day through innovative approaches & conducted various activities like Inter College open discussion, Red Ribbon Human Chain, Skit & Street plays, Awareness Motor Bike Rally on HIV/AIDS, Fashion Show with recycling material & awareness messages on Youth & HIV/AIDS, Blood donation camp, Sketch & Painting Competition, football tournament, youth rally with awareness messages on air balloons & many more. Here's a sneak peek into the future of the society, working towards the cause to make a difference.



**Ms. Pallavi, NACO**

# IT Systems of NACO

## STRATEGIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PLHIV-ART LINKAGE SYSTEM MIGRANT SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

### IT Applications of NACO

Major IT Applications implemented by NACO includes SIMS (Strategic Information Management System), PALS (PL-HIV ART Linkage System), IMS (Inventory Management System), MSDS (Migrant Service Delivery System). The Application involves digitization of data and records on a large scale in the country to track people and involve transparency in the program. These are processed at all levels including National/State/District/Facility to collect & collate data.



### 1. Strategic Information Management system (SIMS)

SIMS is a web based application of NACO for capturing aggregate MIS data/information of various components. Data is entered at the facility level by more than 30,000 reporting units which are verified, analyzed and reports are generated on real time basis.

### 2. Inventory Management System (IMS)

IMS is an IT application of NACO developed to strengthen the Supply Chain Management System of NACO on real time basis. IMS is successfully migrated to NACO Cloud – Meghraj of Gol. Data in IMS is captured related to Procurement of Drugs and Consumables at NACO / SACS / ART Centre level.

PALS is a web – based application which was intended to capture details of HIV+ pregnant women from ICTC centers and monitor the progress of the mother and the child for a period of 2 years. After the progress of the software and data capturing, the scope of software was extended and now HIV+ general clients are also being captured through it.

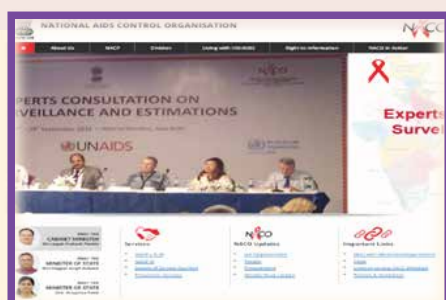
### 3. PL-HIV ART Linkage System (PALS)

PALS is a web – based application which was intended to capture details of HIV+ pregnant women from ICTC centers and monitor the progress of the mother and the child for a period of 2 years. After the progress of the software and data capturing, the scope of software is being extended by capturing HIV+ general clients.

### 4. Migrant Service Delivery System (MSDS)

MSDS is a web application that captures data of source and destination regarding TI Migrant Population at Migrant Destination TI NGO.

### 5. NACO Website

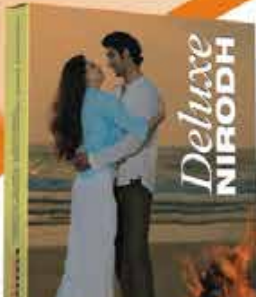


A new website has been launched in September, 2016 with innovative design and up to date information about the programme. The website is GIGW (Guidelines for Indian Government Website) Compliance and covers all the prospects of HIV/AIDS including Guidelines, Service Facilities, Tenders, Procurements, Publications, Events, etc. to enhance the access of information for viewers.

Mr. Praveen Prakash Gupta & Ms. Piyushi Kothiwal, NACO



एक आदत  
जो बढ़ाए प्यार,  
बनाए आपको  
ज़िम्मेदार



**कंडोम एक, सुरक्षा तीन**

- ⊙ एचआईवी/एड्स
- ⊙ यौन संक्रमण
- ⊙ अनचाहा गर्भ



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