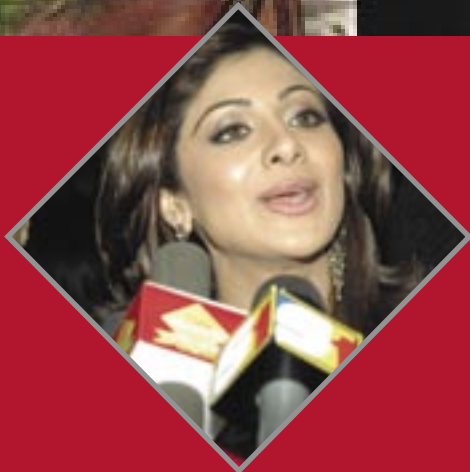




NEWS

A Newsletter of the
National AIDS Control Organisation
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

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Oct - Dec 2006



National Paediatric HIV/AIDS Initiative Launched

India Observes World AIDS Day

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- ◆ Celebrities Pledge Support
- ◆ Voluntary Blood Donation Day
- ◆ Female Condom Piloted
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Children to Access Treatment and Care

National Paediatric HIV/AIDS Initiative Launched



The national launch of India's paediatric HIV/AIDS initiative by the Government of India, through NACO in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Paediatrics, UNICEF, WHO and the Clinton Foundation, on the eve of World AIDS Day, 2006 was a reflection of the Indian Government's commitment to reversing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and ensuring that it does not devastate the socio-economic fabric of a nation that is on a fast growth trajectory.

The initiative was launched by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Hon'ble

“More than 11000 people get infected with HIV daily and a sizeable number are innocent and unsuspecting children. We have a long way to go to ensure that every child in need should have access to AIDS treatment”

Bill Clinton, former US President

Chairperson UPA, with the inauguration of the Regional Paediatric Anti-retroviral Therapy Centre for children at the Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital in New Delhi on 30th November, 2006. H E

Launch Highlights

- Phase I of the programme aims to put 10,000 children on ART treatment for life.
- Initially 36 ART centres to provide free ART to children.
- Seven Regional Paediatric Centres being established across the country.
- Free CD4 monitoring for children till 15 years, free DNA PCR test for children upto 18 months, liquid formulations for babies, diagnosis and treatment of opportunistic infections and micro nutrient supplementation will be provided.
- The National Paediatric Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART), Treatment and Dosing Guidelines developed by IAP with support from WHO, UNICEF and Clinton Foundation released.

Mr. William J. Clinton, Former President of the United States of America delivered the keynote address while Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss presided over the function. Also present on the occasion were Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy, Foreign Minister of France, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Panabaka Lakshmi, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Mr Naresh Dayal, and Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO, Ms. K. Sujatha Rao.

HIV Prevalence amongst Children

- India has an estimated 202,000 children who are infected by HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS 2004).
- Using a conservative transmission rate of 30 percent from an infected mother to child, approximately 56,700 HIV infected children are born every year (NACO, 2005).
- Global experience shows that 25 – 30 percent children, who acquire HIV from their mothers die before their first birthday. Most of them (50 – 60 percent) develop symptoms early in life and, in the absence of timely diagnosis and ART and general HIV care, progression of HIV infection is usually accelerated.

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From the Desk of the Director General

Dear Readers

It has been an eventful year for all of us who have been working in the area of HIV/AIDS. New initiatives have been launched, existing programmes have been streamlined and there is greater cohesion and coordination amongst NACO, SACS and partners. Against the backdrop of an epidemic that has grown in the last 20 years from a stray infection to the existing 5.2 million figure in India alone, there is comfort in knowing that we have now moved to the active phase of providing treatment, care and support to those infected by HIV/AIDS.

While our focus is also on eliminating instances of stigma and discrimination, which continue to exist, the challenge is in making people aware of the risks and to motivate them to bring about requisite changes in their lifestyle and behaviour patterns.

The focus of World AIDS Day with the theme, "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise - Accountability" was to enable partners and the government to reflect on the commitments they had made, the targets they had set, and to review and rework them for greater effectiveness. SACS have worked hard to bring about an expanded response that stretches to the remotest corners, spreading prevention messages and urging people to step forward for voluntary counselling and testing.

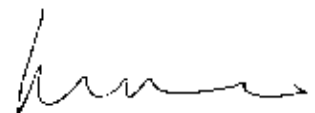
The National Paediatric HIV/AIDS Initiative launched on November 30, 2006 by Hon 'ble Chairperson UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhi, in the presence of H.E. Mr William J Clinton, former President of the United States of America, was a landmark initiative, for now children living with HIV/AIDS would be able to access generic drugs, ART and support services. Introduced in a phased manner with the support of the Clinton Foundation in select states, it will be taken to the rest of the country in due course.

Leading India's response Members of Parliament from both houses met in the GMC Balayogi Auditorium, Parliament House and affirmed their commitment to fight the HIV epidemic. H E Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India, released a postage stamp commemorating World AIDS Day and addressed the gathering.

Marking the observance of World AIDS Day, numerous national level events were organised including a glittering musical night where film stars lent their support and thousands of youth participated and acquainted themselves with messages on HIV/AIDS. Recognising the fact that fighting an epidemic of the magnitude and scale of HIV/AIDS needs the consolidated support and energies of all partners, a range of events including rallies, public meetings, competitions, mass awareness campaigns were organised at the state and district levels by SACS and partners.

In the New Year let us resolve to strive hard to make our initiatives and programmes work efficiently and in the best interests of the people for whom the services are meant. There is a lot of work to be done, but as we join hands and pool in our collective resources and energies, we are sure to defeat HIV/AIDS in the coming years.

Wishing you all a very happy and productive 2007.



Ms. K. Sujatha Rao

*Additional Secretary and Director General
National AIDS Control Organisation*

Smt. Sonia Gandhi's Speech at the National Paediatric HIV/AIDS Initiative Launch

I congratulate the National AIDS Control Organisation for launching this initiative. It is a very welcome and important step forward.

Paediatric AIDS is of special concern and we are appreciative of the support that we have received from the Clinton Foundation, Indian Association of Paediatrics, WHO, UNICEF and the French Government, making it a collective and transnational enterprise.

For long, India has had to witness the painful paradox of its pharmaceutical companies being major suppliers of inexpensive, generic anti-AIDS drugs to the world but not having them as part of its own AIDS control programme. Fortunately, that has now changed and over the past two and a half years, ART has been introduced in our country as well, though we have a long way to go, since less than 8 percent of the affected population receives it. But I am confident that the interventions will gather further momentum with particular focus on children.

Mr. Clinton has done much to mobilise support for AIDS control programmes around the world and to highlight

the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and Asia. I want to convey to him and through him to the international community, the determination of our Government, to expand and deepen our AIDS control efforts. In recent years, there has been heightened consciousness on this issue amongst political leaders, public figures, administrators, media and corporate sector. We face numerous public health challenges. TB and malaria remain serious concerns. The eradication of polio is an unfinished task. Improving nutrition of children and adolescent girls is a priority.

Given the scale of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in our country, it is natural for the world to sketch pessimistic scenarios. But there is no reason to be defeatist. Eight months ago, the prestigious British Medical Journal – Lancet, carried detailed results of surveys that showed prevalence rates in young women in the two states of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra having declined. There are other success stories from which we can derive hope and confidence that given leadership and commitment, we can reverse the trend.

We need to seriously look at the six North Eastern states, especially Manipur and Nagaland where the incidence of IDU is high. Also there are populous states where HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are low but which are vulnerable nonetheless. The Government's National Rural Health Mission is addressing public health issues and NACO's campaigns will soon become an integral part of the Mission. I would also urge women's self-help groups to work more closely with NACO.

The involvement of NGOs has infused a deep sense of commitment and compassion to our AIDS control programmes. I want to acknowledge their invaluable role in different areas like surveillance, communication, mobilisation, counselling and care. We are blessed in having a large number of hardworking and committed NGOs who have become our long-term partners.

HIV/AIDS wreaks heartbreak and trauma on those directly affected and their families. We have to acknowledge that social ostracism is still prevalent and adds to the emotional toil. Infants in orphanages whom no one wants to adopt because they were struck by HIV/AIDS even before they were born, presents a poignant sight. ART has to be reached to all those in need of it.

Let us on this World AIDS Day renew our resolve to fight this scourge with even greater determination and dedication.



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Children to Access...

All children exposed to HIV will be tested for infection. A CD 4 cell estimation test will be performed to assess the stage of disease progression and treatment will be advised. Since September 2006, children across five states (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Delhi) have been mobilised, screened and put on treatment. Presently, the number of children on ART is 3600 and access is being further stepped up to cover remaining states.

Besides providing drugs, early diagnosis of children up to 18 months will also be done using DNA-PCR. The importance of the initiative is to diagnose HIV in infants and provide treatment. Now this test can be done on newborns, as early as 6 weeks after birth.

The first phase of this initiative includes training of paediatricians, nurses and counsellors. Establishing laboratory diagnosis facilities, introducing Dried Blood Spot

system to transport blood samples and procuring of paediatric antiretroviral drugs.

The impact of the treatment can be seen within six months. There is a dramatic positive change in the physical condition with the child putting on weight, looking healthier and more cheerful, as he/she resumes a normal life.

This initiative sets up a unique partnership between the technical agencies, NGOs and networks of positive people under the stewardship of NACO. Clearly, the Indian Government has kept its promise of providing improved access to treatment services. The effort will translate into a safer and HIV/AIDS free environment for children, who are the future of the nation. ■

NACO Speeds up ART Roll out: Signs MoU with AHF-India Cares

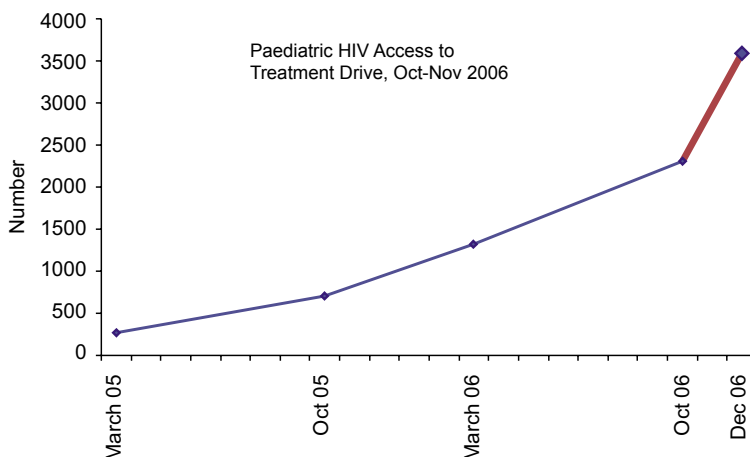
A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NACO and AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), USA's largest HIV/AIDS healthcare prevention and education provider making AHF-India Cares the first international NGO to gain approval from the Indian government to assist in providing ART services in the state of Assam.



According to Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, "Through this new official collaboration, we will now be able to scale up the delivery, care and treatment for many people living with HIV/AIDS". The partnership will also help break the chain of new infections in India and provide better life options for those living with HIV/AIDS.

The rigorous review process leading up to the agreement for this MoU included a thorough examination of the proposed NACO and AHF-India Cares collaboration by the Indian Embassy in the Netherlands (where the secretariat of AHF's Global programme is located), clearance by the Ministries of Health, Finance, Home Affairs, Socio-Economic Affairs, External Affairs, lawyers and a thorough review by NACO.

Number of Children on ART



Leading the National Response

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, 2006 a meeting of Members of both Houses of Parliament was organised by the Parliamentarians' Forum on HIV/AIDS and NACO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 1st December, 2006 at GMC Balayogi Auditorium, Parliament Library Building.

Addressing the august gathering, H E Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India, called upon the Members of Parliament to take up the charge of creating an HIV-free India. The President also released a special postage stamp commemorating World AIDS Day.



H E Sh. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the Vice President of India and Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha urged the audience to take action to fight the epidemic collectively. Sh. Somnath Chatterjee, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha also spoke on the occasion. Sh. L.K. Advani, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha expressed urgency on spreading the

message of prevention amongst all age groups which could help to bring down the rate of new HIV infections.

Sh. Oscar Fernandes, Convenor, Parliamentarians' Forum on HIV/AIDS, placed the issues of immediate concern before the gathering. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Labour and Employment, highlighted the necessity of providing treatment and care to those infected by the epidemic. Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Smt Panabaka Lakshmi, gave the vote of thanks. ■

President Addresses Members from both the Houses of Parliament

The address by H E Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India to members of both Houses of the Parliament on the occasion of World AIDS Day gave a tremendous fillip to the HIV/AIDS initiatives. Highlights from his speech:

"The current health mission in the country today is to combat TB, water borne diseases like diarrhoea, and vector borne diseases like malaria apart from cardiac diseases and cancer. However, for the last few years HIV/AIDS is threatening to become a silent killer.

One of my dreams is to have an "HIV-free India". The role of public leaders like Members of Parliament becomes very important. They must sit together and pass a legislation, which would prevent discrimination



against AIDS patients in their day-to-day life. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is working on a draft legislation, meanwhile, MPs can take up the discrimination issue with their local administration, Panchayat authorities and NGOs and create a movement to counter stigma.

In order to create an HIV-free India, I would like to make the following suggestions:

- Take up control and prevention of HIV/AIDS in their constituency on a mission mode in the next 5 years.
- Occurrence of HIV is found to be 32 percent amongst the 15-29 years age group with 40 percent being women. MPs to organise awareness campaigns among these groups in their constituency.
- Create a mechanism in partnership with NGOs, medical institutions and state government for testing blood for contamination and ensuring that contaminated blood is not stored in any blood bank in their constituency.
- Facilitate hassle-free availability of services like schooling for children, rural employment, nutrition, healthcare, banking credit, training and employment to all people with HIV/AIDS in their constituency.
- Set up an HIV/AIDS Foundation which can provide financial assistance to needy HIV/AIDS persons."



High Impact, Wider Reach

Bollywood Stars Pledge Support

With the emphasis on HIV messaging and information dissemination leading to behaviour change, especially amongst young people, the involvement of the film fraternity is an effective and proven tool, especially in a country like India where films are the biggest form of popular entertainment and film stars, powerful change agents/influencers.

On World AIDS Day, a galaxy of Bollywood stars, including Shilpa Shetty, Gul Panag, Rahul Bose, Mandira Bedi and Kunal Kapoor pledged their support to spreading HIV/AIDS awareness towards combating the epidemic. The cultural show titled ‘Take

Control: Yes to Life, No to AIDS’ aimed at educating and creating awareness among youth about HIV/AIDS was organised at the Dhyani Chand National Stadium, New Delhi by NACO and DSACS in collaboration with DFID, UNAIDS, RCHSA, CHARCA and Heroes Project.

Well known singer Kailash Kher captivated the 7000 plus crowd with his melodious songs. He also gave messages on condom use and safe sex in between songs. Singer O Hari Kumar’s rendition of the popular song ‘*hum honge kamyaab*’ had everyone in the audience singing along. Seto from Nagaland also sang a well

known number ‘Rainbow’. Popular TV actress Mona Singh, better known as *Jassi*, joined a group of HIV positive children from Freedom Foundation, Bangalore and danced to a popular Bollywood number. These children have been trained by Shiamak Davar’s group.

Shilpa Shetty invited Shanthi Noronha, an HIV positive crusader to share her experiences of fighting stigma. Elango and Asha Ramiah of INP+ narrated their experiences. UNAIDS Civil Society Awards in 13 categories were presented to organisations and individuals in recognition of their contribution.

Expanding the Circle of Blood Donors Voluntary Blood Donation Day Observed

Rallies, voluntary blood donation camps, seminars and community meetings marked the celebration of the National Voluntary Blood Donation (NVBD) day on October 1, 2006. NACO conducted a nation wide level campaign and telecast a new TV spot featuring cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar who appealed to people to come forward and donate blood. A press advertisement was released and posters, brochures and information kits developed and sent to all State AIDS Control Societies.

All State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) organised functions at the state and district levels to spread greater awareness about blood donation. The focus was on motivating young people to step forward to donate blood as well as removing common misconceptions in people's minds related to blood donation.

Objectives of Promoting Voluntary Blood Donation

- Ensure safe, quality and adequate quantity of blood and blood components.



- Collect blood only from Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donors from low-risk population.
- Make available safe blood on a sustainable basis and thereby overcoming any national shortage.



- Spread awareness about the link between infected blood and HIV.

Highlights of the activities carried out by SACS on the occasion.

Rajasthan

A State level function was held with National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers at the Rajasthan University campus in Jaipur where Principal Secretary, Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Shri Sudhir Bhargava was the Chief Guest and Principal of Maharani College, Ms. Amla Batra was Guest of Honour. Cultural programmes were organised and star donor organisations which have been actively involved with promoting VBD (Voluntary Blood Donation) camps were felicitated. A brochure and pamphlets on blood donation titled, "Raktadaan: Punya ka Kaam" were released. A two-day workshop was held at the Poddar Institute of Management and a slogan writing competition organised at MDS University in Ajmer in which thousands of students participated.

Jharkhand

The State wore a festive look with hoardings, banners and placards widely displaying the theme of NVBD. Innovative IEC materials were disseminated. About 25 rallies were organised across districts and towns and awareness on Blood Safety was generated using nukkad natak.

West Bengal

West Bengal AIDS Prevention and Control Society organised

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Pre-programming Assessment for Social Marketing of Female Condoms Underway

The pre-programming study for social marketing of Female Condoms (FC) is being conducted by NACO with the support of Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust (HLFPPT) and United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) in selected locations of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Though FC has been introduced successfully in various countries, notably Brazil, very few operations researches and acceptability studies were conducted in India. These studies have revealed higher acceptance of FC among the women at the highest risk and vulnerability to HIV. The anecdotal evidence indicates the willingness to pay a subsidized price for Female Condoms.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) has designed a scheme for introducing Female Condoms among the population at risk for HIV and the general population. Under this, MOHFW has initially funded procurement of 500,000 female condoms. NACO will implement the social marketing of Female Condoms through select NGOs implementing Targeted Interventions with female sex workers and Social Marketing Organisations across nine states.

For operationalising this initiative, UNFPA will do the evaluation and provide the overall technical oversight for quality of programming and HLFPPT will provide assistance in training,

communication, monitoring, product tracking and Female Condom supply logistics.

Objectives

- FC introduction in selected targeted interventions amongst sex workers' projects for assessing the acceptability, willingness to pay and impact on safe sex behaviors.
- FC introduction in general population for assessing the acceptance, willingness to pay and impact on dual protection.
- Piloting capacity building approaches and communication approaches for enhancing the adoption of FCs among the target population and assessing its appropriateness for the scaled up phase.
- Documenting the evidence on FC programming and developing future strategies.

Scope

The study will be conducted through the select NGO sites implementing Targeted Interventions. Thirteen NGOs having 33 sites (each with a minimum of 500 sex workers) have been identified. In the states of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, the piloting of FC in general population will be done through leading social marketing organisations. A total of 500 eligible couples in each state would be targeted.

Strategic Framework

The pre-programming study is being implemented through a collaborative initiative of NACO,



UNFPA and HLFPPT. The female condoms for the programme are being provided to the participating NGOs at a subsidized price of Rs.3 per FC. The NGOs would then market this to the sex workers through peer educators at a cost of Rs.5 per FC.

As the FC is not being supplied free of cost to the end user, the pattern of FC introduction will be similar to any new product introduction. As seen in the diffusion of products, any new product will be first taken by the innovators and early adoptors among the target audience. Hence the initial FC off take will be limited to 10-20% of sex worker population in the intervention site. NGOs will be encouraged to introduce the FC to all the sex workers covered through the peer network.

Expected Outcomes

1. Acceptability of FC
2. Willingness and ability to pay
3. Inputs for developing capacity building interventions for Peer Educators, Out Reach Workers and service providers
4. BCC interventions design including standardized messages

The findings of this study will be disseminated in a phased manner.

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Expanding the Circle of Donors

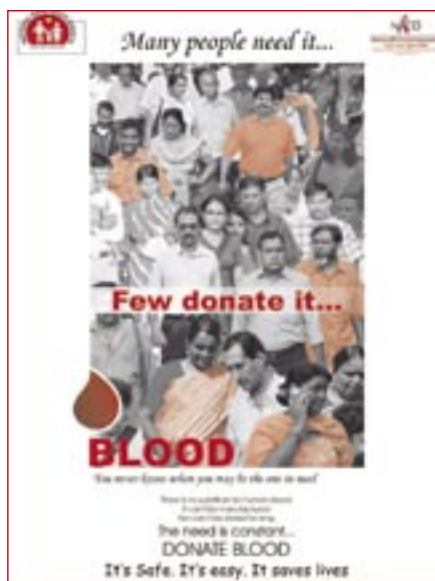
Voluntary Blood Donation camps all over the state with active support from the West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donors Forum, Kolkata and Association of VBD, Kolkata. As part of the awareness drive, electronic media was used extensively and interactive talk shows on blood safety organised.

Tripura

Camps, seminars and cultural programmes were held on the theme of VBD. Special posters were distributed to various youth clubs. A puppet show and street drama on donor motivation was organised by NYK, Pratyaya Samajik Sangstha and village level teams.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Dr. N. Sadasivan, Director, Health Services, A & N Administration inaugurated the NVBD day at Port Blair and appealed to the public to step forward to donate blood voluntarily. Dr. Mishri Lall, PD, ANACS explained the link between safe blood and HIV and



how each individual could play a role in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Camps were held throughout the month in colleges, police departments and voluntary organisations.

Mizoram

Mizoram-SACS celebrated the occasion jointly with Association for Voluntary Blood Donation (AVBD) at Aizawl. Star voluntary blood donors were awarded certificates of appreciation.

Orissa

Mass rallies by young people, meetings on awareness and voluntary blood donation camps were held throughout the state

Delhi

H.E. Lieutenant Governor of NCT, Delhi chaired a meeting of Vice-Chancellors, College Principals, NSS coordinators of universities and representatives from Blood Banks on initiation of the Pledge 25 Club.

Brochures highlighting VBD and Pledge 25 Clubs were released and blood donation camps organised from 30 Sept to 2 Oct. 2006, with active participation of all blood banks in the capital. Radio-jingles and newspaper advertisements were brought out, hoardings and kiosks positioned at strategic locations.

Madhya Pradesh

MPSACS organised camps across the state from 1 - 15 Oct 2006. Seminars, awareness programmes and rallies were held to promote VBD.

Chandigarh Organises Consultation on ARV Treatment Access

Chandigarh is the focal point for the states of Haryana, Punjab, J&K and the Union Territory for people wanting to access treatment for AIDS.

A two-day workshop on 'State Consultation on ARV Treatment Access in Chandigarh' was organised by Indian Network of Positive People and Chandigarh Network of Positive People in

association with DFID Emergency Fund on October 18-19, 2006 at CYP Asia Centre. The workshop aimed to assess the current situation of ARV treatment education in Chandigarh.

It was heartening to see more than 30 PLHAs from Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh actively participating in the sessions along with their family members.

Ms. Pooja Thakur, President, CNP+ welcomed the participants. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Sonia Trikha Khullar, Project Director, Chandigarh SACS. She urged participants to empower themselves through education and skill building. She also conducted a session on state vision, mandate and plan in care and support.

Expanded Response from Corporate Sector

Companies Join Hands to Fight HIV/AIDS

There is growing consensus on the fact that the battle against HIV/AIDS cannot be won, unless the government's initiatives are strengthened with efforts from the civil society, NGOs and corporate groups. NACO has also been advocating for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS awareness efforts and expanding the network of stakeholders. ILO's experience-sharing meeting on October 13, 2006 with corporate group partners demonstrated this very effectively. The purpose of the meeting was to review achievements, share experiences and help develop new strategies for expanding the Indian industry's response to the epidemic.

Sh. S.K.Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, asked corporates to devise innovative and effective ways of reaching out to different hierarchies in the workforce. Participants agreed that though the circle of members who shared a common vision – of having an AIDS free society was expanding, there were companies who were still in a state of denial.

The meeting was attended by representatives of seven corporate groups: Pepsi Co., Hindustan Lever Limited, Crompton Greaves Limited, Apollo Tyres, Gujarat Ambuja Cement Limited, SRF Group and Ballarpur Industries Limited.

Highlights of the Meeting

- Strengthening key programme components



“For us, HIV/AIDS is not just philanthropy; it is a basic function of the human resource department. Everybody has to participate. It is now part of performance appraisal”

Sh. Pawan Bhatia, Senior Vice President, HR, Pepsi Co., India

“The key challenge is to keep the motivation of peer educators high.”

Sh. V. K. Jain, Gujarat Ambuja

“Trained professionals are the key to successful implementation of the HIV/AIDS programme.”

Dr. Lalitha Mahajan, BILT

related to:

- Functioning of internal committees at workplaces with the involvement of human resource depts.
- Improving nodal person's effectiveness
- Improving master trainer's and peer educator's effectiveness

- Establishing monitoring system for the programme.
- Allocation in yearly budgets by corporates for HIV/AIDS related work
- Reaching out to workers in the supply chain in the year 2007
- Finalise work plan on HIV/AIDS

ILO has been consistently providing technical support to corporate groups who have on the basis of the ILO Code of Practice taken up programmes. Sh. Mohd. Afsar of ILO highlighted the results of their partnership with these groups:

- Six out of seven partners have HIV/AIDS workplace policies in place
- All partners have either completed or commissioned the knowledge, attitude behaviour and practices (KABP) survey
- Total of 222 master trainers have been trained till date
- Programme covers around 63,644 employees

The ILO has set up a global Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work. Its main objectives are to:

- *Raise awareness of the economic and social impact of AIDS*
- *Help governments, employers and workers support national efforts to reduce the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS*
- *Fight discrimination and stigma related to HIV status*

Status of ART Roll-out: 2006

Number of Patients on ART as on 31 st December 2006						
S.No	State	Name of the Centre	No. of patients			
			Male	Female	Children	Total
NACO supported ART Centers :						
1	Tamil Nadu (13)	GHTM, Tambaram, Chennai	2108	1506	280	3894
2		Madras Medical College, Chennai	500	251	4	755
3		Government Medical College, Madurai	1099	543	92	1734
4		Government Hospital, Namakkal	847	669	98	1614
5		Kilpouk Medical College, Chennai	114	94	66	274
6		Medical College, Salem	418	341	37	796
7		Medical College, Tirunelveli	181	92	17	290
8		Medical College, Coimbatore	215	147	21	383
9		Medical College, Theni	258	194	55	507
10		Medical College, Thanjavur	193	116	24	333
11		Medical College, Vellore	281	166	52	499
12		Medical College, Kanyakumari	102	53	17	172
13		Medical College, Trichy	331	222	5	558
14	Maharashtra (13)	JJ Hospital, Mumbai	2359	1154	110	3623
15		KEM Hospital, Mumbai	611	300	78	989
16		Nair Hospital, Mumbai	104	55	0	159
17		Sion Hospital, Mumbai	321	169	61	551
18		Government Medical College, Sangli	802	591	159	1552
19		B.J. Medical College, Pune	884	646	166	1696
20		Government Medical College, Nagpur	797	323	125	1245
21		NARI Pune	104	55	0	159
22		Medical College, Aurangabad	137	54	8	199
23		Medical College, Dule	107	39	0	146
24		Medical College, Akola	77	29	10	116
25		Medical College, Yawatmal	109	35	8	152
26		Medical College, Ambejogai	409	214	3	626
27	Andhra Pradesh (13)	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad	1582	699	84	2365
28		Government Medical College, Guntur	672	457	106	1235
29		Government Medical College, Vizag.	735	323	16	1074
30		SVRR GGH, Tirupati	53	16	3	72
31		GGH, Ananthapur	117	66	0	183
32		GGH, Vijayawada	245	133	3	381
33		RIMS, Kadapa	44	14	4	62
34		Govt. Dist. Hospital, Prakasam	296	175	3	474
35		GGH, Kakinada	192	95	0	287
36		Gandhi Medical College, Secunderabad	98	34	5	137
37		Medical College, Warangal	100	55	4	159
38		Medical College, Karimnagar	28	11	0	39
39		Govt. Gen. & Chest Hospital, Hyderabad	130	70	0	200
40	Karnataka (12)	Lady Curzon Hosp., Bangalore	969	453	73	1495
41		Mysore Medical College, Mysore	416	231	6	653
42		VIMS, Bellary	180	92	21	293
43		K I M S Hubli	678	441	86	1205
44		District Hospital, Raichur	38	12	0	50
45		District Hospital, Davengere	167	125	18	310
46		Wenlock Dist. Hospital, Mangalore	153	74	36	263
47		District Hospital, Bijapur	114	53	0	167
48		District Hospital, Gulbarga	79	41	4	124
49		District Hospital, Belgaon	135	90	22	247
50		District Hospital, Kolar	49	21	2	72
51		District Hospital, Bagalkot	57	47	0	104
52	Manipur (4)	RIMS, Imphal	634	275	32	941
53		Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Imphal	702	446	123	1271
54		Ukhru	63	59	10	132
55		Churachandpur	77	48	4	129
56	Nagaland (3)	Naga District Hospital, Kohima	119	68	10	197
57		Dimapur	50	28	4	82
58		Tuensang Civil Hospital	23	20	1	44
59	Delhi (6)	RML Hospital, New Delhi	957	368	161	1486
60		LNJP Hospital, New Delhi	509	182	22	713
61		AIIMS, New Delhi	513	154	70	737
62		DDU Hospital, New Delhi	51	28	4	83
63		GTB Hospital, Delhi	57	34	0	91
64		LRS Institute of TB, New Delhi	48	13	4	65
Total patients on ART in GFATM States:			24598	13609	2437	40644

S.No	State	Name of the Centre	No. of patients			
			Male	Female	Children	Total
65	Chandigarh (1)	PGIMER, Chandigarh	539	318	104	961
66	Rajasthan (2)	SMS Hospital, Jaipur	576	269	61	906
67		SNMC, Jodhpur	217	93	11	321
68	Gujarat (2)	B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad	766	332	59	1157
69		B.J. Medical College, Surat	149	46	0	195
70	West Bengal (2)	School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkatta	943	278	37	1258
71		North Bengal Medical College, Siliguri	43	11	1	55
72	Uttar Pradesh (3)	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	848	353	41	1242
73		KGMC, Lucknow	478	183	27	688
74		LLRM Medical College, Meerut	76	28	4	108
75	Goa (1)	Government Medical College, Bambolim	214	114	20	348
76	Kerala (5)	Medical College, Thiruvanthapuram	243	94	33	370
77		Medical College, Kottayam	106	58	7	171
78		Medical College, Kozhikode (Calicut)	306	153	30	489
79		Medical College, Thrissur	304	145	32	481
80		Medical College, Allepy	40	37	3	80
81	Himachal Pradesh (1)	IGMC, Shimla	50	43	8	101
82	Pondicherry (1)	GGH, Pondicherry	28	20	12	60
83	Bihar(2)	PMCH, Patna	162	34	6	202
84		SKMCH, Muzaffarpur	47	31	5	83
85	Madhya Pradesh (2)	Medical College, Indore	454	209	54	717
86		Medical College, Jabalpur	30	8	0	38
87	Assam (2)	Medical College, Guwahati	97	34	3	134
88		AMC, Dibrugarh	5	1	0	6
89	Arunachal Pradesh (1)	General Hospital, Naharlagun	0	0	0	0
90	Mizoram(1)	Civil Hospital, Aizawl	20	14	0	34
91	Punjab(2)	GMC, Amritsar	129	54	10	195
92		Civil Hospital, Jalandhar	65	53	5	123
93	Sikkim(1)	STNM, Gangtok	2	0	0	2
94	Jharkhand(2)	RIMS, Ranchi	96	16	5	117
95		MGM Medical College, Jamshedpur	18	6	0	24
96	Haryana	PGIMS, Rohtak	117	58	3	178
97	Uttarakhand	Doon Hospital, Dehradun	27	11	3	41
98	J&K(2)	Medical College, Jammu	20	10	0	30
99		SKIMS, Srinagar	20	10	0	30
100	Orissa	MKCG Medical College, Behrampur	15	6	0	21
Total patients on ART in non GFATM States:			7250	3130	586	10966
A) Total patients on ART in all NACO supported Centres			31848	16739	3023	51610
ART in Intersectoral Health Sector						
1	Railways		730	229	21	980
2	SAIL		13	0	0	13
3	ESI		791	0	0	791
4	Defence		695	0	0	695
B) Total patients on ART in intersectoral Centres						2479
ART in GFATM Round II Centres						
1	Mumbai	ARCON, Mumbai	176	74	0	250
2	Maharashtra	ARCON Centre, Pune	485	227	0	712
2	Karnataka	Freedom Foundation, Bangalore	44	17	20	81
3	Karnataka	Freedom Foundation, Bellary	7	0	0	7
4	Karnataka	Freedom Foundation, Udipi	1	3	0	4
5	Andhra Pradesh	Freedom Foundation	80	36	10	126
6	Tamil Nadu	IOG, Chennai	62	77	16	147
7		GRMH, Thanjavur				57
C) Total patients on ART in GFATM round II Centres						1384
GRAND TOTAL of patients on ART as on 25th Nov 2006						
NACO supported ART Centres					51610	
Intersectoral Partners					2479	
GFATM Round II Centres					1384	
Grand Total					55473	

Road Shows Enthrall Youth in Delhi

As a precursor to World AIDS Day, NACO in association with Delhi SACS, DFID, CHARCA, Heroes Project, RCSHA and UNAIDS organised road shows at key locations in the capital city including Dilli Haat, PVR, Model Town and at college campuses. Specially fabricated and brightly decorated buses with live music and radio jockeys attracted large number of people including youth and children. Once the crowd congregated, spot quiz competitions on HIV/AIDS were held and as prizes the winners were given watches and entry passes to the cultural show to be held on Dec 1, 2006.



Cultural Events Engage Youth in Arunachal

State level advocacy meetings for Zila Parishad Chairpersons and DMOs were held to discuss the formation of the Zila Parishad Forum on HIV/AIDS by Arunachal Pradesh SACS as a precursor to World AIDS Day observance.

Mr. C.C. Singpho, Minister for Health & Family Welfare urged all senior government representatives to mainstream HIV messages in every public meeting and forum that they attended. The formation of a Zila Parishad Forum at the district level was a significant outcome of the meeting.

Recognising young people's increasing vulnerability to HIV infection, music programmes were organised through which HIV/AIDS awareness messages were widely disseminated. A musical Nite organized by



SACS at Nirjuli, in Papupare District of Arunachal Pradesh, had Debojit Saha, winner of 'All India Sare Gama Pa' show as the star attraction. More than 10,000 boys and girls attended the first ever large scale entertainment event which had AIDS as the central theme.

A cultural nite was also held at Dera Natung Government College at Itanagar where skits, dances and songs on AIDS awareness were performed by college students. A 'village talk AIDS programme' in association with N N Charitable Society was organised at Nimte village under Sagalee Sub-Division. Transmission of HIV, safe sex practices and the availability of treatment at district level hospitals were the focus of the discussion where more than 300 members of Gaon Burahs, Youth and PRI members took active part.



Gandhian Touch in Gujarat



In an unique show of solidarity and appreciation, GSNP+ distributed red roses to all doctors serving in government and private hospitals, in a typical Gandhian gesture. The aim being to solicit their cooperation and non judgmental support while diagnosing and treating PLHAs. More than 2500 people were covered through this exercise including doctors, police officers, city level officials, and prominent citizens.

In order to generate interest, a cricket match was organised between members of the press

versus a team comprised of PLHAs and NGO representatives. The event succeeded in reinforcing in people's minds that those who were HIV positive could lead normal and healthy lives, especially if they had the support of the community.

An exclusive meeting was also organised wherein the health minister personally interacted with positive children, giving them an opportunity to share their views and aspirations. Since the focus of the state's World AIDS Day observance was on creating greater acceptance of PLHAs, a big charity function was held in Ahmedabad involving parents and students and sensitising them on how to integrate an infected child or adult into society without discriminating against them.

A massive rally was organised in Surat on Dec 1, 2006 with local NGOs, GSNP+, Network of Surat (NSP+) district representatives and college students participating actively.

Jharkhand Focusses on Prevention of HIV

At a state level function in Ranchi, the Hon'ble Governor, Syed Sibtey Razi reiterated his government's commitment to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS and to take up prevention efforts on a war footing. The participation of the Governor and the First Lady as they drove along the 30,000 strong rally and human chain was a great motivator for volunteers and youth who had worked hard to ensure the success of the long march that traversed the streets of the city.

The Chief Minister Mr Madhu Koda along with Health Minister, Sh. Hemendra Pratap Dehati, and senior government officials and representatives of NGOs took part in a candle lighting and an oath taking ceremony. At a function held in the city's busiest market people of all age groups and backgrounds came together to witness an infotainment programme that included a specially composed song urging people to go in for voluntary counseling and testing, skits on the theme of HIV/AIDS, distribution of IEC material at a concurrent exhibition and a musical event. On the occasion

the Chief Minister gave away prizes in various categories of competitions that had been held in schools and colleges in the week preceding World AIDS Day. During the function, dignitaries released doves and balloons which had the symbolic AIDS red ribbon with people cheering and expressing solidarity to the cause.



Highlights of the

Dec 1,



TAKE CONTROL Event

New Delhi



Red Ribbon Clubs Harness Youth Potential

Given that 70 percent of the total number of PLHAs in the state belong to the 21-40 age group, MPSACS has chalked out a comprehensive plan to establish Red Ribbon Clubs in all the colleges of Madhya Pradesh. The Governor, Dr. Balram Jhakar inaugurated a programme for NCC students that was chaired by Health Minister, Dr. Ajay Vishnoi in the presence of Principal Secretary (Health) Sh. Madan Mohan Upadhyaya on the occasion of World AIDS Day. He said that effort of the government will be fruitful only when people's involvement is ensured.

Project Director, MPSACS, Ms Saleena Singh apprised that the state would be setting up its third ART centre, which would provide free consultation and medicines. More than 500 NCC cadets participated in a rally carrying banners and raising slogans and covering prominent areas of the city. A specially designed notebook with relevant



information on HIV aimed at youth was released. Plays, films and interactive sessions were also held.

Panchayat members and representatives of the Legislative Assembly are being sensitised in the state through workshops and orientation sessions in an effort to build a positive and supportive environment in the state.

Healthy Living with HIV

Karnataka's observance of World AIDS Day was focused on informing and reassuring people that living a healthy and normal life with HIV was possible. The state government committed itself to reducing the rate of new infections from 1.59 percent to 1 percent in the next three years. At a state level function organised by Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Sh. R. Ashok cautioned doctors and health workers who were told that

any discrimination against PLHAs or denial of treatment would merit stern action.

A rally was flagged off from the Vidhana Soudha by the Minister for Health & Family Welfare and culminated at Dr Ambedkar Bhawan. Film director and cine actor Mr Ramesh Arvind and other dignitaries also took part in the rally along with thousands of students, NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, NGO representatives, PLHAs and folk artists.



Cultural programmes such as Yakshagana, folk dances and mimicry programmes relaying messages on HIV/AIDS were organised. The effort was duly backed by popular tele and cine stars who implored people to accept those who were living with HIV as equal members of society. On the occasion, two PLHAs were honoured publicly for the work they had done in spreading HIV awareness.

A paediatric ART facility for Karnataka was also launched and a drug kit was handed over to the medical superintendent of the centre. In addition, an exhaustive pre-publicity campaign was held, propagating the theme of World AIDS Day.

Nagaland Demonstrates Strong Political Will



On the occasion of World AIDS Day, a state level function was held at the State Academy Hall in Kohima which was chaired by Dr. Sashimeren Aier, Principal Director, Health & Family Welfare.

Mr. Imkonglemba, Secretary of Health & Family Welfare addressed the gathering on the theme of “Accountability” and how state government could steer the entire crusade against HIV in a definitive direction. The Secretary called upon everyone concerned – Government officials, Churches, NGOs faith based organisations, communities, families and individuals to join hands in fighting the epidemic. Project Director NSACS Dr. Kumuni

Kathipri urged everyone not to fail the future generations because of our indifference, inaction and apathy.

Sh. Roko from the Network of Naga People Living with HIV/AIDS (NNP+) who found out his in 1999, shared his experience on “life after infection”, urging all stakeholders to understand and support PLHAs. He said, “We want your empathy, care and support not your sympathy”.

Dr. T. M Lotha, Minister for Health & Family Welfare who was the Chief Guest emphasised the need and importance for early testing and treatment. He cited examples of PLHAs at the International AIDS Conference 2006 in Canada, many of whom had been living with HIV for more than 20 years but who looked and felt like any other healthy person because they had found out their status during the initial stages of infection and sought treatment on time.

He also said that his government would continue to work on the theme of “Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise” so that a concerted effort is made in terms of bringing down the rate of new infections and reaching treatment and services to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Special song numbers were presented by youth groups on the occasion.

Sensitising Municipal Corporators in J&K

J&K State AIDS Prevention & Control Society in collaboration with government departments, NGOs and educational institutions organised a series of functions including seminars, rallies and quiz contests to mark World AIDS Day in the state. The weeklong celebrations concluded with the sensitisation of Municipal Corporators in an attempt to reach out to the communities at the grass root level.

At the inaugural function in Jammu, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sh. Mangat Ram Sharma was the Chief Guest. Sh. K.B. Jandial, Secretary Health and Medical Education presided over the function and emphasised that the state government would strengthen the

work being done at the block and district level to fight HIV/AIDS. At another function, an awareness programme was organised with the police authorities, where more than 400 jawans participated. AIDS awareness skits and songs were presented by college students that had the audience spellbound.

Similar functions were held in Kashmir valley under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State for Health and Medical Education and Power Development, Peer Mohammad Hussain. The highlight was that the AIDS awareness was not only confined to urban areas but involved outreach activities at the district and block levels.

Glimpses of State Eve



Events on World AIDS Day



Sikkim Unites to Fight HIV/AIDS

Sikkim SACS observed World AIDS Day by bringing together Army personnel, NGOs, Christian Associations and women groups on one platform, echoing the theme of “Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise”. They promised to share their knowledge with colleagues and jawans and also expressed keenness to get testing done to know their HIV status.

In Gangtok women from the Mahila Swastha Sangh, Cheli Morcha and Women Welfare Association of Sikkim shared their experiences and resolved to take responsibility for protecting themselves and their families from HIV infection. NGOs running Targeted Interventions held various events to mark



World AIDS Day in Gayzing, Mangan and Rhenock, Popular singer Sabin Rai kept the crowds engrossed at a function at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok in which 10,000 people participated.

West Bengal Combines Creativity with Impact

The popular and endearing icon of Bula Di beamed from posters, hoardings and pamphlets as she urged people to join in the fight against HIV/AIDS by empowering themselves with knowledge, and information to stay safe and healthy.

The West Bengal SACS through a series of innovative ideas and events created an enthusiastic response cutting across cultural and social barriers. While a seminar cum panel discussion on HIV/AIDS prevention and accountability: Advocacy for PLHA mainstreaming and intersectoral partnership was held in Kolkata, more than 10 tableaux were taken through the city streets and districts for ten days preceding

World AIDS Day. A music video on the theme of World AIDS Day had celebrities appealing to people not to discriminate against PLHAs and to find out their HIV status by going in for voluntary testing. More than 165 stalls were erected in the city which were stocked with IEC material and on-duty counsellors for dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS.

Performing arts and folk media was used extensively in the semi rural and rural areas in collaboration with the Song and Drama division, private troupes and cultural event organisers. Motor cycle rally, torch rally and youth rally were also part of December 1 activities.



A month long AIDS Walk for Life traversing the entire state was also organised. The core group of 50 walkers were supported by CBOs and district based NGOs. Another initiative was setting up of information kiosks in hospitals where volunteers interacted with the public and gently explained to them facts about HIV. Meanwhile the local radio, television and newspapers had advertisements, special insertions, scrollers, announcements and commercials running through the day.



Unique Public Transport Campaign in Mumbai

Mumbai's lifeline is its city transport which is fast, regular and virtually nonstop! The red BEST buses and local train network are an inseparable part of the metro's cityscape and character. Forming a well integrated network all over Mumbai, these buses carry over lakhs of people to their destination daily with clockwork precision. With Mumbai District AIDS Control Society targeting the local Mumbaikar in their AIDS awareness campaign, hitting upon the idea of using this public transport system, paved the way for an unprecedented response.

The World AIDS Day campaign which started on 26th November, had more than 100 BEST buses fitted with panels carrying messages on condom promotion, AIDS awareness and promotion of Paalvi Centre which is an Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre. The same messages were also displayed on the exteriors of the local trains on the Western Railway lines. To create high

value impact, a local train was specially designed and coloured in the trademark red colour, with prominent AIDS awareness messaging displayed on the coaches. This was an effective way of reaching different age groups with key messages which had factored in the cultural style and lingo while designing the content and layout.

Bandhan an entertainment programme was organised based on the theme of maintaining fidelity between partners. Songs, skits and dances were composed and performed by well known artists including Suresh Wadekar and the same were telecast live on Satellite Channel. Parallel events were held for young people where celebrated icons like winners from the popular television shows — Indian Idol and Laughter Challenge addressed vulnerabilities and HIV/AIDS risk perceptions through humour and participative games and exercises, at a venue which accommodated nearly 15,000 people. The event was also telecast live on the local cable channel.



Special Function at ART Centre in Mumbai

The HIV unit and ART Centre at the JJ Hospital in Mumbai organised a get-together of 900 People Living with HIV/AIDS along with their families. In this unique socialisation exercise, doctors, nurses and students of Grant Medical College participated in a special entertainment programme which featured folk dances and experience sharing by the patients.

What made the occasion heartwarming was the involved participation of PLHAs who are currently receiving ART treatment from the

hospital. Their enthusiasm as they danced was impressive. The highlight of the programme was a fashion show where they participated along with well known models, doctors, medical staff and students. The event was attended by Sh. Suresh Shetty, Minister of State for Medical Education.

Roche India stepped forward to donate PCR equipment for the ART centre. All present on the occasion pledged their accountability to 'Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise'.

'Be Bold' Campaign in Andhra Pradesh

The underlying objective of all activities under World AIDS Day observance in Andhra Pradesh was to make people feel comfortable about finding out their HIV status. Using the tag line of "Be Bold" hoardings, advertisements and other IEC material appealed to people to step forward and get themselves voluntarily tested for HIV.

At a state level function, Health Minister Sh. K. Rosaiah addressed a large gathering. He demonstrated his involvement and commitment to the campaign by getting himself tested for HIV. The other dignitaries on the dais also followed his example and got themselves tested.

Street theatre, folk music and other innovative methods were used to reach out to people at the state, district and village levels. The campaign also aimed at 100 percent coverage of pregnant women for HIV screening; 100 percent coverage of spouses of ANC women who tested HIV positive, promoted treatment seeking behaviour for STDs and stepped up testing among people at risk.

Gram sabhas in villages were held with trained staff from APSACS, medical officers, anganwadi workers and youth group members. The response from the community as also organisations was heartening. In a show of solidarity the Police Department of the state partnered with APSACS by getting their personnel tested for HIV.

To strengthen the national commitment of reaching treatment and care to affected and infected children,



the Paediatric ART was launched. On the occasion a directory of services was released with details on the epidemic and services available at the state and district level.

In colleges, young people were encouraged to go in for premarital counseling and testing. In Vishakapatnam district, road shows were held by young people in the streets and on traffic islands mainstreaming HIV/AIDS messages .



Meghalaya Intensifies the Red Ribbon Campaign

With “Accountability” as the key theme for their World AIDS Day related functions, Meghalaya SACS partnered with NGOs, District Medical and Health officers and UNODC to organise various functions in Shillong, Ri Bhoi and Jowai districts.

The World AIDS Day in Shillong ended with a rock concert where three popular local bands regaled the audience with music and carefully woven messages on HIV/AIDS, high risk behaviour, stigma and discrimination, voluntary testing and treatment.

College students actively participated in marathons and quiz competitions that were organised

on the theme of HIV/AIDS. A consultative meeting was also held where representatives from different government departments, faith based organisations, NGOs and civil society participated. An oath taking ceremony was a solemn moment wherein all those present joined hands and committed to do all it takes to fight the epidemic.

A unique IEC initiative included the inauguration of post boxes with an inscription and information on HIV/AIDS and the red ribbon campaign. Full support of the General Post Office ensured that the messages would get wide coverage.



Mizoram Upholds Accountability

Mizoram State AIDS Control Society observed the World AIDS Day with functions organised at the state and district levels. In Aizawl, a function was held at Vanapa Hall with Shri. R. Tlanghmingthanga, Minister, Health & Family Welfare as the Chief Guest. Around 800 people participated including key officials from Health & Family Welfare, Education, Social Welfare Departments, school students, teachers and peer educators of Red Ribbon Clubs, NGO staffs, PLHAs, leaders of community based organisations and church representatives.

Shri. Lalbiaktluanga Khinate, Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare Department and Chairman, Mizoram State AIDS Control Society said that

preventing HIV/AIDS is everyone's responsibility. He also urged the gathering to be accountable keeping in mind the World AIDS Day theme ‘Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise: Accountability’. Representatives from both Positive Network of Mizoram and Mizoram People Living with HIV/AIDS Society also spoke at the function. A candle light display was organized in remembrance of all those who had lost their lives to AIDS.

In a special initiative 10,000 red ribbons were distributed to all the schools in Aizawl along with an explanation of the significance of wearing the Red Ribbon. School students and teachers prominently displayed these red ribbons on World AIDS Day in a show of solidarity with the cause.

Manipur Dedicates One Day Every Month for HIV/AIDS

District AIDS units, sub-divisional networks and local level NGOs/CBOs came together to observe World AIDS Day in the state of Manipur. Active involvement of elected political leaders, panchayat members, student and women bodies, PLHA networks and the media was seen in torch rallies, cycle rallies, poster campaigns, awareness programmes, seminars, music concerts, workshops and condom promotion activities. Recognising the impact of celebrity endorsements and testimonials, the same were sought via advertisements, radio and television announcements, distribution of postcards, sticker poster campaigns, marathons, competitions and the distribution of food supplements to PLHAs.

The state function at Imphal was graced by Dr. S S Sidhu, Governor of Manipur, D K. Korungthang Health and Family Welfare Minister and S. Gopal Singh, MLA. The Governor demonstrated the states's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS by **dedicating one day every month to review the efforts initiated at different levels.** Dr. Sidhu said "once in a month I will personally



review the scenario along with the Chief Minister, Health Minister and NGO representatives and take necessary action to redress complaints, address issues of concern and provide state government support where necessary."

'Reaching the Unreached' in Punjab

In addition to organising rallies and competitions Punjab State AIDS Control Society 'reached the unreached', by holding the state level function on the eve of World AIDS Day at Mansa, a backward district. Various functions were organised in which information and awareness about prevention, treatment, care and support related to HIV/AIDS was provided to people.

A state level function at Mansa was presided over by Dr. Harbans Lal, Chief Parliamentary Secretary, H&FW. Also present on the occasion were Sh. K.B.S. Sidhu, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare cum Project Director, Punjab SACS. Dr Lal informed the gathering that two ART Centres had been set up in Amritsar and Jalandhar in collaboration with NACO.

A candle light march was also organised in Mohali in association with the Family Planning Association of India in addition to various district level functions that were held in schools and colleges.

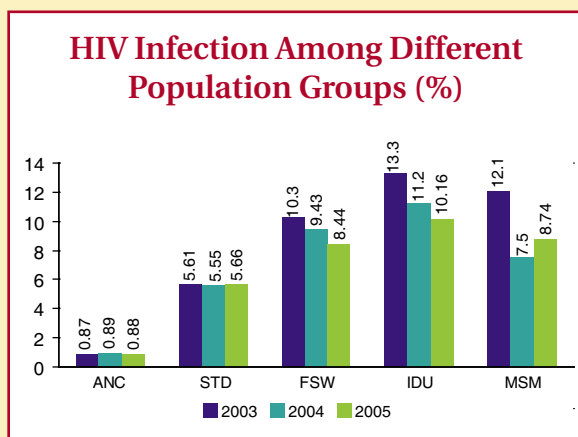
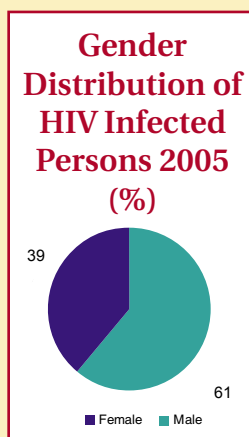
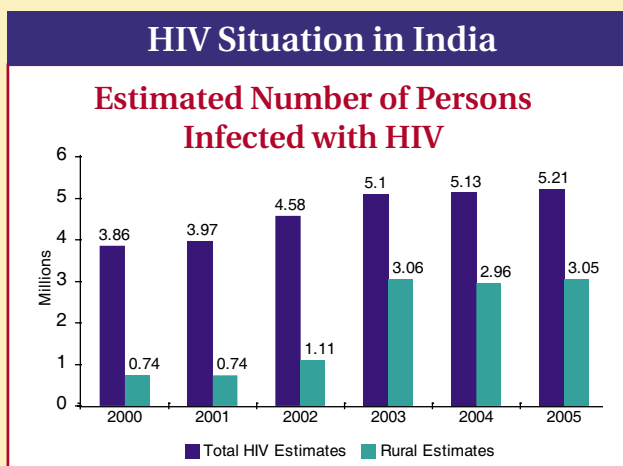


HIV Situation in India

India, today stands at the crossroads in its battle against HIV. Responding to the immense challenge of the HIV/AIDS threat, NACO has articulated a clear and effective response to increase access to services and communicate effectively for behaviour change.

What is HIV?

HIV is an infection caused by a virus. HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. HIV is a tiny virus, a thousand times smaller than the thickness of human hair. It looks like a rolled up porcupine or a sunflower in full bloom. HIV infects human cells and uses the energy and nutrients provided by those cells to grow and reproduce. The first case of HIV infection in India was detected in 1986 in Chennai.



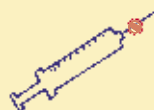
Routes of HIV Transmission

The most common modes of HIV transmission are:



- Unprotected sex with an infected partner

- From infected blood and blood products

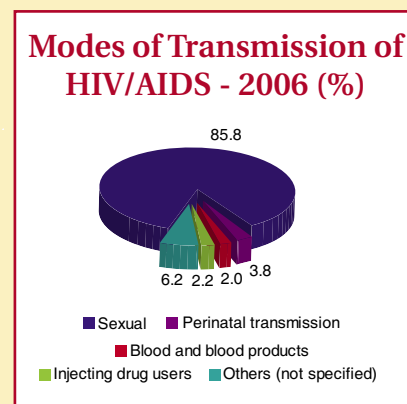
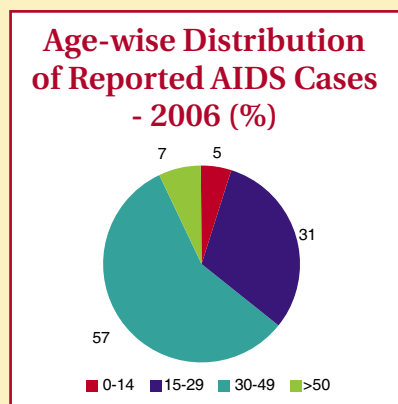


- Sharing needles, syringes and piercing instruments

- From an infected pregnant woman to the foetus

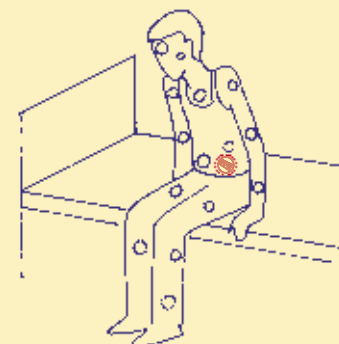


Total AIDS cases reported - 1,60,112



AIDS

When a person is infected with HIV, the virus enters the body and multiplies primarily in the white blood cells. These are immune cells that normally protect us from disease. The hallmark of HIV infection is the progressive loss of a specific type of immune cell called T-helper, or CD4 cells. When the CD4



count falls below 200, the person is said to develop AIDS. As the virus grows, it damages or kills these and other cells, weakening the immune system and leaving the person vulnerable to various opportunistic infections and other illnesses. These illnesses usually occur 6-8 years after the infection. Common opportunistic infections seen in India are tuberculosis, diarrhoea, skin infections, pneumonia, fever and weight loss, and certain types of cancer.

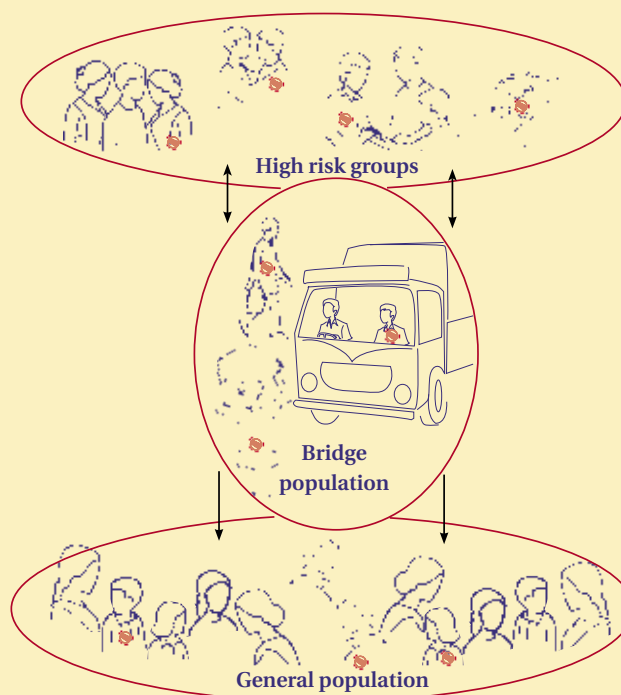
Dynamics of HIV Transmission

A variety of demographic, behavioural, and social factors place people at risk for becoming infected with HIV and other STIs. Traditionally cited risk factors include for example, multiple sexual partners, history of STIs, and drug abuse. Any one who engages in a behaviour that exposes him or her to HIV is at risk of infection.

Social and economic factors make people or groups of people vulnerable to the infection. HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. The virus usually spreads from people indulging in high risk behaviour into the mainstream through the bridge population.

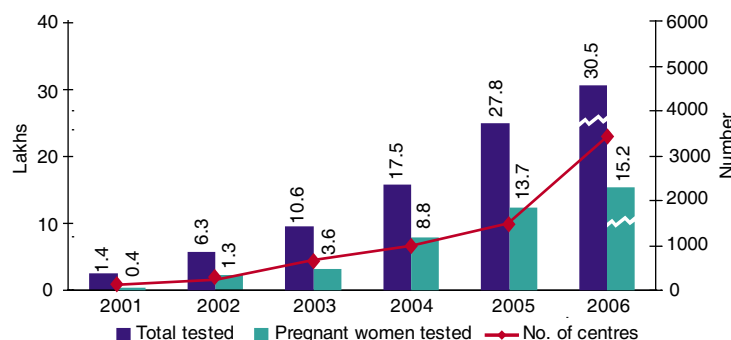
Women, in particular, are more vulnerable to infection because of biological factors. Further, gender inequities and the lack of social and economic empowerment make it difficult, if not impossible, for them to negotiate safer sex with partners.

HIV transmission from high risk groups to the general population through bridge population

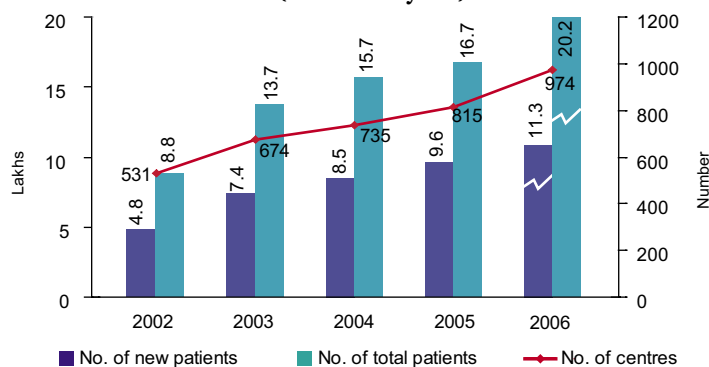


HIV Prevention Services

Progress in Integrated Counselling Testing Services (Calendar year)



Year-wise Progress in STI Services (Calendar year)



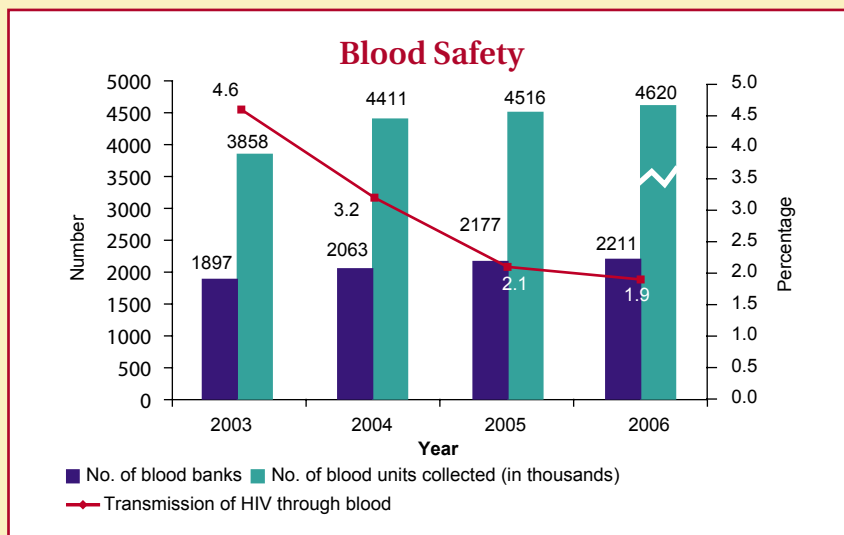
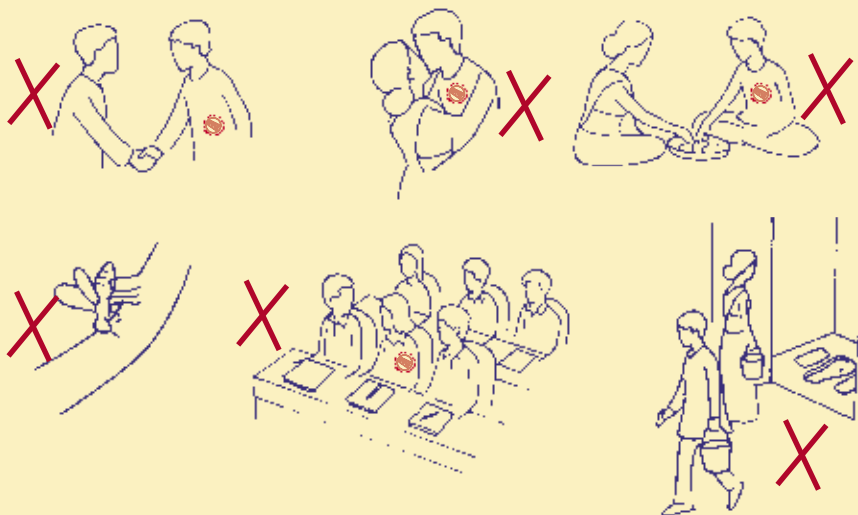
Misconceptions about HIV

HIV is a highly fragile virus. It can only survive in specific body fluids like blood, semen and vaginal fluid and not in sweat or tears.

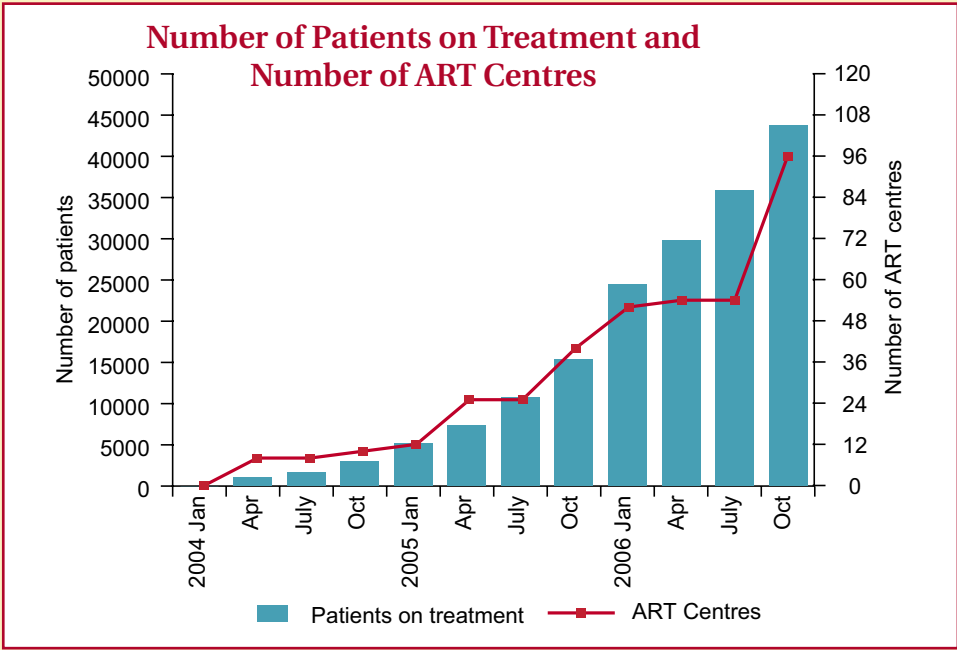
There are a lot of myths and misconceptions about HIV.

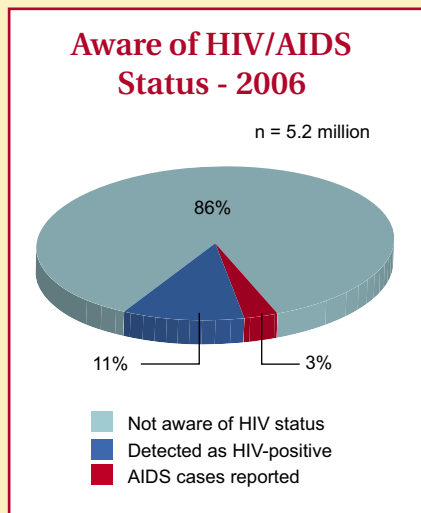
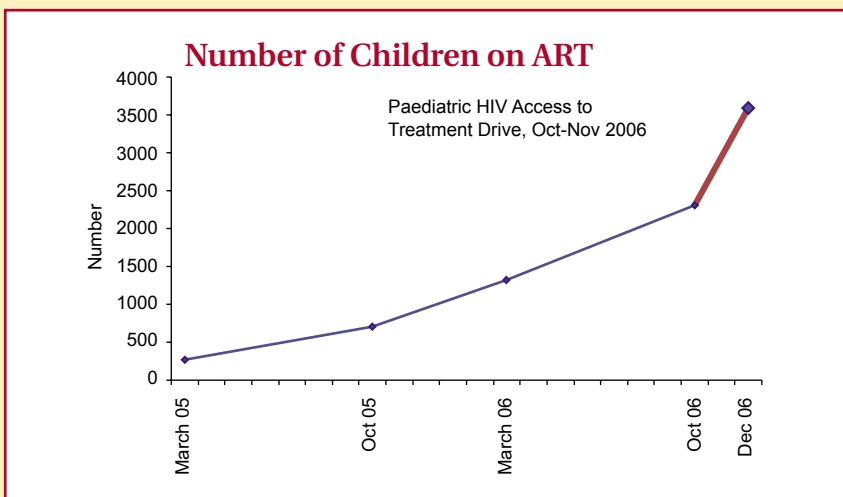
HIV does not spread (X) through:

- Shaking hands, hugging or kissing
- Coughing or sneezing
- Using a public phone
- Visiting a hospital
- Sharing food, eating or drinking from the same utensils
- Using toilets or showers
- Using public swimming pools
- Through mosquito or insect bites
- Working, socialising, or living side by side with HIV-positive people



Care, Support & Treatment

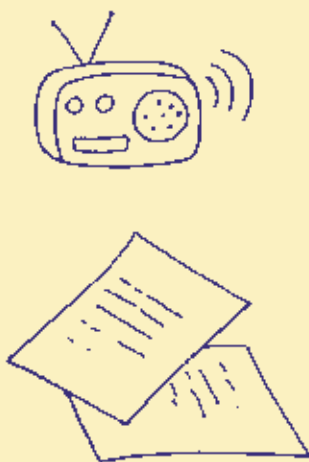




Responding to HIV

Communication strategies

- Knowledge is the only weapon
- Use of all communication channels for effective communication aimed at behaviour change
- Education in schools, colleges, workplaces and in the community
- Awareness programmes for illiterate and out-of-school youths
- Focused “one-to-one” communication with high risk groups



Political commitment

There is a strong political commitment for containing and controlling HIV/AIDS at the international and national levels. In India a Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS has been set up and a National Council on AIDS

(NCA) has been constituted under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

The National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy, 2002 and National Blood Policy, 2002 have been formulated to help tackle the epidemic.

As a concerned citizen help prevent the spread of HIV

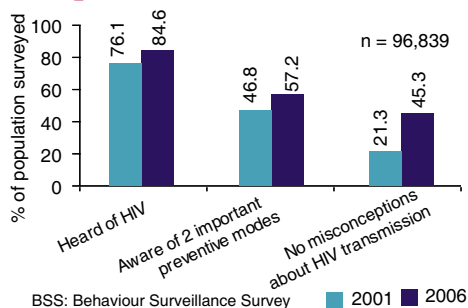
- Avoid risky behaviour
- Adopt the A (Abstinence) B (be faithful) and C (use condoms) approach

- Increase awareness among colleagues and friends
- Discuss and seek guidance on sexual behaviour and other risk behaviour
- Show tolerance and empathy towards HIV-positive persons
- Help people understand the importance of safe sexual behaviour and spread knowledge about the condom as the only prophylaxis available for protection against all sexually transmitted infections including HIV.

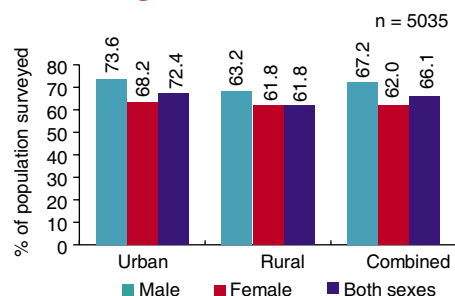


Awareness & Condom Promotion

HIV-related Awareness among General Population (BSS 2001 & 06)

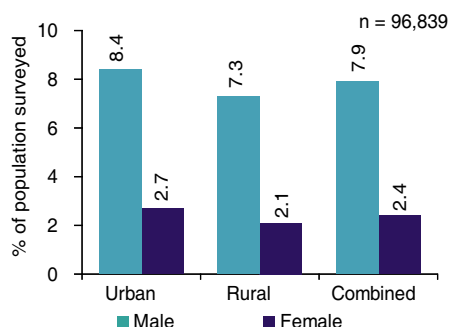


Condom Use in Last Sex with Non-regular Partner – 2006

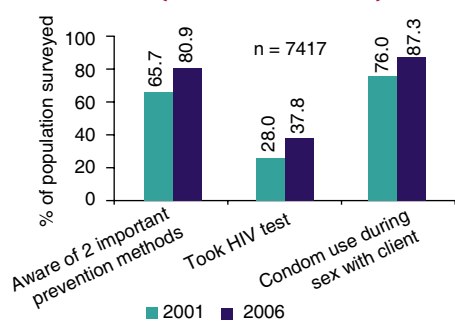


Reported Non-regular Sex Partners – 2006

Overall - 5.2 %



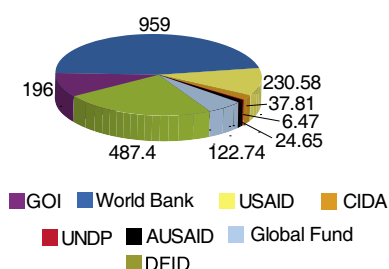
Awareness and Condom Use Among FSWs (BSS 2001 & 06)



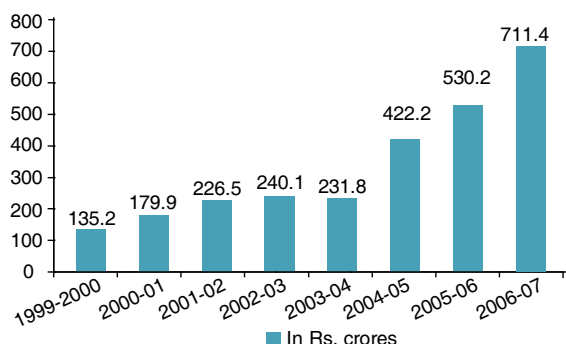
Financial Progress

Integrated NACP - II

Total Rs. 2064.65 crores



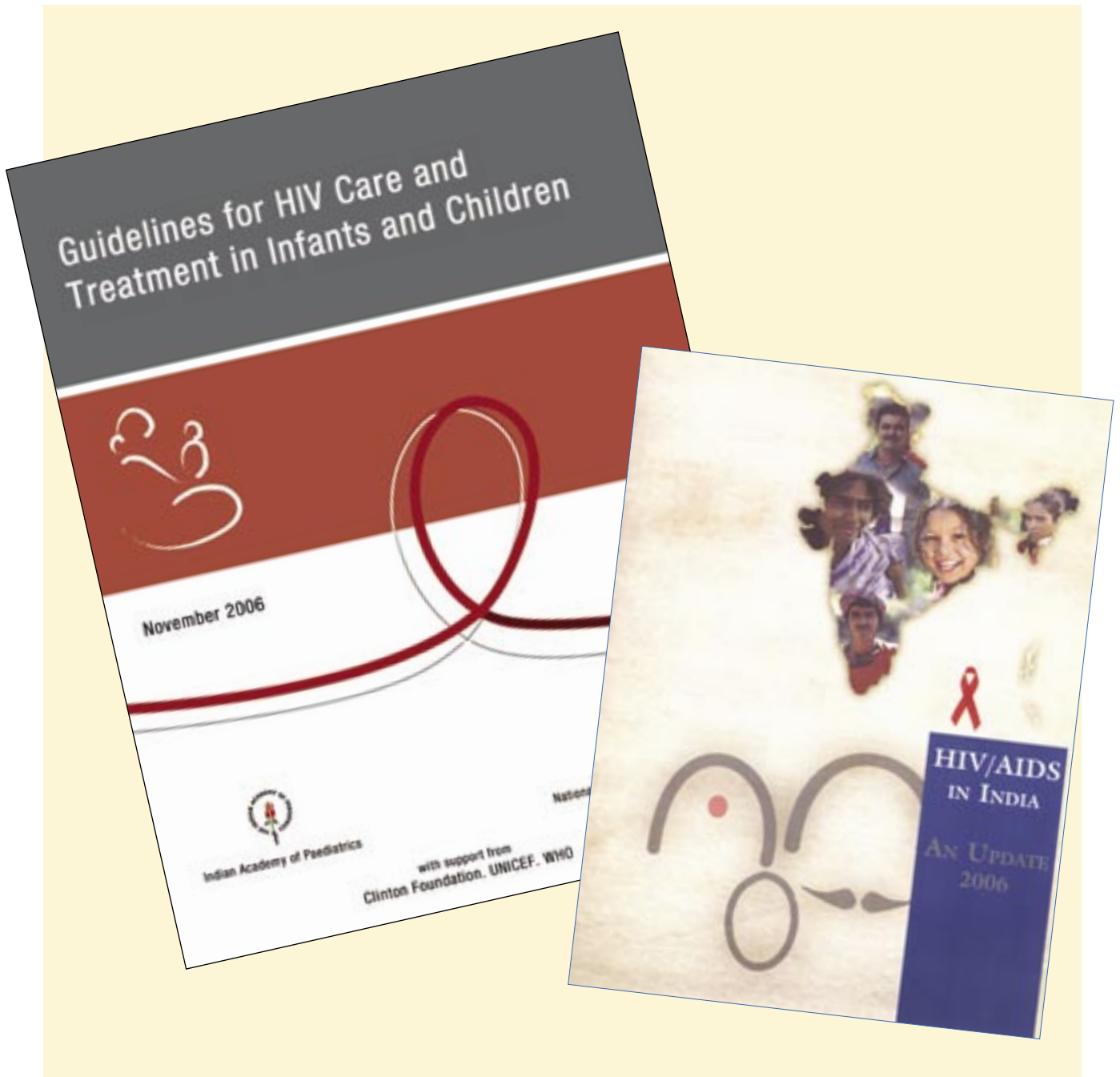
Year-wise Financial Progress



Stigma and Discrimination

Stigma and discrimination are the major obstacles to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Fear of discrimination often prevents people from seeking treatment for AIDS or from acknowledging their HIV status publicly.

- Reducing stigma and discrimination at all levels is essential
- Stigma drives people away from prevention efforts
- Promotion of testing and treatment services helps to reduce stigma



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*Photographs on front cover page: Top: Launch of the National Paediatric HIV/AIDS Initiative: Smt Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson UPA, Mr William J Clinton, Former President of USA, Mr Philippe Douste-Blazy, Foreign Minister of France, Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Smt Panabaka Lakshmi, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. Centre: HE Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, President of India releasing a commemorative postage stamp. Left: Shilpa Shetty at the World AIDS Day function in New Delhi. Right: Singer Kailash Kher performs at the 'Take Control: Say Yes to Life, No to AIDS' function on World AIDS Day in New Delhi.