

**WORLD
AIDS DAY
2019**

COMMUNITIES
make the difference

1st December 2019
Kedarnath Sahni Auditorium, New Delhi



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NEWS

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PROGRAMME

Observance of World AIDS Day-2019 : *#CommunitiesMakeTheDifference*

The World AIDS Day (WAD) is observed on 1st December every year across the World to show commitment of the Government in order to strengthen HIV/AIDS response and providing care & treatment to those infected and affected by HIV & AIDS. WAD brings an opportunity for people to unite worldwide in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have lost their lives in the battle. On WAD, awareness activities are conducted at ground level by State AIDS Control Societies involving Communities, NGOs, Civil Societies, Youth and many others. At national level, National AIDS Control Organization, an apex body of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt, organizes a mega event.

NACO conducted an event at Kedarnath Sahni

Auditorium, New Delhi on the theme: *Communities Make the Difference*, Hon'ble HFM, Dr. Harsh Vardhan graced the observance. The event marked presence of around 2,000 participants from civil society organizations, members from central government hospitals, community members, CISF personnel, students from schools and colleges, volunteers from NYKS, PLHIV representatives from NGOs, bilateral and multilateral development partners and officials from different government departments. Dr. Arun Kumar Panda, Secretary (MSME) & Secretary (in-charge), Health & Family Welfare, Sh. Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary & Director General, NACO & RNTCP, Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary NACO, Dr. Bilali Camara, Country Coordinator, UNAIDS and Dr. Henk Bekedam, WHO Representative (India) were present at the event.





“One of the unique quests is adaptability and customization of strategies according to the need of the hour. NACO has revived and revamped its conventional prevention strategies to achieve the new targets. NACO is focusing on the combination of prevention tools and methods that are needed to end the AIDS epidemic. And during these activities, NACO is keeping communities at the centre that gives uniqueness to the AIDS Control Programme in India”

The WAD is important because it reminds the public and Government that HIV has not gone away. There is still a vital need to create awareness, fight prejudice and improve education. Looking back into history, WAD was the first ever global health day held for the first time in 1988.

While sharing his thoughts with the participants, Hon'ble HFM appealed to the participants: “Let us shun any kind of discrimination in our thoughts, actions and behaviour in our interaction with those who have HIV and AIDS. Let us not bracket people who suffer from and have survived various diseases”. Hon'ble HFM appreciated the partner communities for their singular contribution to the AIDS cause in spreading information about the disease, to dispel misinformation, fear and apprehensions, and helped people to access testing and treating services of NACO. He also reminded all that although we have travelled a long distance in our

fight against AIDS and HIV, there are still some significant milestones that need to be achieved for making the country free of HIV/AIDS by 2030 such as the lingering pockets of stigma and discrimination against those who have or have had AIDS”, he added.

Hon'ble HFM also awarded various representatives of Red Ribbon Clubs which have mobilised the youth and communities across the country. More than 1200 Red Ribbon Clubs have contributed to this collective effort.

The event also saw launch of the NACO Mobile Application, new IEC Material for TI NGOs, NACO Calendar-2020, Comprehensive Module for Private Practitioners on Management of HIV/AIDS, 2019 by Dr. Harsh Vardhan. Two PLHIV members shared their experience of having survived the disease and the support they have received from NACO, and other support organizations for overcoming the stigma.



Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary & Director General, NACO & NTEP welcoming Hon'ble HFM, Dr. Harsh Vardhan to the WAD event

Dr. Shobini Rajan, ADG, NACO greeting Hon'ble HFM, Dr. Harsh Vardhan with a green-welcome



Hon'ble HFM, Dr. Harsh Vardhan took a round of the stalls put across the venue by different divisions of NACO and Development Partners



With lighting of the lamp ceremony, Hon'ble HFM, Dr. Harsh Vardhan marked an official start to the event

Launch of Comprehensive Module for Private Practitioners on Management of HIV/AIDS, 2019



Launch of NACO Calendar for the year 2020



Launch of new IEC Material for TI NGOs

Hon'ble HFM, Dr. Harsh Vardhan along with Senior Dignitaries and positive speakers, Ms. Mona Balani and Mr. Prasad



Dr. Jyotika Cheema, NACO

Observance of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day

Reaching 100% Voluntary Blood Donation by promoting the theme: At least Donate Once In A Life Time

Voluntary, non remunerated blood donors are the best assurance to an apprehensive blood recipient that blood given to him is safe and of high quality. In 2018-19, the country collected around 12.4 million blood units, contributing to nearly 2/3rd of the collection of blood in the South East Asia region. However, India must step up its blood donations by atleast 2 million more to become self sufficient to meet its own demand

for blood and blood components. National Voluntary Blood Donation Day is observed to commemorate the birthdate of Late Dr. J. G. Jolly from Chandigarh who was a pioneer in the field of modern Transfusion Medicine in India.

To raise awareness regarding this demand, National Voluntary Blood Donation Day was celebrated in august presence of Hon'ble HFM,

Dr. Harsh Vardhan and MoS, Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubeyon 1st October, 2019 at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble HFM inaugurated the Blood Donation Camp and appealed the participants to at least donate once in a year. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary & Director General, NACO & NTEP, Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO and other senior officials from NACO, MoHFW and Delhi SACS were also present in the event.

While interacting with youth of several colleges, NSS, Red Ribbon Clubs and other educational institutes from all over Delhi, Hon'ble HFM also shared the benefits of donating blood at regular intervals. He emphasized on the importance of voluntary blood donations in order to ensure a reliable supply of safe blood for patients whose lives depend on it.



Glimpses of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day

Dr Saiprasad Bhavsar, NACO

National Consultation - cum - Workshop on STI/RTI Management 2019

Basic Service Division, NACO has organized two day National Consultation-Cum-Workshop on "STI/RTI management including Syphilis" from 23rd - 24th December, 2019 at, New Delhi. The objectives of the consultation were to identify the challenges; ensure effective coordination between divisions (STI & BSD) as well as programs (NACO & NHM); enhance the understanding and

implementation of national guidelines on syphilis management at field level; and to propose the way forward to overcome the challenges in STI /RTI Management. The workshop was facilitated with support from William.J.Clinton Foundation. Senior officials from NACO and development partners participated in the workshop.



Basic Services Division, NACO

Brown Bag Seminar Talk by Ms. Shruta Rawat

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 under the chairmanship of Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO on “Demystifying the Rainbow” to discuss around LGBTQ+ identities and on-ground perspective of challenges faced by

LGBTQ+ communities by Ms. Shruta Rawat, The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai on 17th December, 2019 at NACO, New Delhi. The talk was attended by Senior officers, Programme managers from NACO, Partners, Civil Society and Community representatives.



Neha Kapoor, NACO

Unnao Epidemiological Investigation – Key Findings

The National AIDS Control Organisation in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society initiated an epidemiological investigation through Indian Council of Medical Research, Delhi & National AIDS Research

Institute, Pune to understand the reasons behind sudden increase in HIV cases in Unnao district that was reported in the media in 2017-2018.

The epidemiological investigation was conducted

to identify the factors associated with occurrence of HIV. Thirty-three cases and 125 controls were enrolled. Individual cases were detected HIV positive during November 2017-April 2018 from three locations namely Premganj, Karimuddinpur and Chakmeerapurin the Bangarmau block of Unnao. Controls hailed from the same geographical locations and tested HIV negative either in health camps or at ICTC centers from where the cases were detected. Study participants were interviewed on various risk practices and invasive treatment procedures. They were also tested for HIV and other bio-markers reflecting unsafe injecting and sexual

exposures such as HBsAg, anti-HCV antibody (HCV Ab), HCV RNA, HSV-2 IgG and RPR.



A summary of the conclusions from the investigation is as follows:

1. **'Experiencing unsafe injecting practice'** was strikingly high among People living with HIV (PLHIV).
2. **High presence of HCV Ab among HIV sero-reactive individuals.**
3. **Low and similar HSV-2 sero-reactivity among cases as well as controls helped rule out unsex being an explanatory variable for the observed occurrence of HIV and HCV infection as well.**
4. **Use of HCV and HSV-2 antibody as surrogate markers of unsafe injections and unsafe sex respectively helped in treading the path of critical analysis.**
5. **Phylogenetic analysis of HIV samples collected from cases in Unnao showed that they were monophyletic and had a common ancestor.**

Based on the findings, the following future directions are recommended:

1. **Identification of a pocket of unsafe injecting in care settings.**
2. **Immediate interventions** need to be launched in the study area to reduce the potential transmission of micro-organisms such as HIV, HCV and Hepatitis B through parenteral route.
3. **Increased demand of future community based studies.**
4. Identifying factors associated with poor adherence to anti-retroviral therapy in some of the PLHIV.
5. **Operationalising Hepatitis C treatment** for those who have been identified with HCV-RNA.
6. **Actively engaging the community** in all such endeavors.

Vinita Verma, NACO

Brown Bag Seminar Talk by Dr. Beena E. Thomas

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 “*Psychosocial challenges leading to sexual risk and rising STIs and HIV among MSM*” by Dr. Beena E. Thomas from NIRT Chennai on 9th December, 2019 at NACO, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO. The talk was attended by Senior Officers, Programme Managers from NACO, Partners, Civil Society and Community Representatives.



Neha Kapoor, NACO

Augmenting AIDS Response in Mizoram

Review meeting on progress of Integrated Action Plan at Aizawl

A two day review meeting of the status of implementation of integrated action plan with the Mizoram government officials (including deputy commissioners/representatives of all districts) and representatives of civil societies, faith-based organizations and implementation partners was held at Aizawl during 5th and 6th December, 2019, with support from Project Sunrise (a CDC supported FHI-360 intervention).

The review meet was chaired by Sh. Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary & Director General, NACO & NTEP, Sh. Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO along with the team of officers from NACO, Viral Hepatitis Programme and TB programme from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also participated and put across the urgent need of responding towards the matter.

Dr. R. Lalthangliana, Hon’ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Mizoram graced the Inaugural Session as Chief Guest. The Hon’ble Minister announced allocation of funds with creation of dedicated head in the Mizoram State’s health budget to augment the AIDS response in State demonstrating political leadership.

Also present were Shri H. Lalengmawia (Secretary Health, Govt of Mizoram), Mission Director NHM, Project Director SACS, Director Health Services, representative from North East Council, representatives of Young Mizo Association (YMA), Reverend Dr. K. Lalrinthanga, representing the Church. Country Director UNAIDS, Director CDC DGHT, and Team Leader, Communicable Diseases from WHO provided technical guidance to the sessions & discussions and committed resources to strengthen the programme in the North East.

Integrated Action Plan:

In view of the rising trends evident through HIV Sentinel Surveillance Report as well as in programmatic data, NACO initiated the process of undertaking a rapid field assessment in collaboration with Mizoram SACS and all other stakeholders to understand the context of the epidemic in the State and therefore guiding the actions towards halting and reversing the epidemic.

Accordingly, a framework for an integrated action plan was developed through a consultative process to comprehensively respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through the continuum of prevention, detection, treatment and viral suppression. The same was shared with the Mizoram State Government after a series of visits and reviews to the State by multi-disciplinary teams to support State for detailing out future actions.

The integrated action plan calls for a holistic AIDS response in State across prevention-detection-treatment continuum through the scaled up, quality oriented and client centric activities across all implementation partners under the leadership of Mizoram government. The plan further outlines a critical strategy to engage with civil societies and faith-based organizations in State to strengthen the HIV/AIDS response activities in State.



Dr. Pradeep Kumar, NACO

National EMTCT workshop – Fast Tracking EMTCT 2020

The Government of India is committed to securing universal maternal and child health in the country. Within this larger focus, utmost priorities of the Govt. are the elimination of new HIV & Syphilis infections among children and keeping their mothers alive and have viral load suppression. To accelerate the activities towards achieving the goal of EMTCT by 2020, continuous & periodical monitoring is required, In view of above, Basic Service Division - NACO has conducted one day National EMTCT workshop of identified 15

prioritized States on PMTCT on 27th November, 2019 at New Delhi.



The meeting started with an open house discussion on EMTCT tools, followed by group work on EMTCT. States/UTs were divided into four groups and discussions were conducted on the following subjects:

- (1) EMTCT Coverage in terms of HIV screening & Testing
- (2) ART Linkages, EMTCT services in terms of Saturation of Facilities & Training of Staff
- (3) EMTCT Programme Monitoring & Review SIMS, PULSE Reporting

Dr. P. Sujith, NACO

National Review Meeting of Basic Service Division, 2019

Basic Service Division of NACO conducted two days National Review Meeting of Basic Services Activities on 28th & 29th November, 2019 at New Delhi. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary & Director General, NACO & NTEP inaugurated the review meet and shared the key note address. Shri Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, NACO and other senior officials from NACO, state officials under Basic Service Division of all SACS/UTs and representatives

from development partners also attended the meet.

The objective of the meeting was to review the statewise performance of the programme under the Basic Service Division, extension of service facilities among the health infrastructures and to discuss upon the data reporting system. The meet was supported by UNICEF, India.



Dr. Sudha Goel, NACO

State Consultation Meeting of HIV/AIDS (P & C), Act 2017

Based on directives of Special Secretary & Director General, NACO & NTEP, State level consultations on HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 are convened to generate awareness on important provisions of the act. These consultations are attended by representatives from various line departments, SACS, civil society members, SALSA, law colleges, community members, NGOs and development partners. The purpose of the consultation is to assure effective implementation of the act by disseminating roles and responsibilities of each

stakeholder, formulation of a committee to finalise state rules and development of state specific IEC and awareness generation plan on the act.

As part of the activity the UT of Pondicherry conducted the State Consultation Meeting on 13th December, 2019 for drafting the State Rules. District Collector, District Judge, UTPLSA, SSP (Headquarters), Commissioners from Transport, HRI/WAKF, Labour and various Heads of Govt. departments, and representatives of NGOs/CBOs participated in the consultation.



PSACS

Launch of *JINDAGI* App for PLHAs

Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society (MDACS) in collaboration with CDC/VHS, and AVEGEN Pvt. Ltd. has developed a novel treatment literacy app: '*JINDAGI*' in order to empower the People Living with HIV with, disease information, motivation & skills to adopt the healthy behavior. The app will address the issue of poor health seeking behavior and high rate of treatment default among newly registered patients at ART centers.

2019, by Smt. Kishori Pednekar, Hon'ble Mayor, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) in presence of Advocate Suhas Wadkar, Hon'ble Dy. Mayor, MCGM; Smt. Sheetal Mhatre, Hon'ble Chairman, Law Committee, MCGM; Dr. Ashwini Joshi, Hon'ble Additional Municipal Commissioner (W.S.), MCGM; Dr. Padmaja Keskar, Project Director, MDACS & Dr. Shrikala Acharya, Additional Project Director, MDACS.

The '*JINDAGI*' app was launched on 29th November,



People can access videos on more than thirty themes, infographics, and quizzes on various topics on their smart phones using the '*JINDAGI*' app. The app has special features of mood tracker for mental health counseling & a reminder system for pill intake. The themes for the videos are based on the needs assessment among people and highlight the issues of regular & lifelong

treatment, misconceptions & stigma, safe behavior & nutrition using animation characters. The app will be helpful to identify the patients with poor health indicators at an early stage for ensuring patient centric counseling and to reduce defaults amongst newly registered patients.

MDSACS

A month long campaign by Tamil Nadu SACS to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS

In order to commemorate World AIDS Day 2019, TNSACS conducted a month long campaign in entire state which started from 1st December, 2019.

To make the campaign a big success, Hon'ble Chief Minister's message was published in all leading newspapers. Project Director, TNSACS, wrote to all the District Administration to extend their support to raise pre-publicity in their

respective jurisdictions. 17 mobile IEC vans were used to generate awareness in the unreached terrains. A live talk show was telecast on Doordarshan. Short messages related to awareness were floated on various FM stations in local language. HIV messages were also scrolled in all local cable channels. Human chains were formed at multiple Taluk and Block level. Various infotaining competitions were held for CLHIVs through positive networks.



TNSACS

Campaign on 'Know Your HIV Status' across the state of West Bengal

WBSACS organized an IEC Campaign on 'Know your HIV Status' across West Bengal in collaboration with the BSD Division which was implemented through District Health Authorities (DHA) in the month of December, 2019. The campaign was organized through 111 HIV screening-cum-awareness camps at major railway stations and bus stops across West Bengal. The

pre-publicity of the campaign was done with help of IEC Vans. Folk Media performances were organized for the crowd mobilization in the camps. Infotaining programmes were also aired on AIR and private FM channels. The District Level Networks, TI NGOs, ASHA/ANMs of the respective district participated actively in the campaign to generate awareness regarding safe behaviours.



EVENTS

MAITRI – MATCH held at Sawai Man Singh Stadium held by RSACS to raise AWARENESS ABOUT HIV/AIDS

A *Matri-Match* was organized by Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society in association with P. S. Sports Agency on 21st December, 2019 with the aim of reducing stigma and discrimination against PLHIV and at most risk populations and to create awareness in general population. The playing teams comprised of members from NACO, players from P. S. Sports Agency (National & Ranji), RSACS state officials, members from departments partners and People Living with HIV.

As cricket is a famous game, RSACS used it as a tool to create awareness among the general population and conveying the message to reduce stigma and discrimination towards PLHIVs in Rajasthan. The *Matri Match – Cricket* was jointly organized by Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society and P. S. Sports Agency in collaboration with IDBI Bank, HLFPPT, Support Trust, Lotus Dairy and Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd.



Anand Mela for Children Living with HIV - MDACS

An infotainment event titled '**Anand Mela**' was organized by MDACS on 7th December, 2019 for children Living with HIV at MDACS premises, Mumbai. A number of 328 children along with their parents participated in the carnival.

Renowned Marathi actress Smt. Chinmayee Sumit spent an entire day with children.



Children gained knowledge through infotainment Activities like **science based experiments** by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad & Radio station. **We Kids Radio live on MUST Radio 107.8 FM** was the center of attraction.



Best performers of **Talent Hunt Competition** received prizes from Smt. Chinmayee Sumit. There were young rappers, fashion designers, singers, dancers among them.



Aarogya Mela for Widows Living with HIV - MDACS

A health fair was conducted for widows living with HIV on 5th December, 2019 at MDACS premises. A number of 174 widows taking treatment from different ART centers in Mumbai participated in the event. MDACS has collaborated with different government departments to address various needs of these women and to help them overcome stigma and discrimination. The event also saw launch of 'MCGM supported financial assistance Scheme for Widows'. The beneficiaries of the scheme belong to lower socio-economic

strata of society and are also among the vulnerable groups of workers.

Informatory Stalls on Self Help Group (SHG), skill building, income generation, banking & legal literacy were put up in collaboration with *Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM)*, WCD; *Jan Shiksha Sanstha, Shramik Vidyapeeth*; District Legal Service Authority (DLSA); HDFC bank & *Ambika Yog Kutir*.



Launch of leaflet on 'MCGM supported financial assistance Scheme for Widows'

Participants visited each stall to gather detailed information. Women were happy to get the information about free legal support available from DLSA. *Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal* extended support in formation of Self Help Groups. Whereas, Planning dept. of MCGM assured the support to widows in income generation activities. Participants enthusiastically followed yoga demo given by *Ambika Yog Kutir*. Leaving behind the grief & leading a normal life was a theme of dance performance presented by *Ekta Foundation*, TI NGO. Health lits comprising various

day-to-day products in need and personal hygiene were also distributed to the participants.



Observance of World AIDS Day 2019 in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society observed World AIDS Day with the theme: *Communities Make the Difference* at District and State level on 1st December, 2019. At state level, several activities like exhibition stalls, signature campaign, folk performances, rock - band performance, performance of children of UPNP+ network and candle lighting ceremony by standing in the shape

of red ribbon were organized at the heritage place of *The Roomi Gate* at Chowk, Lucknow. At district level, many health authorities organized events with the help of TI NGOs. District level networks also organized activities in slum areas, schools, colleges and community hubs. Awareness messages were broadcast on FM stations such as *Radio Mirchi* and *Radio City*.

Smt. Kamini Chuahan Ratan, Project Director, UPSACS inaugurated the event and visited the stalls.



Observance of World AIDS Day 2019 in Haryana

A State level function for observing the World AIDS Day was conducted at Red Bishop Tourist Complex, Panchkula by Haryana State AIDS Control Society. The Chief Guest for the event was Shri Gian Chand Gupta, Hon'ble Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha. The occasion also saw the presence of Sh. Rajeev Arora, Additional Chief Secretary Health. Dr. Veena Singh, Project Director, Dr. Suvir Saxena, Additional Project Director and

staff of Health Department were also present at the event.

For strengthening the IEC interventions regarding Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT) component, two vans were flagged-off for Panchkula and Ambala. These vans will provide HIV and Syphilis testing to pregnant women and general public in rural areas.



Observance of World AIDS Day 2019 in Rajasthan

Realizing that in order to effectively combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, it is necessary to stimulate involvement at all levels, Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society ensured the participation of the partner agencies, college students, staff members, and common-men in observing the World AIDS Day, 2019. A state level event was organized at the Indoor Stadium of HIMA RIPA to create awareness regarding the issue of HIV/AIDS and to call for support for PLHIV from all spheres of life. Dr. K. K. Sharma, Director, Public Health was the Chief Guest at the event. Dr. R.P. Doria, Project Director, chaired the function and Dr. Ravi

Sharma, Director SIHFW were also present at the observance.

In contrast to the seriousness of the series of discussion held over the issue of HIV/AIDS, cultural programmes were presented by the college students which built a jovial atmosphere around. The enthusiasm of the youth manifested their active participation and determination in the fight against HIV & AIDS in the state. People living with HIV/AIDS including infected and affected children also participated in the event.



Observance of World AIDS Day 2019 in Goa

For the observance of World AIDS Day 2019, Goa State AIDS Control Society organised a RED RIBBON WALKATHON at Panjim Goa in which people from various walks of life came to show their support for people Living with HIV (PLHIV) and exhorted the community at large to unite against discrimination of PLHIV.

Smt. Nila Mohanan, Health Secretary - Goa, flagged-off the walkathon from Miramar circle. Dr. Shekhar Salkar, Consultant Surgical Oncologist, Manipal Hospital, Dr. A. Siona Gomes, Project Director were also present at the occasion along with other officials of GOA SACS.

Goa based senior Indian cricketer Ms. Shikha Pandey was the chief Guest for the event.

Folk artists from *lokrang curchorem* also performed a street play at ESG building to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS.



Observance of World AIDS Day 2019 in Himachal Pradesh

HPSACS has organized a state level function to observe World AIDS Day on 1st December, 2019 at Hotel Peterhoff, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. Sh. Vipin Singh Parmar, Hon'ble Health Minister Himachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest at the occasion. During the event, Hon'ble Minister flagged-off mass rally of 1200 NSS volunteers, NCC cadets and students of schools and colleges. A number of activities were conducted by youth from various schools and colleges. Hon'ble Minister

also requested all the participants to not discriminate anyone on the basis of his/her HIV status.

A one month Campaign from 1st to 31st December, 2019 on occasion of World AIDS Day was also organized in entire state. In this campaign approximately 30 line departments and organizations will be collaborating to organize awareness activities on HIV prevention.



Sensitization session held for GAIL India Officials by Pondicherry SACS

A sensitization session was conducted at GAIL India's office at Karaikal. A total of 35 officials participated in the interactive session which was also connected to other 4 plants of GAIL through video conferencing. Participants raised many questions to the facilitator and clarified doubts.



Observance of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day - Uttarakhand SACS

On the Occasion of National Blood Donation Day, 1st October, 2019 a voluntary blood donation camp was organized by USACS, at Chief Minister's residence. The Camp was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Trivendra Singh Rawat. Sh. Sunil Uniyal, Mayor Dehradun Nagar Nigam, Principal Secretary Health, Project Director and Additional Project Director were also present at the event.

A part from this, various organizations working in collaboration with USACS conducted blood

donation camps in different locations in Uttarakhand. These organizations were also recognized for their contribution in mobilizing community at large for conducting blood donation camps and were awarded with a token of appreciation by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

A folk performance was also done by Shambhav Kala Manch at the event. The troupe performed a play on the importance of voluntary blood donation.



