



NACO

NEWS



National AIDS Control Organisation
India's Voice against AIDS
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
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Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



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PROGRAMMES

Signing of MoU between Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, MoSJE and National AIDS Control Organisation, MoHFW



The 18th Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (DoSJE), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) on 26th August, 2019 in the august presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. The MoU was signed by Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary & Director General, NACO & RNTCP, MoHFW and Smt. Upma

Srivastava, Additional Secretary, DoSJE.

Drug abuse needs to be viewed as psycho-social medical problem. This requires a multi-sectoral collaboration so that the affected individuals are brought back into the mainstream society. In line with this vision, through this MoU, the services of institutes such as National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention (NCDAP), National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) and Integration Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) under DoSJE will be leveraged for

achieving the national goals and objectives of HIV prevention and impact mitigation. The target groups of NACO and DoSJE are quite similar and the nature of challenges and issues faced by these groups are same too. Both the ministries will work in coordination to strengthen facilities for needed.

The important dignitaries present on the occasion were Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State, MoHFW; Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India; Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, MoHFW; Ms. Nilam Sawhney, Secretary, DoSJE; Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO and senior officials from both ministries.

The partnership between NACO and DoSJE aims at:

- (i) Reaching out to vulnerable and most at risk population with awareness and prevention messages on HIV, Harm Reduction, Prevention of Illicit Use of Drugs and Alcohol and linking them with services provided under National AIDS Control Programme and Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse as well as reducing Social Stigma and Discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS.
- (ii) Garnering mutual support to develop specific strategies and action plan to deal with subject related to HIV and AIDS prevention and mechanisms for drug addiction treatment and extending social protection schemes to the vulnerable populations.

Utpal Das, NACO

Brown Bag Series Talk at NACO

National AIDS Control Organisation undertakes various activities as part of its capacity building initiatives. In line with the spirit of cross-institutional collaboration and capacity building, the Brown Bag Seminar Series was initiated back in 2016 with the aim to inform as well as build capacities & knowledge of programme managers at NACO, development partners and other key stakeholders on new developments in HIV/AIDS and research.

As part of the series, a talk was held on “The importance of HIV viral suppression to the patient, provider, and Community: The role of Undetectable = Untransmittable (U = U) in supporting HIV Public Health Priorities” by Dr. Melissa Nyendak, CDC India on 18th October

2019 at NACO, New Delhi. The talk was chaired by Joint Secretary, NACO, Shri Alok Saxena and attended by Senior officers, Programme managers from NACO, Partners, Civil Society and Community representatives.



Vinita Verma, NACO
Neha Kapoor, NACO

Annual Training Visit of Post Graduate Medical Officers of Armed Officers Medical College, Pune to NACO

As part of capacity building & cross learnings, annual training and orientation visit by Medical students is held annually to facilitate training, knowledge exchange and to sensitise young students towards National AIDS Control Programme, NACO and its activities. Against this backdrop, annual Training Visit of Post Graduate Medical Officers of Armed Officers Medical College,

Pune was organised by National AIDS Control Organisation on 12th September, 2019 at NACO, New Delhi. Trainee medical officers from AFMC Pune and Nodal Officers from various Programme Divisions of NACO attended the meeting. The training visit was also facilitated through an exposure-visit to facilities organised by the Delhi State AIDS Control Society.



Vinita Verma, NACO
Neha Kapoor, NACO

National Consultation on Global and Local Evidence to Improve HIV Cascade in India

As part of Strategic Information, identifying gaps in the national programme as well as evidence generation through studies/ projects/ pilots/ innovations on key priority areas has been central

to the National AIDS Control Programme. In light of the fast track targets of 2020 and the SDG target of “Ending the epidemic of AIDS” by 2030, a National Consultation on Global and Local

Evidence to improve HIV Cascade in India was organised by the National AIDS Control Organisation in collaboration with USAID through Johns Hopkins University under Project ACCELERATE from September 5 - 6, 2019 at New Delhi.

Policy makers, researchers/ scientists, programme managers from NACO, State AIDS Control Societies, Technical Support Units, senior experts, civil society, community and partner representatives attended the Consultation.

Global and local evidence on key thematic areas such as 'Reaching the hardest of the hard-to-reach populations in physical venues', 'Strategies to engage virtual population in services', 'Newer prevention strategies', 'Novel models of health care delivery', 'Strategies to improve adherence and retention in care' and 'Programme data: implications for policy and improving programme efficiency' was showcased and deliberated upon.



Vinita Verma, NACO
Neha Kapoor, NACO

National Consultation on Integrated Packages of Services for People who Inject Drugs



On September 3rd, 2019, NACO together with key stakeholders organized a follow up meeting to discuss about strategies to operationalise the recommendations made in the high-level inter-departmental meeting held on 18th July,

2019. Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, in his valedictory address said that multiple ministries and departments within the Government currently address the issue of substance abuse and hence there is huge scope and immense potential in converge services in order to avoid duplication, enhance synergy of interventions and achieve cost-effective implementation of programs. He also advised to constitute a technical working committee to develop the integrated joint action plan.

Shri Devesh Deval, IAS, Director - Tobacco Control & DDAP, highlighted about various services provided to drug users through drug de-addiction programme and suggested different ways to strengthen the ongoing intervention. Shri SK Jha, Deputy Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) shared the need to have a multi-sectoral approach to deal with people dependent on drug use and also stressed upon removing the stigma around drug-usage as this is one of the major hindrances observed under de-addiction programme. Shri Khagesh Garg, Director, DoSJE,

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, stated that MSJE is keen to collaborate with NACO and other line departments to jointly address Drug Demand Reduction and Harm Reduction Services.

Dr. Shobini Rajan, Asst. Director General, NACO, outlined potential opportunities available to collaborate with MSJE and other stakeholders in the context of drug use and HIV and law enforcement related initiatives.

IDU Team, TI Division, NACO

Inter-departmental Meeting to Develop Integrated Package of Services for People Who Inject Drugs

On July 18, 2019, NACO convened a high-level inter-departmental meeting with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to discuss about drug use and HIV in the context of the recently released findings of the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India. Additional Secretary, DoSJE, Smt. Upma Srivastava, Joint Secretary, NACO, Shri Alok Saxena, Assistant Director General, NACO, Dr. Shobini Rajan and domain experts took part in the meeting.

Smt. Upma Srivastava, Additional Secretary, Dept. of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), in her special address, thanked NACO for convening the

inter-departmental meeting. She said that the MSJE recently concluded survey on substance use in India, had made robust data available based on which the government would frame its policies and strategies. She emphasized the need to develop an integrated package of services by including activities related to awareness generation, enhanced linkages and effective coordination between the targeted interventions for IDUs supported by NACO; Drug De-Addiction Programme (DDAP) that is supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), and the integrated rehabilitation centres for addicts (IRCA) supported by MSJE.



TI Team, NACO

Expert Consultation-Cum-Capacity Building Workshop on HIV Estimations 2019

National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India periodically undertakes HIV estimation process to provide the updated information on the status of HIV epidemic in India. First HIV estimation in India was done in 1998 while last round was done in 2017. This current round, “*India HIV Estimates 2019*” is unique in itself as it aims to provide the current status of HIV epidemic on key parameters of HIV prevalence, new infections and AIDS related mortality up to the district level.

A National Working Group (NWG), under the leadership of NACO and ICMR-NIMS, New Delhi and with involvements of members from development partners (UNAIDS, USAID, WHO and CDC) and other national and regional institutes for epidemic monitoring, undertakes this estimation work. NWG, chaired by Director (ICMR-NIMS) and co-chaired by division head of Strategic Information division, NACO is responsible for all the exercise related to the HIV Estimations.

The results generated by NWG are critically reviewed and approved by Technical Resource Group (TRG) on “Surveillance and Estimation”. Currently, Special Secretary & DG (NACO & RNTCP) is chair of the TRG. The members are the senior most national and international experts on HIV surveillance, epidemiology and estimations.

In line with past practices “The expert consultation-cum-capacity building” workshop was organised during 27th to 30th August, 2019 where officers from regional institutes, State AIDS

Control Societies as well as members from national working group are trained on latest Spectrum model in the beginning of “India HIV Estimations 2019” round.

Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP), Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Inaugurated the four days “Expert Consultation-Cum-Capacity Building Workshop on HIV Estimations 2019” on 27th August, 2019.

The expert consultation-cum-capacity building workshop is one of the most fundamental meetings under the HIV Estimations 2019 aegis. Mr John Stover (Vice President, Avenir Health), Mr TaoufikBakkali (Senior Advisor, UNAIDS-RST), Dr DCS Reddy (Former HoD, Dept of Community Medicine, BHU), Professor Arvind Pandey (Former Director, ICMR-NIMS), Dr Shashi Kant (HoD, CCM, AIIMS-New Delhi) and Dr Yujwal Raj, (Public health Expert) were the key resource persons in the workshop.

During the first three days, the participants were trained on HIV Estimations using the latest version of Spectrum model. The capacity building had a mix of theoretical and practical aspects and participants developed their own model for HIV Estimations in training mode. This helps to widen the knowledge about this complex procedure and thus improves the ownership of the findings. The workshop was also focus on capacity building of various stakeholders that will include updating them on the methodology as well as concepts behind it. The training design was a mix of plenary, demonstrations and hands-on sessions.



The fourth day of the meeting focussed on seeking advice from experts on technical aspects for HIV Estimations.

These included

- (i) Localization of the survival assumptions when on ART in model,
- (ii) Informing the breastfeeding assumptions among HIV positive pregnant women,
- (iii) Exploring the potential of bridge population as a sub-population in epidemic configuration,
- (iv) Developing a working estimates for the HRG size based on existing evidences, and
- (v) CLHIV size estimates and uncertainty bounds for HIV Estimations 2017. The fourth day also had a presentation on the GOALS model as a tool to inform the investment decision in an AIDS control programme.

Dr Arvind Kumar, NACO

Sensitization Session for the Prison Officials at the Prison Training Institute - Rajasthan SACS

On 27th September, 2019 a state level training and a sensitization meeting was held for the prison officials, conducted jointly by the Rajasthan Prisons Department and Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society. The training session was conducted at the Prison Training Institute, Ajmer in which Inspector General, Deputy Inspector General, Superintendent of Police, Jailors and Doctors of the prisons participated. Director General of Police (Prison) chaired the session. During the session, RSACS team also urged Senior Officials of Rajasthan Prisons Department for active participation that will help to conduct successful IEC and CST activities in prison settings.

The session was planned and organized with the collaborative efforts of the Prison team in the state of Rajasthan under the leadership of Sh. N. R. K. Reddy, Director General of Prison (IPS) and

Rajasthan SACS. Sh. Sunil Kumar Bishnoi, Sh. Sitaram Yadav, Dr. Kunal Singh and Sh. Hitesh Sharma facilitated information about various components during the meeting. The training session included a detailed discussion on the prevalence among adults in Rajasthan, High Risk Population, the four modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS and the window period for the HIV and national toll free number of 1097.



Observation of EMTCT Week in West Bengal - West Bengal SACS

To disseminate the importance of “Need for universal HIV and syphilis screening during pregnancy” and “Our commitment towards Elimination of Mother To Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis by 2020” West Bengal SACS has observed “Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission Week” from 16th September to 22nd September, 2019. The week was observed to generate awareness about the universal need of HIV and syphilis screening during pregnancy. The IEC van moved across districts and touched all

sub-centres, VHND sites, hospitals, market places and populated areas.

Provision was made for one ASHA worker to move along in the IEC van who interacted with community regarding the need of HIV screening during pregnancy. To keep the sessions interesting, informal quiz competitions were held among pregnant women along with focus group discussions. The event was also covered by regional channels.



Training of Labour Room Staff on HIV Screening and PPTCT Guideline - Chhattisgarh SACS

To achieve the goal of eliminating mother to child HIV transmission by 2020, Chhattisgarh SACS conducted one day regional training in five batches for Labour Room Staff (Staff Nurse/ ANM) at training hall of Govt. Medical College, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. These nurses were guided on HIV Screening and PPTCT related guidelines to ensure HIV testing of pregnant women and safe delivery of those who are in-labour. A total of 182 labour room staff members from Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada, Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur and

Sukma district were trained under this activity. The technical support for these training sessions was provided by UNICEF.

Information related to 1097 and HIV & AIDS (P & C) Act, 2017 was also shared. Trainees were also guided about strict provisions present against any behavior pertaining to stigma and discrimination towards HIV infected or affected people. One of the major objectives of this training was to make these nurses understand the value of creating a stigma free environment in public health spaces.



1097 Ticket Printed at the Back of Bus Tickets - Gujarat SACS

In order to benefit the employees, GSACS through a systematic approach developed a partnership with Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC) to sensitize the key decision makers of the department. Advocacy meeting with Senior Officials of department, TOT for senior staff of all districts of Gujarat, awareness sessions for drivers, conductors and workshop staff and

raising awareness through IEC materials are the key activities which have been carried out in last two years by Gujarat SACS. Through these activities, a total of 724 drivers and conductors were sensitized till July, 2019.

In line of the above activities another major action has been taken to involve GSRTC's participation. National Toll Free Helpline : 1097

was printed at the back of bus tickets. GSRTC is also planning to initiate Facilities Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre at divisional clinics of GSRTC. All the required technical support for undertaking the activities has been provided by GSACS.



1097 Helpline number on Bus Ticket

Training of Trainers on HIV/AIDS in Police Department - RSACS

Two day State Level Training of Trainers was organized on HIV/AIDS for Police department officials on 8th and 9th August at Jaipur, Rajasthan. 24 trainers from the Police Training Institute and schools were selected across the state and trained on issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Topics on basics of HIV and AIDS, stigma & discrimination, sex, sexuality and gender, condom promotion and HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, were covered under the session.



Dr. R. P. Doria, Project Director - RSACS, addressed the participants and asked them to discuss all the topics in details with facilitator so that further trainings may be conducted smoothly at the field level.

Uttarakhand State AIDS Council Meeting conducted by Uttarakhand SACS

The Uttarakhnd State AIDS Council Meeting was held on 4th September, 2019 at State Secretariat, Dehradun in the Chairmanship of Sh. Trivendra Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. The Chief Minister directed all

officials to regularly conduct the council meet. He emphasized upon special focus on creating awareness for AIDS and said that study on reasons of spread of the disease in the State should be done again to get a fresh picture of typology.

The Chief Minister declared free ride in buses in Uttarkhand Roadways for people living with HIV to visit ART Centers and said that monthly pension of Rs 1,000/- would be provided to these people. He also declared that doctors appointed on contract in the AIDS Control Program-Uttarakhand, would be provided remuneration like other doctors in the State and clarified that the State Government

is ready to bear the additional financial burden for it.

Sh. Harak Singh Rawat, Cabinet Minister, Sh. Nitesh Jha, Secretary - Health, Sh. B. K. Sant, Secretary in Charge, Sh. Yugal Kishore Pant, Additional Secretary and other senior officers from Uttarkhand SACS were also present in the council meet.



17 Training Sessions Conducted with Department of Home Affairs - Gujarat SACS

NACO and Department of Internal Security have signed Memorandum (MOUs) to work jointly on HIV and AIDS. GSACS has been advocating with the Police Department of Gujarat to initiate HIV programme for Personnel in uniform and sensitize them about issues related to HIV/AIDS. A circular has been issued by Police Department to organize Training of Trainers (TOT) and awareness session

for police staff and for Training Instructors of training school of police department. A total of 17 sessions have been conducted by Gujarat SACS by the end of second quarter under which around 3,900 police personnel have been trained from Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Patan, Surat, Kutch, Junagadh, Rajkot, Banaskantha, Mahisagar and Jamnagar districts.



Regional Level Marriage Bureau for HIV Community in Karnataka - Karnataka SACS

A regional level marriage bureau has been setup by Karnataka SACS in Bangalore, Mysuru, Belagavi and Kalaburagi districts. Major objective of this activity is to provide one to one support within HIV community. Those who have lost their spouses at an early stage of marriage can marry again among the community members. DAPCO, CSC, District

Network and District Supervisors have taken the responsibility towards this bureau.

A total of 148 males and 128 females participated in this activity, out of which 24 pairs were made.



Financial Assistance Scheme for HIV Positive Widows by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai - Mumbai DSACS

Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has sanctioned Rs. 2.40 crore to roll out Financial Assistance scheme to support HIV positive widows. The HIV disease leaves a greater impact in households headed by HIV positive women due to loss of earning member. This scheme offers much needed social protection for people living with HIV/AIDS. Through this scheme, more than 2000 HIV positive widows will get benefitted annually.

Beneficiaries of the scheme will include HIV positive widows residing in jurisdiction of Mumbai who are registered for Anti-retroviral treatment under ART centres of Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society. The death certificates of deceased

husband & proof of his HIV positive status, are the only mandatory documents.

How the scheme is availed? - For this scheme, the widows visiting ART centres are being screened by Care Coordinators & Project Parivartan Volunteers. Documents submitted by the eligible widows are verified by ART counsellors. These verified applications ensuring 95% treatment adherence among the widows are submitted by ART Medical Officers. After reviewing the applications by Mainstreaming division, Project Director, MDACS approves direct transfer of benefit to bank account of the beneficiaries.



The scheme has been made functional from September, 2019 & in the first month, 127 widows have received the financial benefit. The monthly financial assistance is expected to improve treatment adherence and nutritional status among the beneficiaries, enhancing their quality of life.

HIV/AIDS Sensitisation for CISF Personnel - Goa SACS

Goa State AIDS Control Society along with Mormugao Port Trust organized a sensitization workshop for CISF, MPT and GSL personnel on issues related to HIV/AIDS. The activity was conducted at CISF recreation Hall, MPT on 23rd August, 2019, in which a total of 55 personnel were sensitized. The Deputy Commander of Mormugao Port Trust urged all attendees to grasp maximum information during the session and to clear as many misconceptions as possible.



Deputy CMO, MPT and nodal officer for HIV Dr. Manju Khandeparker was also present during the workshop and talked about the FICTC center at

the MPT Hospital. A short film on HIV/AIDS was shown followed by small discussion on Sexually Transmitted Infections.

Training of 195 NSS Officers of Department of Sports and Youth Affairs - Gujarat SACS

In collaboration with National Social Service Scheme (NSS), Gujarat SACS conducts annual trainings and sensitization sessions for officers of NSS. The benefit of training these officers is that when village level sensitization sessions are conducted then these trained officers work as resource persons as well. Awareness regarding issues related to HIV & AIDS and voluntary blood donation is raised during these sessions.

To train NSS officers in order to help them interact sensitively with their staff members, college students and village community members, this year, a total of five trainings were conducted by officials from Gujarat SACS. A number of 195 officers from NSS were trained during these sessions.



EVENTS

International Youth Day Celebrations - 2019 - Telangana SACS

To observe International Youth Day 2019, TSACS conducted a rally by involving 350 participants from University College of Women, Koti, Hyderabad students and TI NGO Staff members of Hyderabad. Student displayed banners and placards

prepared on IYD-2019 theme:

Be Educated About HIV, Students also formed a human chain and took pledge for raising awareness on issues related to HIV/AIDS.



135 Blood Donation Camps Conducted through RRC Activities - TNSACS

TNSACS gives special emphasis upon Red Ribbon Club activities at college level. There are 2,179 RRCs in the state. Each club conducts various programmes throughout the year such as Voluntary Blood Donation Camps and sessions on HIV/AIDS/STI/TB awareness. In the last quarter, through these RRCs, a total of 135 blood donation

camps were conducted in which 7,750 males and 660 females voluntarily donated blood. Apart from that, there were 24,208 numbers of students who participated in multiple sessions conducted to raise awareness about issues related to HIV/AIDS/STI.



International Youth Day 2019 Celebrations - UPSACS

UPSACS celebrated International Youth Day, 2019 in collaboration with Amity University, Lucknow. The theme of the event was kept 'Youth Engagement for HIV Prevention - Be Educated About HIV'. Several activities like open mike chats,

movie making competition, poster making competition and drama performance were conducted during the event. Open discussions about no discrimination and making environment stigma free were held and participated in.



Glimpses of play: 'Prem Na Haat Bikaye'



Wall with posters made by students

Messages Created with Best Out of Waste to Raise Awareness about HIV/AIDS - DSACS

Delhi SACS celebrated International Youth Day in different colleges. College students/RRC members created craft material with HIV/AIDS & Youth messaging. The materialistic, article, created and crafted by the students was done with the use of waste material or on a waste material. The waste material used by students varied from cloth, paper, clay, mud, straw, wood,

plastic, steel, tin, fibre to glass and more.

The only condition for participating in the activity was that HIV messaging was a must! All participants enjoyed taking part in the activity and shared their experiences after completing the task in given time.





Awareness Activities Organized on International Youth Day - MPSACS

Several HIV-AIDS awareness activities have been organized in various schools and colleges of Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of International Youth Day on 12th August, 2019. 'Be educated about HIV' was kept the theme for these activities.

The objective of these activities was to make students aware about the vulnerability of adolescents

& youth and to educate them about the prevention measures. Importance of HIV counselling and testing and free ART service facility were also focused upon.

Promotion of 1097 was also done. College students were asked to give calls to toll free helpline and share their experiences.



State Level Campaign by HPSACS to Observe International Youth Day – HPSACS

HPSACS has conducted Campaign on International Youth Day from 12th to 31st August, 2019 in entire State. On this occasion, a State Level Function was conducted on 16th August, 2019 at Government Senior Secondary School, Bhawarna, District Kangra. Sh. Vipin Singh Parmar, Hon'ble Health Minister of Himachal Pradesh was

the Chief Guest of this function. The major focus of function was to strengthen Red Ribbon Clubs in the Colleges and Technical Institutions. During the function, Hon'ble Health Minister unveiled the logo branding for Red Ribbon Clubs in the State and released audio spots for motivating students to join Red Ribbon Club of their educational

institution and promoting Red Ribbon Club movement among administration of educational institutions. Apart from this, rally by students of Government Senior Secondary School, Bhawarna; Poster competitions of selected Red Ribbon Clubs, schools; honouring of best services centres; and Convention of HIV prevention were also conducted.

During the Campaign on International Youth Day from 12th to 31st August, 2019, awareness Department of Higher Education, Elementary Education, Youth Services & Sports, NSS, NCC, HP University and others have supported for successful organizing of Campaign.



**Be a
responsible
youth**

**Get
yourself
tested for
HIV**

Go to the nearest Government
Hospital for free Voluntary
Counselling and Testing

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

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

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