



NACO

National AIDS Control Organisation
India's Voice against AIDS
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
www.naco.gov.in

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020
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NACO Newsletter



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर



Chalo
Saavayein
Swasth Bharat



AIDS Helpline
1097
सभी रोगों, सवा-सवा शिकार

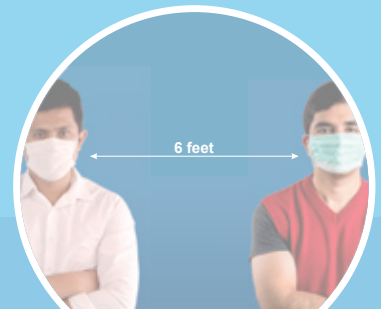
Stay Protected from Corona



Wear your mask properly



Frequently wash your hands with soap



Maintain safe distance

**NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE
IS A CURE**

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National level

Maintaining and Augmenting National AIDS Response during COVID-19 Pandemic

A high level meeting on 'Maintaining and Augmenting National AIDS Response during COVID-19 Pandemic' was convened at NACO on 23rd July, 2020 under the chairpersonship of Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, HFW, MoHFW, Gol. From NACO, the meet was attended by Smt. Arti Ahuja, Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO, Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, senior officers of NACO and representatives from communities, UN agencies, the World Bank, PEPFAR and implementation partners. Several attendees joined the meet through virtual platform.

During this high level meet, extensive discussions took place to strengthen various pillars of National AIDS Control Programme i.e. Social Protection Scheme and Mainstreaming, Leveraging Inter-ministerial Initiatives, Mental Health, Incorporating best practices from communities in NACP, Implementation of HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, NACP in context of Adolescence, Reviewing progress on Mizoram Integrated Action Plan, Migration and COVID-19, Other programmatic re-engineering of NACP service delivery in COVID-19 context & HIV Estimations 2019.



Dr. Pradeep Kumar, NACO

Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme for Psychological Support of PLHIV launched

Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, HFW, MoHFW, GoI launched the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme for Psychological support during COVID-19 for people living with HIV. A high level launch meet in this regard was convened at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 30th July, 2020. Also present in the launch were, Ms. Arti Ahuja, Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO, Ms. Vandana Gurnani, Additional Secretary & Managing Director, National Health Mission, Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO & other senior officials from MoHFW. The senior programme management team of NIMHANS, Bengaluru joined the meet through virtual platform.

The launch of programme has roped in the National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in order to train the

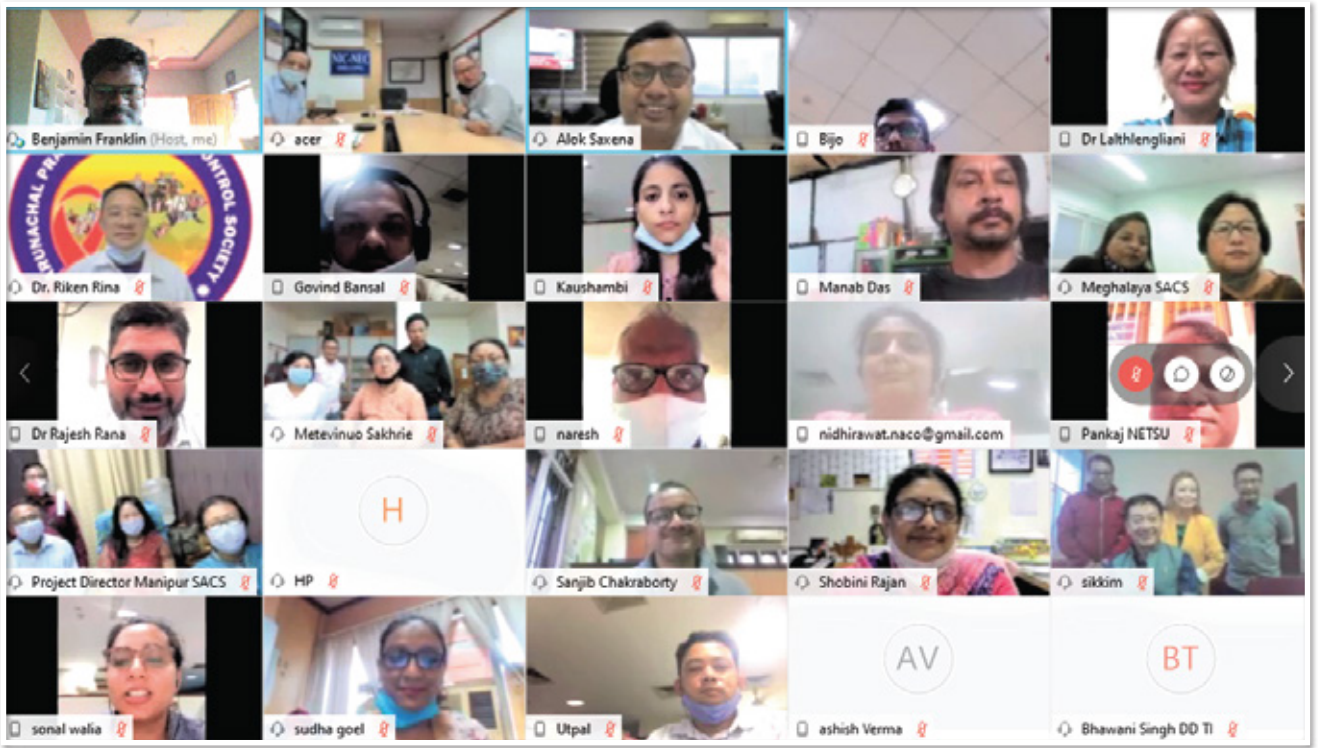
counsellors of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) helpline – 1097. The focus of the programme will be to provide psycho-social support to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NIMHANS will train NACO counsellors in reaching out to the PLHIV community, especially those facing mental health issues. The Department of Disaster Management, NIMHANS will train the counsellors to assess the coping mechanisms of PLHIV. The PLHIV could be at a higher risk of contracting the coronavirus because of low CD4 count, increased viral load and an opportunistic infection like tuberculosis that they may have contacted in the recent past.



Dr. Jyotika Cheema, NACO

First Joint Working Group Meet between NACO & NEC



The first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) between North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER) and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was held through a virtual platform, under the chairmanship of Shri K. Moses Chalai, Secretary, NEC on 7th September, 2020. The Joint Secretary, NACO; Planning Advisor NEC, M/o DoNER; Additional Director General, NACO; Deputy Director General, NACO; Project Directors from 8 North Eastern State AIDS Control Societies (SACS') and officials from NACO and SACS attended the meeting. This platform was utilized to discuss opportunities to scale up HIV/AIDS intervention in collaboration with NEC.

Shri K Moses Chalai, Secretary, NEC appreciated the activities undertaken by NACO, MoH&FW, particularly for Generating Awareness, Prevention, Treatment and Care & Support to PLHIV. The North Eastern Council agreed to address the issues related to HIV and AIDS through strategic interventions and supportive engagements within the limitations and given mandate over health intervention. NEC may also support in the activities related to advocacy and leveraging support during high level meeting of NEC with State Governments in North Eastern Region (NER).

Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO, mentioned the importance of partnership with NEC for strengthening HIV response from the North Eastern Region.

He specifically mentioned that strategic intervention and special focus needs to be given in the high-prevalent districts of these states. He also added that the partnership between NACO and NEC would help to fill in the gaps in NER and therefore strengthen the national programme to next extend.

Project Directors and IEC team of eight State AIDS Control Societies of north eastern states

(Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) briefed all attendees about the epidemiological scenario in their respective states, major activities carried out during lockdown, gaps & challenges in NACP during COVID-19 situation and expectation from the North Eastern Council (NEC). The programmatic priorities were also discussed by States in the meeting.

Ashish Verma, NACO

HIV & TB Co-infection - A collaborative framework developed by NACO & NTEP



Tuberculosis continues to be a public health challenge in India and it is the commonest Opportunistic Infection (OI) among People Living with HIV (PLHIV). To mitigate the effect of dual burden of HIV and TB co-infection, National AIDS Control Programme and National TB Elimination Programme have developed a collaborative framework. The objectives of the framework include

development of a coordination mechanism between the programmes at all levels and decreasing morbidity and mortality due to TB/HIV, ensuring access to services, prevention, early detection and prompt management through provision of Anti-tuberculosis and Anti-Retroviral therapy together. As a part of the Joint TB-HIV collaborative activity, all PLHIV are being

provided services like management of HIV and TB Co-infection, TB preventive Therapy, etc at ART centre through single window delivery mechanism.

Also, in order to update the program managers of National AIDS Control Program (NACP) & National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) on TB-HIV collaborative activities, including single window delivery mechanism at the ART centres and to strengthen recording & reporting of TBHIV collaborative activities, a National level Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, NACO on 11th August, 2020 through virtual platform for Additional Project Director (APDs), Joint Directors (JDs), In-charge HIV-TB, Nodal officers of Care Support & Treatment,

Technical Experts (CST) & Regional Coordinator (CST) of all SACS, State TB officers & State Head Quarter Consultants (NTEP) of all states and Regional Team Leads (NTEP).

The ToT was convened under the guidance of Dr. A. K. Puri, DDG (BSD), NACO, Dr. Naresh Goel, DDG (IEC & CST) NACO, Dr. Shobhini Rajan, DDG (SI), NACO & Dr. K. S. Sachdeva DDG (TB), CTD.

The national training of trainers (ToT) was also facilitated by officials of both, National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and Central TB Division (CTD) and was coordinated by Dr. Lalit Mehendru, NC HIV-TB and Dr. Jyoti Sharma, AC (HIV-TB), NACO. More than 160 participants were trained during the ToT.

Dr. Jyoti Sharma, NACO

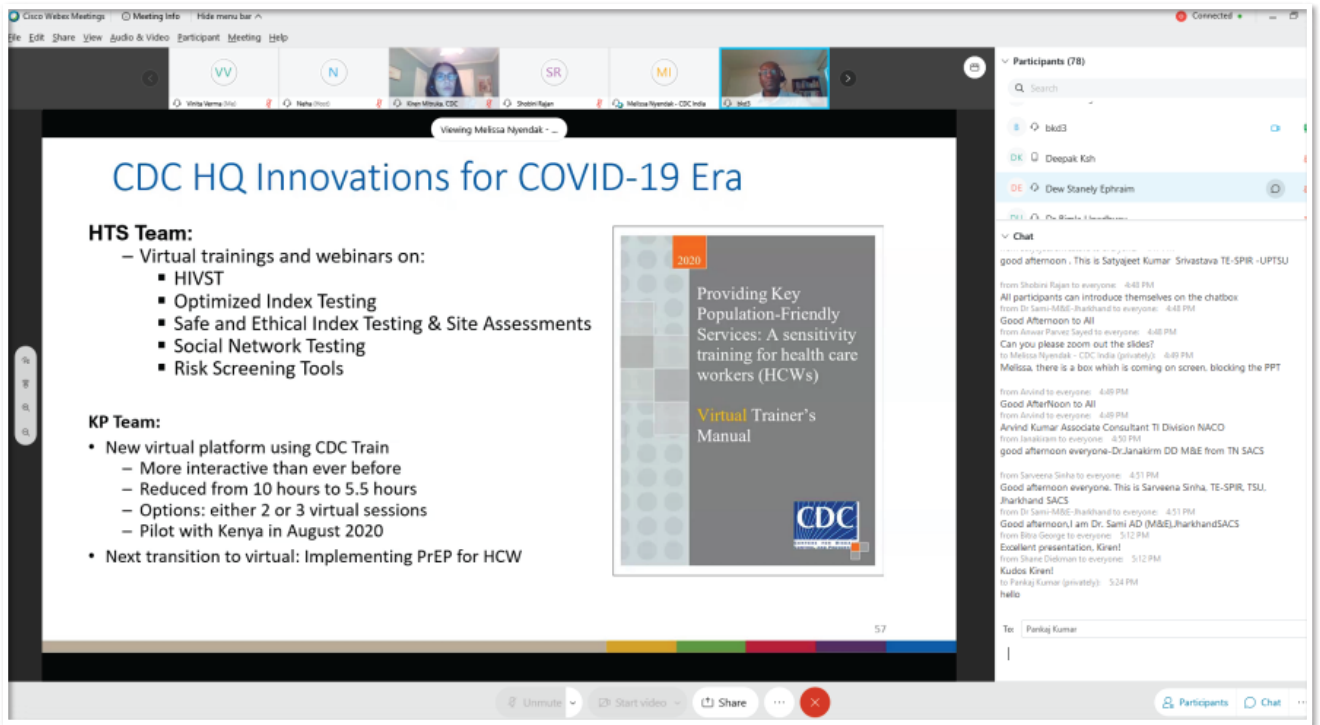
Brown Bag Seminar Series – 1

The screenshot shows a Cisco Webex meeting interface. The main content is a slide titled "PEPFAR's priorities during COVID-19". The slide features a central graphic with four numbered points:

- 1. Ensuring continuity of care for people living with HIV
- 2. Leveraging PEPFAR-supported health systems and infrastructure
- 3. Reducing exposure of staff and HIV clients to health care settings that may be overburdened and/or sources for potential exposure to COVID-19
- 4. Providing flexibility for PEPFAR programs in how to optimally serve our HIV clients in areas affected by COVID-19

A red circle on the slide states: "In the context of COVID-19, PEPFAR is firmly focused on". The slide footer includes "Division of Global HIV & TB" and the URL "https://www.state.gov/pepfar/coronavirus/".

On the right side of the meeting window, there is a "Participants (72)" list and a "Chat" window. The chat window shows a conversation where participants are discussing the slide and asking for zooming out.



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 14th September, 2020. The topic of the talk was: **'Sustaining the Gains in HIV during COVID-19:**

experience of PEPFAR-supported Countries' by Drs. Bakary Drammeh and Kiren Mitruka from Division of Global HIV & TB, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) HQ via WebEx.

In the context of COVID-19, learnings from HIV interventions from PEPFAR supported countries which are critical to ensuring care and linkages across HIV continuum, reducing exposure of staff and HIV clients, and flexibility in methods of optimally serving clients in affected areas, were shared, that may be of relevance to India.

Neha Kapoor, NACO
Vinita Verma, NACO

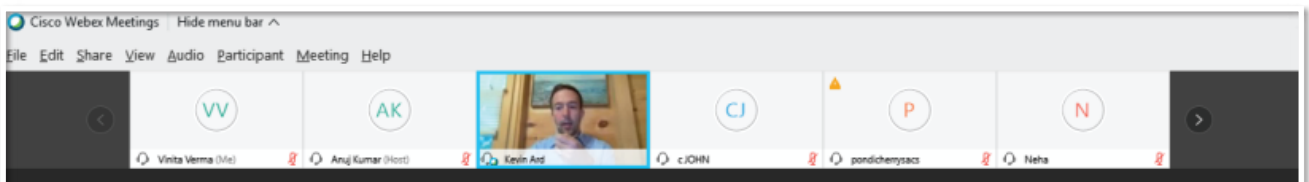
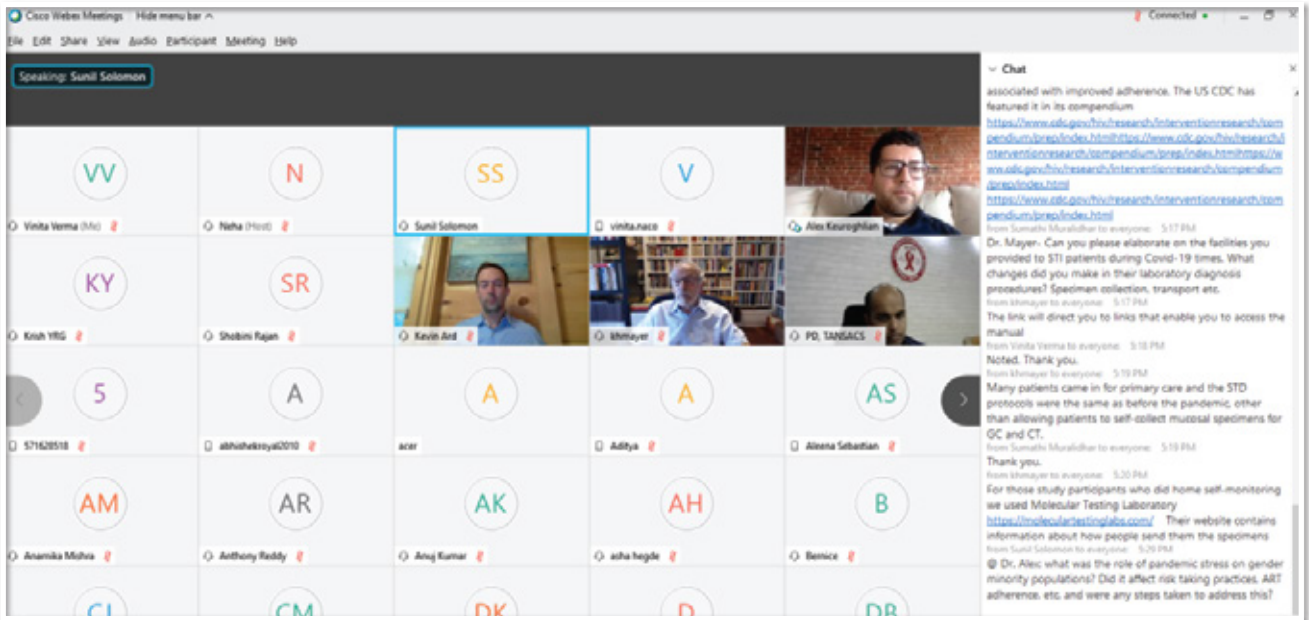
Brown Bag Seminar Series - 2

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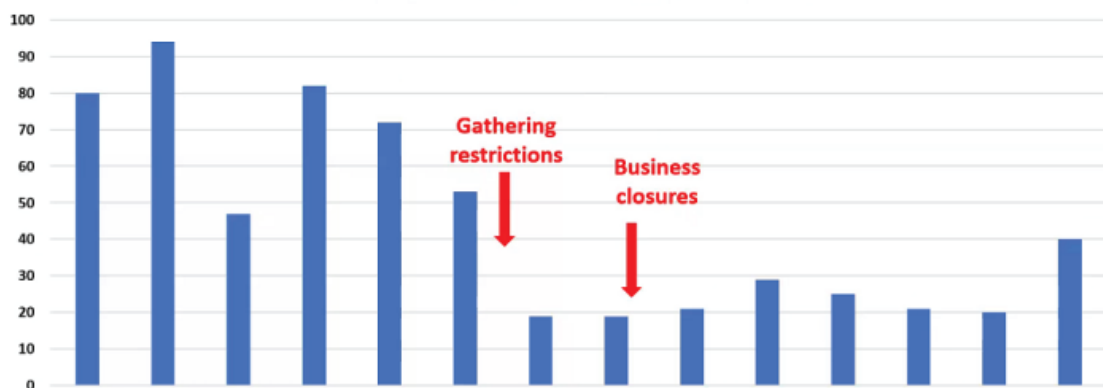
As part of the series, a talk was held on 'HIV service delivery to gender minority populations during COVID-19: Experiences from Boston' by Drs. Kenneth Mayer and Alex Keuroghlian from The Fenway Institute and Dr. Kevin Ard from Massachusetts General Hospital on 13th August, 2020 via WebEx. The talk was attended

by Senior officers, Programme managers from NACO, Senior Officials from State AIDS Control Societies and Technical Support Units, Experts, Academicians, Researchers, Development and Implementing Partners, Civil Society and Community representatives.



Visit volume initially declined ~75% during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In-person visits per week, February – May 2020



Neha Kapoor, NACO
Vinita Verma, NACO

International youth day observation - Odisha SACS



The International Youth Day was celebrated with much enthusiasm and vigor involving youth from different sects at state level as well as district level across the state of Odisha on 12th August, 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, all educational institutions were closed till October 31st in Odisha however; all Red Ribbon Clubs carried online celebrations. Orissa State AIDS Control Society (OSACS) in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, (IRCS), Odisha State Branch (OSB), Bhubaneswar, RRCs and SBI, organized several programs under the umbrella. The day started with an oath taken by all staff members of OSACS & TSUs. The pledge was led by Dr. Sanjukta Sahoo, Project Director, OSACS. Youth representing various colleges were sensitized through webinar. She highlighted the significance of the day and urged the cadets to wake up the eternal energy and give efforts to make the state & country more developed.

The Students and Youth Red Cross Counsellors from Red Ribbon Clubs of

different colleges of Bhubaneswar distributed the mask (printed with the message 'Be aware, stay safe' and information about 1097), sanitizers and leaflets on HIV/AIDS & Corona to auto drivers, rickshaw pullers, shopkeepers, commuters, COVID-19 warriors and general public around the major chowks of the city and also in vulnerable districts through DAPCUs. A weeklong awareness campaign was conducted through IEC mobile vans in vulnerable districts.

Also, to mark the day, SMSes were sent to 1 lakh 27 thousand mobile users incorporating national AIDS helpline no 1097.

A power point presentation was also presented by the Youth Red Cross Counsellors regarding the remarkable works done by RRCs during the crisis period of COVID-19. The presentation showcased awareness on hand washing, using of mask, social distance, importance of blood donation during this crisis period and HIV testing for migrants.

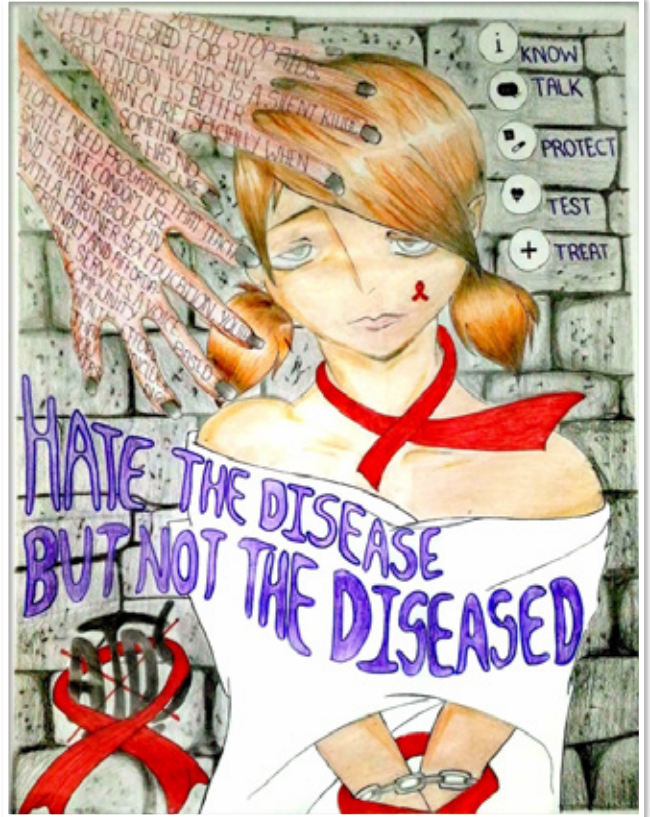
International youth day observation – Goa SACS

Goa SACS organized an online 'All Goa Poster Competition' in the month of August, 2020, to observe the International Youth Day. A number of 84 posters were received as entries from student members of the Red Ribbon Clubs from 46 colleges. The above event was held to bring out the creative expression of the students and also to gauge their awareness quotient about the topic i.e. 'Youth & HIV/AIDS'.

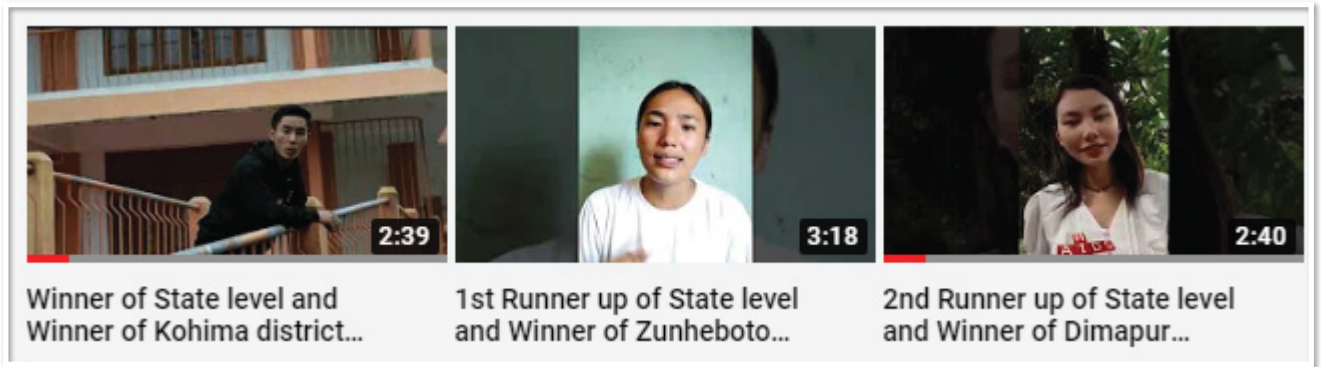
The winners were judged purely on the basis of

their creativity of developed artworks, relevant to the topic & artistic ability to express the idea. The aim of the competition was also to trigger the thought process in students and to sensitize them about the topic.

Apart from the above competition Goa SACS also organized some more activities as per the guidelines issued by NACO such as mask-designing / painting-competition with the theme i.e. current Public Health threats like HIV & COVID-19.



International youth day observation – Nagaland SACS



On the occasion of International Youth Day 2020, an online spoken word competition was conducted for the Red Ribbon Club (RRC) members of Nagaland. Adopting the theme to the relevance of HIV & AIDS, IYD was conducted under the theme '**Youth Engagement for Global action: Eliminate HIV**'. The competition was organized by Nagaland State AIDS Control Society under the aegis of National AIDS Control Organization, MoHFW, Govt. of India, and spearheaded by District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit (DAPCU) at the district level.

For the district level competition, the entry was open from 18th of July till 28th of July 2020. An overwhelming response was received from the Red Ribbon Club members. Altogether 103 RRC members participated from 30 colleges across the State. Info-graphics about the event were developed for each district and the same were publicized through NSACS official social media accounts and website. To reach out to the RRC students, respective DAPCU coordinated with

the nodal Officer/Principal at the district level and circulated the info-graphics through college WhatsApp groups.

The 10 district winners were announced on the 3rd of August, 2020 and then these district winners competed with their existing entries in the state level competition. The State level judges were Ms. Metevinuo Sakhrie, Joint Director (IEC); NSACS, Ms. Vishü Rita Krocha; Writer & Publisher, and Mr. Vikiyeto Noel Jimomi; Lyricist & Musician. The result of the State level winners was declared on the International Youth Day- 12th of August, 2020.

The videos of the winners in various categories (State and district level) were uploaded on NSACS official YouTube channel and social media accounts: **Facebook:** @NagalandSACS, **Twitter:** @NagalandSACS, **Instagram:** @nagalandsacs, **Youtube:** @NagalandSACS and **Website:** <https://www.nsacs.nagaland.gov.in>.

Various Digital Interventions – J&K SACS

J&K AIDS Control Society organized various online interventions in collaboration with the Red Ribbon Clubs of different Educational Institutions across J&K and Ladakh.

Activities such as Kite Flying & Plantation Drive for creating awareness on HIV/AIDS, drug addiction and for the promotion of national toll free helpline: 1097 were conducted by involving

Youth especially on occasions like Raksha Bandan, Krishna Janmashtami & Independence Day.

In another first of its kind initiative especially when the educational institutions are closed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Red Ribbon Club of Government College of Education (GCoE) Jammu in collaboration with Kalasalingam Academy of Research and

Education, Krishnankovil, Tamil Nadu and J&K AIDS Control Society, H&ME Department organized 'National Youth Conclave for Cultural Exchange on International Youth Day-2020'. It was a unique event in which around 100 students from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu State participated enthusiastically.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2020
THEME : YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR GLOBAL ACTION



Kite Flying Activity for creating Awareness on HIV/AIDS, Drug Abuse and Promotion of 1097 Helpline Number by involving Youth on Raksha Bandhan, Krishna Janamashtami & Independence Day

Joint Working Group meeting for Youth – Puducherry SACS

Pondicherry AIDS Control Society (PACS) convened a Joint Working Group meeting for Youth on 27th June, 2020 at the office of District Collector, Puducherry. Dr. T. Arun, I. A. S., Secretary, Health-cum-District Collector, Government of Puducherry, chaired the meeting in the presence of Sh. Asvin Chandru, I. A. S., Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Revenue and other senior members of state authorities.

The major focus of the JWG meet was to:

- Highlight the vulnerabilities of youth and it's importance to address the same.
- Analyse the activities carried out under Youth Interventions programmes during the last year (2019-20) and the issues faced in the process.
- Discuss the implementation of Youth Intervention Programmes in the UT of Puducherry in coordination with the PHCs/CHCs on this COVID-19 pandemic situation.





Observation of EMTCT Week in West Bengal

In order to expedite the efforts towards Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and to consolidate the efforts made so far, West Bengal State AIDS Control Society observed EMTCT week during the third week of September i.e. from 13th to 19th September, 2020.

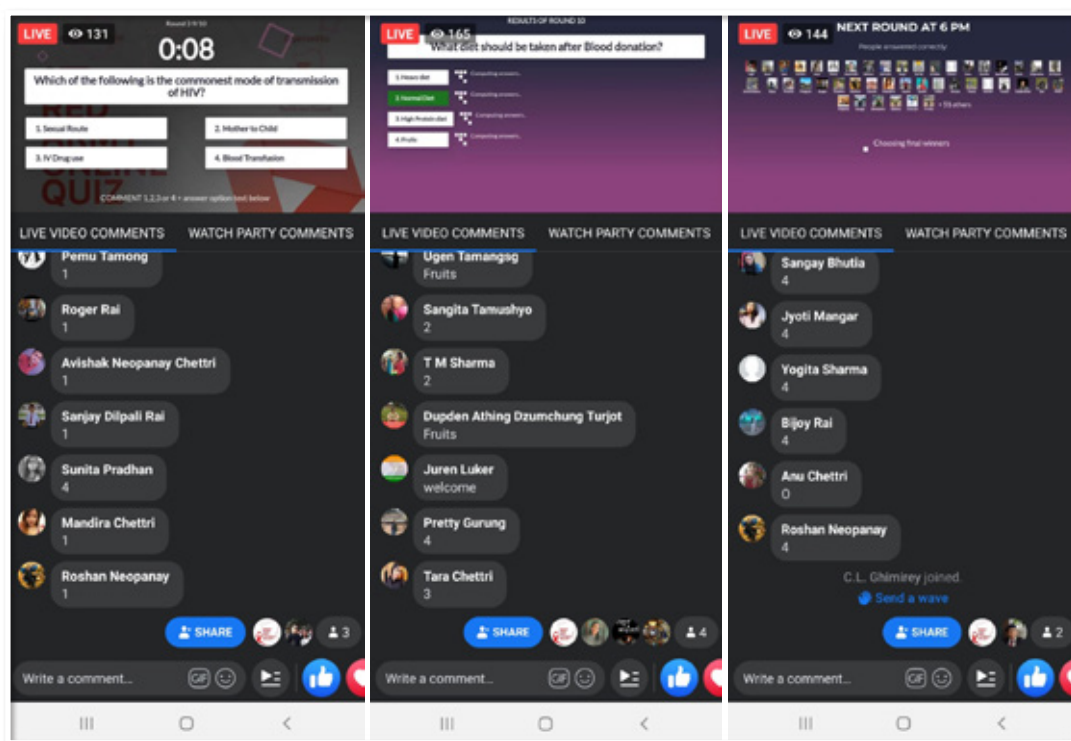
The campaign was conducted by BSD division of WBSAP&CS in collaboration with IEC division, UNICEF and SAATHII. The week was started with marking the flag-off ceremony in Kolkata and other districts. IEC vans were decorated with a range of IEC materials on EMTCT messages that moved within respective districts touching upon sub-centres, VHND sites and community and populated areas throughout the week. Each IEC Van was staffed

with one Health worker, preferably, ASHA for public interaction and distribution of IEC materials. Apart from that, interactive sessions were organized with positive pregnant women. Youth sensitizations were also conducted in colleges and youth clubs through NSS/ NYK and unique IEC methods were adopted to reach youth community. Kites with messages on EMTCT were made and distributed among Youth of NYK during Viswakarma Puja which is also known as the Kite festival in West Bengal. Radio spot on EMTCT was developed by WBSAP&CS and was aired for ten days before and during the week at prominent FM radio channels and AIR through I&CA Department, Government of West Bengal.





Red Army Online Quiz - Sikkim SACS



Sikkim SACS conducted a day long Virtual Online Quiz on the Importance of Voluntary Blood Donation on 26th September, 2020, through its Facebook Page. The main aim of the contest was to reach out to the masses and motivate them to Voluntarily Donate Blood, especially keeping in view the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the Country.

An array of questions on Blood Donation were put forward to the online participants during all five rounds of the contest. The quiz was participated by more than 100 participants and was viewed by more than 5000 audience.

The winners were thereafter felicitated on 1st October, 2020, on the occasion of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day.

Be Aware -Take Care Campaign under Mainstreaming – Haryana SACS

Haryana SACS undertook a campaign titled: **Be Aware - Take Care** in which a bouquet of activities was conducted under the mainstreaming component of the SACS with support of its line departments. Some of the major activities were:

(1) Related to International Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking Day-

- 30 lakh Free SMSes were sent by Jio, Vodafone and Idea among general population.
- NYKS, Red Cross and Jail Department also collaborated for the Campaign. NYKS shared video theme song through their Social Media Platforms targeting NYKS volunteers and members of Youth Clubs. This merger covered a total of 6,000 villages.
- Also, awareness cum testing workshops with Jail Department were conducted in Faridabad, Jind, Karnal, Sonapat, Rohtak, Bhiwani and Panipat.

(2) Campaign activities regarding International Youth Day-

- 13 lakh Free SMSs were sent by Jio and Airtel to general population.
- Sensitization workshops for officers of Secondary Education and Women & Child Development Department were also conducted in Ambala, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Hisar, Jind, Panipat & Sonapat, Faridabad Palwal, Jhajjar and Charkidadri districts. A total of seven workshops have been conducted where 70 officers (District Education Officers, Block Education Officer, Secretary - Hindustan Scout and Guide, District Child and Protection Officers and Protection and Probation Officer) were sensitized.
- Awareness cum testing camps were also put at different locations.

Jail Workshops



Jail workshop, Panipat



Jail workshop, Sonapat



Jail workshop, Karnal



Jail workshop, Faridabad



Jail workshop, Rohtak

Jail workshop, Jind (Media coverage)

कैदियों को बताए नशे के दुष्प्रभाव

हरियाणा एड्स कंट्रोल सोसायटी के तत्वावधान में जिला कारागार में कार्यशाला आयोजित संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

जींद। हरियाणा एड्स कंट्रोल सोसायटी के तत्वावधान में बुधवार को जिला कारागार में अंतरराष्ट्रीय नशा विरोधी पखवाड़े के तहत कार्यशाला का आयोजन गया।

सिविल सर्जन डॉ. मनजीत सिंह के दिशा निर्देशों पर आयोजित वर्कशॉप में मुख्यातिथि के तौर पर डिप्टी एमएस डॉ. राजेश भोला शामिल हुए। उन्होंने बंदियों, कैदियों व जिला कारागार कर्मियों को नशे के दुष्प्रभाव एवं एड्स बीमारी के बारे में जानकारी दी। कार्यक्रम में विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में डिप्टी सिविल सर्जन संदीप लोहान, एमओ डॉ. बिजेंद्र, डॉ. अनूप, जिला कारागार उपाधीक्षक राकेश लोहचब मौजूद रहे।

डिप्टी एमएस ने कहा कि किसी भी राष्ट्र की जनता ही वहां की सबसे बड़ा धन और ताकत होती है। यदि जनता का



जिला कारागार में बंदियों, कैदियों को जागरूक करते डॉ. राजेश भोला। संवाद

भविष्य ही अंधकार में चला जाए तो वह देश उन्नति नहीं कर सकता है।

आज का युवा नशा और धूम्रपान करने को शान समझता है, लेकिन उसे यह नहीं मालूम कि यही नशा उनका भविष्य नाश कर देता है। ऐसे में नशे को देश से मुक्त करने के लिए हर व्यक्ति को अपने स्तर पर प्रयास करना चाहिए। इससे होने वाली

हानियों के विषय में जानकर खुद को इससे दूर रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि लोगों को नशे की लत छुड़वाने के लिए जींद मुख्यालय स्थित नागरिक अस्पताल में ओएसटी सेंटर भी खोला गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि नशे के दौरान कई बार एक ही सिरिंज का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है जो एड्स का मुख्य कारण बनता है।

Friday, 26 June 2020

"Use of Drugs can increase the chances of HIV infection." For more information. Dial Toll Free Helpline-1097. "# BeAwareTakeCare"

Love is Blind, but HIV is not. So, HIV status every six months, Check Kiya Kya? Visit nearest Govt. Hospital ICTC, Dial toll free no 1097 for more information - Haryana State AIDS Control Society

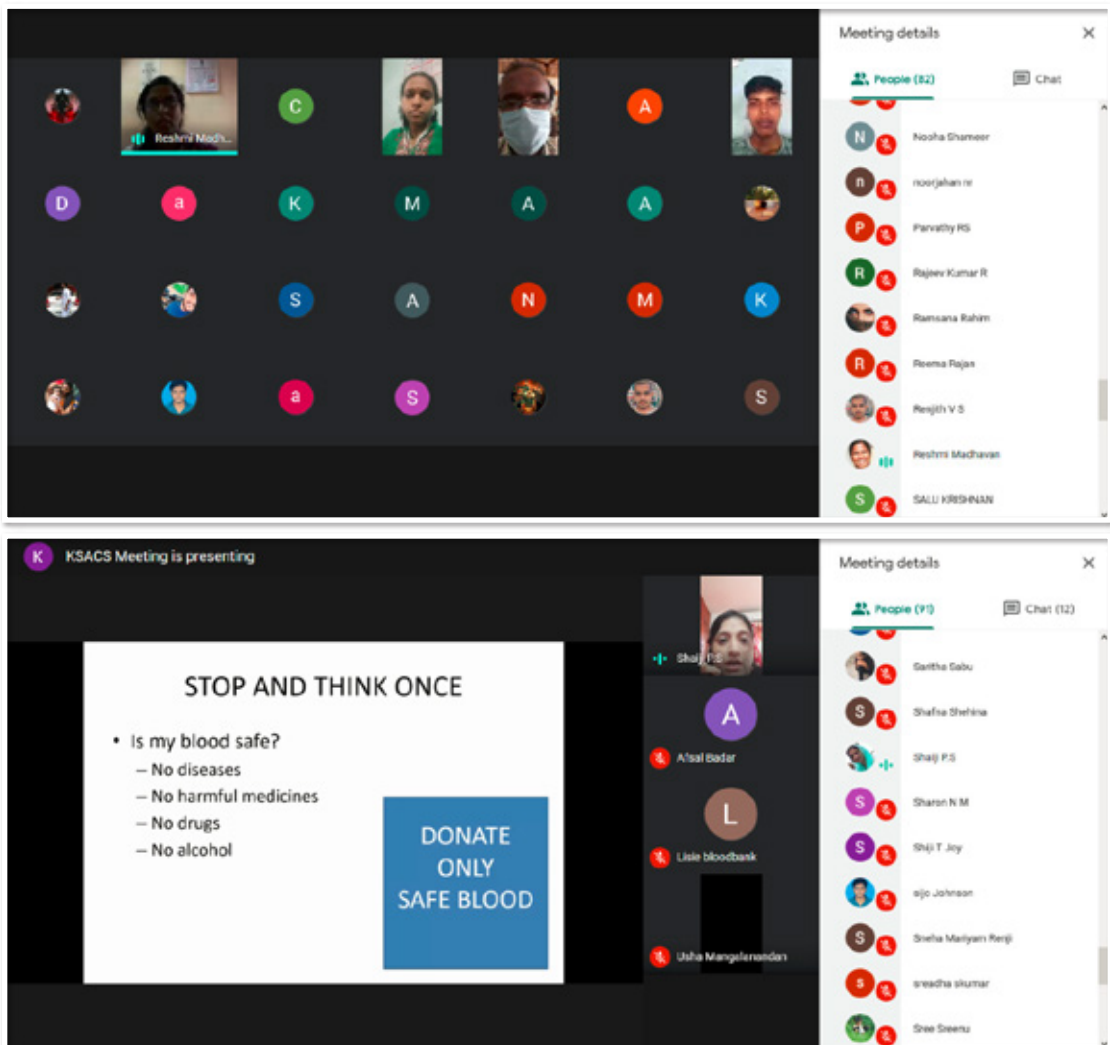
SMSes delivered by JIO, IDEA, VODAFONE, AIRTEL

Gentle & Empathetic Steps to Ensure Blood Supply During COVID-19 - Kerala SACS

The gift of life and blood donation

As part of the promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation in Kerala, Kerala State AIDS Control Society / Kerala State Blood Transfusion Council decided to adapt the Facebook tool in 52 Blood Banks of the state to reach out to the registered Blood donors on Facebook in their vicinity. It is decided to conduct a virtual training program on Facebook's Blood donation Tool. As part of this training some of the blood banks have started their own social media pages to promote and to coordinate blood donation drives and to seek and call for donations during times of need. 18th August, 2020.

A webinar was held under the aegis of two divisions, Youth affairs and Voluntary Blood Donation, where resource persons spoke about the importance of being peer educators and the effect they have on influencing the opinions of others in their network on important matters like safe health practices, importance of blood donation, the need to maintain healthy lifestyle and the ways to help during medical emergencies.



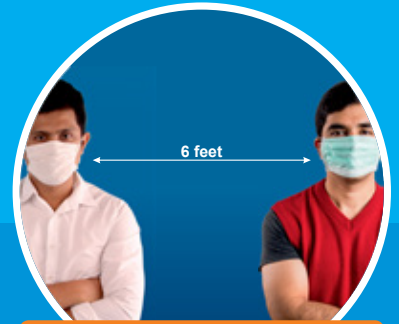
Stay Protected from Corona



Wear your mask properly



Frequently wash your hands with soap



Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

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