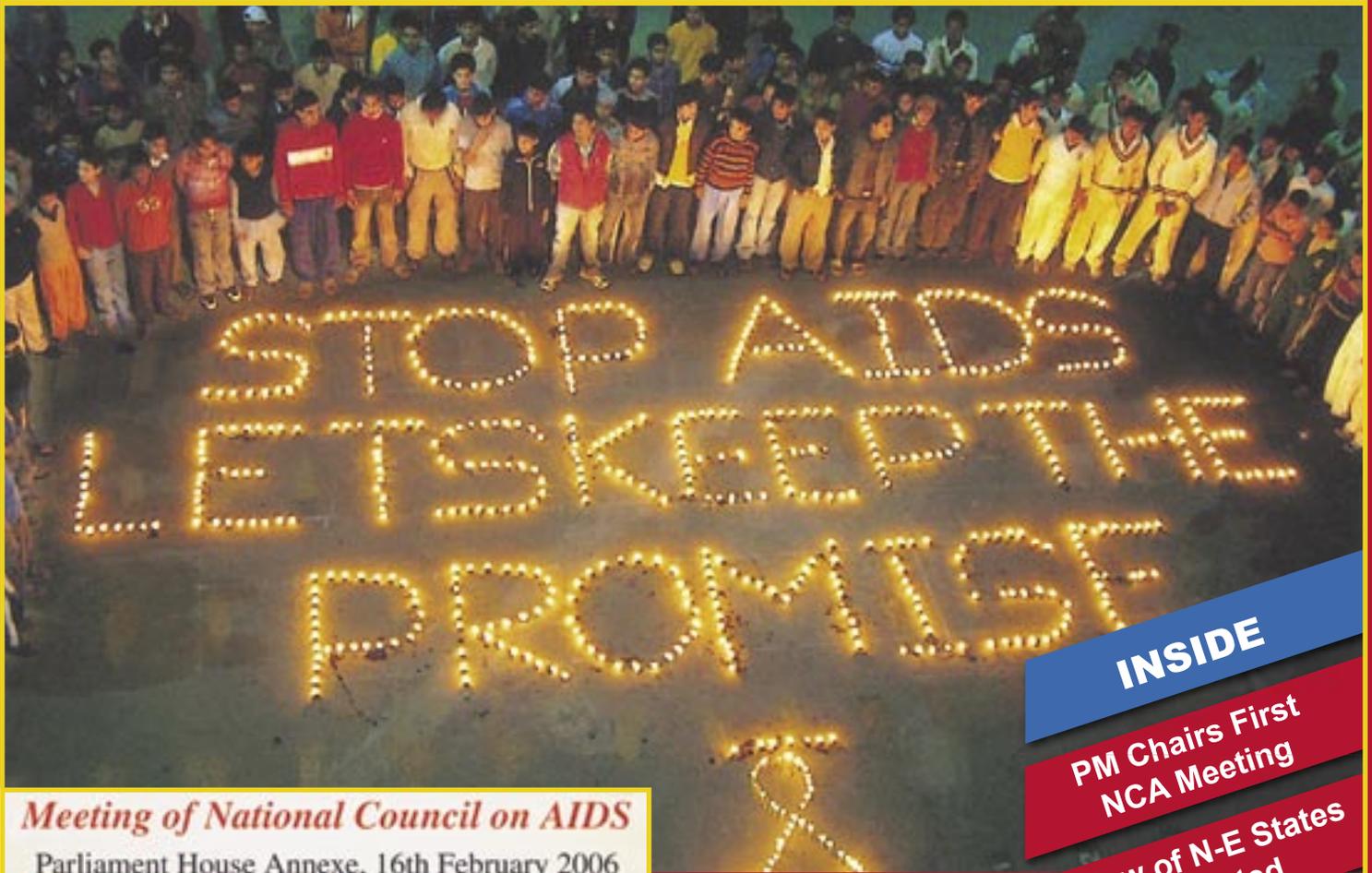


NACO NEWS

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Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
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Meeting of National Council on AIDS

Parliament House Annexe, 16th February 2006

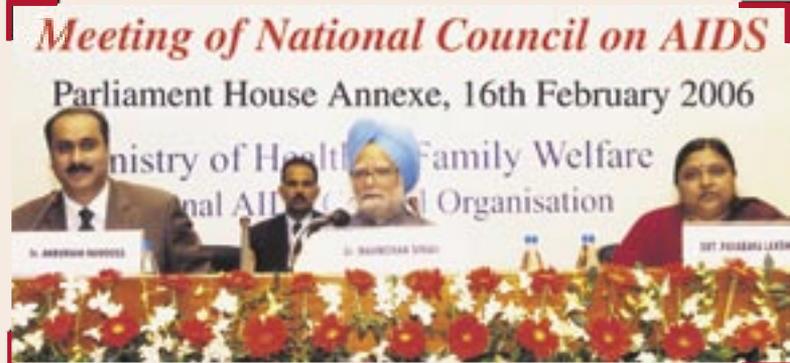


“ HIV / AIDS is today a global threat to humanity. It has become a serious socio-economic and a developmental concern... It must move out of the narrow confines of the health department and become an integral part of all government departments. ”

Dr. Manmohan Singh



PM Chairs First NCA Meeting



Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister, H&FW, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister and Smt. P. Lakshmi, MoS H&FW at the first meeting of the National Council on AIDS

The first meeting of the National Council on AIDS (NCA), led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh was a unique demonstration of the nation's resolve to fight HIV/AIDS and lead a multi-sectoral response by mainstreaming issues related to the pandemic in all ministries and departments.

“India lives in states. Unless each state government responds and implements its strategy on HIV/AIDS, we won't be able to contain the epidemic.”

- Dr. Manmohan Singh

February 16, 2006 saw the coming together of members of the Council representing Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, State Health Ministers, Health Secretaries, NGOs, CBOs and People from Positive Networks in New Delhi in an interactive session. The meeting helped to outline the path which central and

state government ministries could follow in integrating HIV/AIDS awareness, education and training into their agendas, ongoing activities and programmes.

Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Union Minister, H&FW vice-chaired the meeting and said, “India has achieved considerable success in spreading awareness. The real challenge now lies in bringing about appropriate behaviour change.” Smt. P. Lakshmi, MoS H&FW, Sh. P.K Hota, Secretary Health, Ms. Sujatha Rao, AS & DG, NACO were also present on the occasion.

A special multimedia presentation titled, ‘**Mainstreaming for Partnership**’ highlighted issues of concern and expressed an immediacy to fight the epidemic collectively. In an open discussion, members cited success stories and outlined plans which their states could carry out while expressing full support to the mainstreaming effort.

Sh. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Science & Technology and Ocean

Development, suggested exempting diagnostic kits from excise duty, stepping up investment in research/ manufacture of drugs and convening a Special Session of Parliament on HIV/AIDS demonstrating government's commitment to HIV. Other important issues raised by Members included strengthening of public health infrastructure, reducing prices of ARV drugs and initiating strategies to ensure universal access to HIV testing and treatment. A close examination of critical provisions of the Patents Act like data exclusivity and compulsory licensing were requested to make second line drugs affordable and accessible to PLHAs.

Members pressed for a review of the recent proposal to amend the Immoral Traffic Act which they felt would push sex work underground leading to greater difficulty in tackling high risk groups. They suggested an amendment in Section 377 of IPC which criminalises men having sex with men (MSM).

Sh. Vilas Rao Deshmukh, Chief Minister, Maharashtra, urged the NCA to formulate strategies to motivate youth while stepping up counselling facilities in primary health/rehabilitation centres. He shared the experience of 1800 Condom Vending Machines (CVMs) being successfully installed across the state.

With HIV no longer confined to high risk groups alone, the Council emphasised on a multi-pronged strategy to reach all segments of

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From the Desk of the Director General



Dear Readers,

Ever since I took over in late November 2005, I have been interacting with donors, partners and SACS to get a better understanding of the epidemic which threatens to erode the socio-developmental fabric of the nation. It is evident that all our collective energies are needed to bring prevalence rates down.

My close interaction with Project Directors from various SACS has given me insights into what is being done at the grassroots level. We are in the process of drawing up Action Plans for 2006-07, making budgetary allocations and reviewing strategies/activities. Seeing the trend of the epidemic, NACO will increasingly focus on youth and gender. Routinising use of condoms through behaviour change, encouraging HIV testing and tackling stigma and discrimination will be the guiding brief for our campaigns.

We have been fortunate in having the Prime Minister as the Chairman of the National Council on AIDS (NCA) which was constituted last year by the President of India. Providing leadership to what is a very critical step in the nation's battle against HIV, Dr. Manmohan Singh chaired the first meeting of the NCA on February 16, 2006.

NACO is setting up an exclusive Mainstreaming Cell which will coordinate with 31 ministries and other members to mainstream issues of HIV/AIDS into their agendas for an expanded national response.

Encouraging us to find new and novel ways of reaching messages to the real India which lives in the rural hinterland, Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare had a briefing-cum interactive session with Project Directors. He also visited NACO for a review and presentation of the Draft HIV/AIDS Bill.

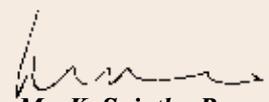
Senior officials from NACO undertook extensive field visits to assess the readiness in combating the epidemic in the highly vulnerable North Eastern states. Clearly, a lot needs to be done in creating better accessibility, upscaling services and delivery and establishing greater understanding of factors which impede work. The feedback will enable us develop a workable strategy to plug implementation gaps and utilise funds better. The Guwahati Declaration signed at the Conclave of Elected Representatives of N-E states saw the coming together of Chief Ministers from all North Eastern states, expressing a joint commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS.

World AIDS Day (WAD) gives us an opportunity to pause and review the work undertaken so far and to renew our commitment and promise towards those battling HIV/AIDS and those who are still ignorant of their vulnerabilities. The enthusiastic observance of

WAD in every state, district, city and village by our SACS and partner NGOs and CBOs is indicative of the huge amount of effort that is being made at the field level in creating awareness and bringing about desired behaviour change.

The National Convention on HIV/AIDS for Youth and Political Wing Leaders at Vigyan Bhavan was a momentous occasion with the PM urging the nation to break the silence surrounding AIDS and to nurture an atmosphere which facilitates honest dialogue on sexuality. The NACO-PCI Walk for Life was a national event which culminated at a gala function in New Delhi on World AIDS Day. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the then Chairperson, National Advisory Council addressed the gathering and drew attention to the stepping up of treatment and services for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

As everyone takes stock of a new financial year, NACO along with SACS and its partners has a lot of introspection to do. Some inroads have been made but a lot more needs to be done. While we review targets and strategies and NACP-III gains momentum, we must acknowledge that the battle against AIDS is poised at a challenging level. If we join hands we can triumph and if we don't, the grim scenario can well be envisaged. The message as I see it is that we can and we must overcome this crisis.



Ms. K. Sujatha Rao
(AS & DG)
NACO

Review of North-Eastern States

As part of NACO's strategy for upscaling services and delivery in the highly vulnerable North Eastern states on priority, exhaustive field visits were carried out by Ms. Sujatha Rao, AS & DG, NACO and other senior officials including Dr. N.S Dharamshaktu, APD, Sh. Amardeep S. Bhatia, Director Finance, Dr. A.K Khera, JD (ART), Dr. Inder Prakash, JD (Trg.) and Dr. I.B Sareen, Consultant, from January 18-22, 2006.

The feedback and inputs from Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh were taken up

at a review meeting in Guwahati on January 23. Project Directors of the eight N-E SACS, state government officials, representatives from World Bank, UNAIDS, UNODC, BMGF and members of positive networks conducted a review of activities at sub-district level, pertaining to implementation and utilisation of funds under different components of NACP.

The review was based on meetings with state health officials and in some cases with the Health Minister himself. Administrative and technical problems like shortage of personnel, strengthening

training for Targeted Interventions (TI), lack of coordination among donors, partners and SACS were identified. Visits were carried out to TI projects to take stock of work done for vulnerable groups such as intravenous drug users, youth and women.

The review showed gaps in implementation, highlighting need for expanded services and scaled up service delivery. A decision was taken to expedite the setting up of NACO's branch office in Guwahati to enable formulation of state-specific interventions and regular inspection and monitoring. A follow-up review meeting for the N-E states has been tentatively scheduled for April in Meghalaya.

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PM Chairs First...

society. Smt. Renuka Choudhary, Minister of Women and Child Development, drew attention to India's declining sex ratio and the need for steps to be taken vis-a-vis promoting nutritional levels, decreasing vulnerability to opportunistic infections and

positioning bold messaging on HIV prevention, especially in beauty parlours and tattoo centres.

Sh. Mani Shankar Aiyer, Minister of Panchayati Raj, Youth Affairs and Sports, suggested that strategies be formulated to involve all Panchayati Raj bodies in HIV/AIDS containment efforts amongst youth.

The PM concluded by saying that only a united and unequivocal resolve would help save the country from an impending tragedy. He suggested the setting up of a smaller group within the NCA with representation of experts to review the present national strategy for coping with the challenge of AIDS.

Suggested Recommendations

- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to aim for greater coverage of HIV/AIDS through media channels.
- Ministry of Surface Transport to print HIV/AIDS messages on all government and private, medium and heavy vehicles.
- Ministry of Posts & Communications to release postal stamp on HIV/AIDS on WAD 2006.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation to display HIV messages within airport premises, include messages/write-ups in their magazines and secure similar support from other private airlines.
- Ministry of Railways to provide free space for permanent hoardings, CVMs and for displaying message panels at railway stations/reservation counters.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Ministry of I&B to position HIV/AIDS logo/messages in high profile events (cricket matches, film award functions).
- Build partnership with NGOs implementing programmes in other departments for dissemination of HIV messages.
- Establish workplace policy with CII for private factories and provision of testing, counselling and treatment.
- Motivate private sector to participate in the Indo-US corporate fund for HIV/AIDS and request Ministry of Finance to exempt contributions from tax.

Guwahati Declaration Signed for North-Eastern States

HIV is an issue of growing concern in the North-Eastern states and its spread and impact is exacerbated in the context of drug use and unsafe sexual practices. UNAIDS and NACO, in partnership with the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS organised a Conclave of Elected Representatives of the North Eastern states on November 19, 2005 in Guwahati, Assam.

The meeting brought together four North-Eastern Chief Ministers and nearly 100 elected representatives for a day-long deliberation on inter-state HIV-related issues aimed at developing regional strategies for an upscaled response. The highlight of the meeting was the signing of the Guwahati Declaration, which is a significant step in drawing attention to the highly precarious situation which exists in the North Eastern states, especially vis-à-vis their high vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Signed by Chief Ministers of the North-East and witnessed by Dr. Peter Piot, UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director, UNAIDS in Guwahati on November 19, 2005, the Declaration is a people-centric, people-driven and people-owned initiative, conceptualised as a unique democratic instrument aiming at containing the epidemic and mitigating its impact.

The signatories pledged to meet at least twice a year, to review the progress and initiate appropriate action, exchange experiences, share knowledge, and execute cross-border actions including joint planning, mobilisation and service delivery,

towards the achievement of HIV resilient families and AIDS-free communities. Elected representatives who serve as a link between people and government

will ensure that mechanisms are in place so that fundamental rights are not violated by the impact of the epidemic and that people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS are not subjected to discrimination.

Scope of the Guwahati Declaration

- Draft a legislation which guarantees universal access to information, prevention, treatment and services to alleviate impact of AIDS.
- Create a standing committee of the legislative house, chaired by the CM, to review and monitor the state's response to the epidemic.
- Engage Panchayati Raj Institutions at village, block and district levels to mobilise participation of sarpanches, Zilla Parishad chairpersons and chief executive members of autonomous councils.
- Strengthen infrastructure such as testing centres and blood banks.
- Support allocation of funds for AIDS control activities, especially at district and block levels.
- Integrate HIV control activities into mainstream development, by advancing a multi-sectoral response.
- Disseminate correct information through state information and public relations departments, media and e-governance/information outlets.
- Engage the education, home, police, social justice and social welfare departments; positive networks; marginalised community; political parties and every section of society in the battle against HIV/AIDS.
- Improve distribution of condoms and assign needle-exchange programme and harm reduction as key strategies for AIDS prevention.
- Adopt special measures to protect youth and children and address feminisation of the epidemic through empowerment programmes.
- Create a regional AIDS Prevention and Control Coalition of legislators (North-East) to consolidate action.
- Mobilise and synergise participation of private sector, civil society, FBOs, opinion leaders, media, staff unions, plantation industry, oil industry, youth leadership and PLHAs to build concerted action at community level.
- Encourage participation of public health staff and other social workers, by instituting regional awards of excellence and enhancing measures to uphold accountability in HIV surveillance and reporting.

Draft HIV/AIDS Bill Presented to Minister of H&FW

The Lawyers' Collective presented a draft of the HIV/AIDS Bill to Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister for H&FW at a meeting held on January 10, 2006 at NACO. The Bill relates to access to HIV/AIDS services and facilities for testing, human rights, disclosure of information, social security, procedure in court and implementation. Senior officials from Directorate General of Health Services, AS & DG NACO, Jt. Secy, Ministry of Law along with consultants and officers from NACO attended the presentation.

Sh. Anand Grover, Executive Director, Lawyers' Collective, presented the background context for the Draft Bill and cited Acts like the Trafficking Prevention Act, Narcotics, Drug and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act and the Juvenile Justice Act which seriously impact the lives of PLHAs. Disempowerment leads to marginalisation and stigmatisation of PLHAs, making the issue of their

empowerment critical. This view is also corroborated by WHO stating that the best approach for containing the epidemic is by protecting the rights of PLHAs.

The National HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Policy, 2002 is based on the empowerment of PLHAs and the federal statute which will help state governments to take effective measures. NACO's policy, being rights-based and unprotected by law, makes it necessary for a central statute to be in place.

After the Draft Bill was submitted to MoH&FW, it was circulated to all SACS. Feedback and inputs from NACO and SACS have been forwarded to Lawyers' Collective for inclusion in the revised Bill. This would be examined by the MoH&FW before finally being sent to concerned ministries for comments and to the Ministry of Law and Justice for vetting.

Consensus Achieved on Key Issues

- NACO to be treated as an independent statutory body to ensure the right kind of pressure on state governments.
- Wider discussion required on the issue of insurance to decide whether it should be discriminatory or non-discriminatory.
- Not to insist on written consent but accept informed consent.
- Disclosure power currently invested in doctors to be expanded to include health workers.
- Testing before marriage to be optional and not mandatory. Introduce cost effective self-testing kits.
- HIV positive status to be included in the Bill as grounds for divorce.
- Bill to include the right to know the HIV status of the prospective groom.

HIV/AIDS Awareness in Kolkata's Discos

HIV/AIDS awareness in discotheques is an unusual initiative undertaken by West Bengal SACS, which has tied up with popular DJ Josey from UK. He balances his music and dance sessions by interspersing HIV messages on key issues highlighting awareness on routes of transmission, being faithful and practising safe sex. Using a conversational and

non-judgemental tone, he finds the receptivity of youngsters much higher. He has often ended up chatting with youngsters, counselling them on HIV/AIDS, long after the disco's music has stopped. The informal setting of a dance club, seems more amenable to discussion on subjects youngsters may otherwise be reluctant to approach. The 30-year old DJ has

a Ph.D in Biochemistry and has made the concept of "Awareness in Discotheque Society" his mission. According to Josey, it is easier for a DJ to hold the attention of youngsters and impart sensitive messages on HIV/AIDS interspersed with music rather than disseminating messages on the street.

Josey has held workshops for other DJs in Kolkata, training them to incorporate messages on HIV in their music.

Review Meeting with Project Directors of SACS

Ms. Sujatha Rao, AS & DG, NACO, steered two consecutive meetings on December 21-22, 2005 and January 30-31, 2006 with Project Directors (PDs) from SACS expressing urgency on utilisation of budgets which were released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the financial year 2004-05. She asked SACS to confirm the amount that was released and spent by them, to enable it become a baseline for future reviews. PDs were asked to reconcile unsettled advances and to send utilisation certificates.

Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare interacted with PDs on January 31, 2006 and reviewed performance of states. Encouraging honest dialogue and feedback, he highlighted the need to step up awareness in rural areas, routinise use of condoms, mainstream initiatives amongst all stakeholders and encourage formation of self-help groups. He also reminded states to hold intensive IEC campaigns on

the lines of AASHA and Goonj which were held last year in Andhra Pradesh and Chandigarh, respectively.

Targets were reviewed as per physical targets approved under the Annual Action Plan for

2005-06. Expansion plans regarding implementation of programme components including ART rollout, achieving the target of establishing 197 VCTCs in states by the end of the current FY, stepping up targeted interventions from 965 to 1447, setting up red ribbon awareness clubs at village and district level were also discussed.

Action Points

- Review GFATM projects and funds reviewed by development partners.
- Constitute state committees under the chairmanship of CMs and mainstream HIV/AIDS in every government department and organisation.
- List departments which would be involved in the mainstreaming process and identify entry points in training programmes and IEC activities.
- Regularise monthly reporting by ART centres.
- Fill vacant positions immediately.
- Donors to contribute in strengthening existing surveillance system.
- Ensure minimum standards of quality in all interventions of partners.

Mr. Deepak Gupta, Additional Secretary, Dr. L.S Chauhan, DDG (TB) and officials of TB Division reviewed programme implementation in six high prevalence states, taking up issues pertaining to HIV-TB Coordination.

Condom Vending Machines Installed in 15 States/UTs

Gol/NACO has entered into a strategic partnership with Hindustan Latex Limited (HLL) on a Condom Vending Machine (CVM) Project with the objective of routinising use of condoms by improving accessibility and availability across states. Under the project 11,025 CVMs were proposed for installation and operationalisation in 42 districts

of six high HIV prevalence states and 24 districts of four EAG states. HLL has set up an operational network and has augmented the Hyderabad-based CVM cell for maintenance and management of the CVM Project.

On World AIDS Day, CVMs were inaugurated by Chief Ministers and other dignitaries in 15 places

which included Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Jharkand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Delhi. NGOs working in Targeted Intervention Projects were consulted before finalising vending machine locations. Care was taken to install CVMs in places with large movement of crowds like petty shops, toilets, cinema halls, medical stores and wine shops. Caretakers for each machine were identified and trained.

Media Sensitisation Workshops in Six States

With a view to having an informed and sensitised media which can take the HIV/AIDS agenda forward in the public realm, NACO has entered into a strategic partnership with the Udayan Sharma Foundation and Samyak Foundation to organise a series of media sensitisation workshops covering 11 Hindi speaking states. This is one of the follow-up activities to the Media Summit which was chaired by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh in January 2005, where

media leaders pledged to use their collective communications expertise and resources to spread awareness about the epidemic.

Successful workshops have been held in Jaipur, Bhopal, Dehradun, Raipur and Lucknow with an impressive turnout of editors reporters, government officials and NGOs.

Resource persons included Ms. Alka Narang, HIV/AIDS division head and Deputy Resident

Representative UNDP, India, Dr. Chandrashekhara Reddy from WHO, Mr. Rahul Dev, senior journalist, Ms. Mona Mishra, HIV/AIDS expert from UNDP and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Executive Director of Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses.

Objectives

- Build a pool of informed journalists and photographers who can contribute in strengthening non-paid media coverage.
- Generate positive and progressive thinking amongst journalists.
- Equip journalists with information which helps them discard prejudice, bias and misinformation.
- Newspapers to accord priority to reporting on HIV/AIDS.
- Assign a specialised beat on HIV, rather than clubbing it with health.
- Shape public opinion and help create an atmosphere which allows PLHAs to live with equal rights.



Sh. Rahul Dev, senior journalist, Smt. Neelima Sharma of Udayan Sharma Foundation and Sh. N.D. Tiwari, CM, Uttaranchal at the inauguration of the workshop in Dehradun

Seventh State-of-the-art Blood Bank Inaugurated in Patna

The seventh state-of-the-art blood bank was inaugurated in Patna's Jaiprabha Hospital by Sh. G.S Kang, Chief Secretary, Bihar recently.

During NACP II it was proposed to establish ten state-of-the-art model blood banks in eight under-served states namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh,

Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Over the period, six state-of-the-art blood banks located at Lucknow, Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Indore and Jaipur have been made operational by NACO and have since opened for the service of the public. In all the blood banks staff training has been completed as per standard guidelines.

Third ART Centre in UP

The third ART centre at the LLRM Medical College in Meerut was inaugurated by Dr. Usha Sharma, Principal of the Medical College on December 9, 2005. This centre would enhance the survival and quality of those living with HIV/AIDS and bring down the risk of HIV transmission.

NACP III Planning Process Gathers Momentum

The months of November and December 2005 witnessed hectic preparations for the development of State Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). In order to facilitate the process, a series of nine regional workshops were conducted in various parts of the country to discuss

and fine tune the draft PIPs of the States/UTs. The participation of NACP-III planning team members, professional experts and the core teams from various States/UTs enriched the process. Based on the inputs provided, the States/UTs were expected to

submit their final plan documents to the planning team by early January 2006 for preparation of the National PIP. The planning team had also organised a separate workshop involving the North-Eastern states from November 18-20 to evolve a strategy for these states.

First Meeting of Technical Committee on ART

The first meeting of the newly formed Technical Committee on ART, constituted by Ms. Sujatha Rao, AS & DG, NACO was held on December 23 2005 to review various technical and management issues related to scaling up of the ART programme in the country. The meeting was attended by Dr. S. Rajasekaran,

Medical Superintendent, GHM, Tambaram, Chennai, Dr. S. Tripathi, NARI, Pune, Dr. Ajay Wanchu, PGI, Chandigarh, Dr. S. Swaminathan, TRC, Chennai, officials from WHO, UNICEF and NACO among others.

The meeting concluded with the formation of seven sub-groups on

PPTCT, Opportunistic Infection (OI), National ART, Accreditation of ART centres, laboratory aspects of OI and ART and training curricula of lab technicians, doctors, nurses and counsellors. Two research projects on clinical research on NVP and Research on Rifampicin+EFV-drug dosage were also approved.

Fact File on ART Programme

- GoI's free ART programme was launched on April 1, 2004 in six high prevalence states and NCT of Delhi.
- A total of 52 ART centres in 20 states are functional and 17,999 people are receiving free ART.
- Institutions will be identified, laboratory infrastructure strengthened (CD4 machines), capacity-building programme of ART teams undertaken and ARV drugs procured by end of 2006.
- An estimated 100,000 patients will be put on free ART programme in 100 ART centres by end 2007. This would be upscaled to 180,000 patients receiving ART by 2010-2011 at 188 ART centres.

Recommendations

- Criteria for starting ART
 - ◆ Single window approach for delivering ART, treatment drugs and prevention of OIs.
 - ◆ Protocol for follow-up of asymptomatic patients, specifying the duration of repetition of CD4 counts needed.
 - ◆ NACO to train people handling CD4 machines with a view towards accreditation of CD4 centres.
 - ◆ To give range of CD4 counts for initiating ART, instead of an absolute cut off value like 200.
- Drug Regimen
 - ◆ Augment outreach services for patients on ART.
 - ◆ Formalise paediatric guidelines and ARV drug requirement.
 - ◆ Revise existing draft of ART guidelines.
 - ◆ Package labels of ARV drugs procured by NACO to indicate generic names of drugs more prominently.
- HIV-TB Linkage
 - ◆ DOTS should be available at the ART centre itself.
 - ◆ TB clinic staff to be trained in HIV.
 - ◆ VCTCs to be opened at the microscopy centres.
 - ◆ Integrate all sectors of HIV management such as PPTCT, ART and VCTC into one comprehensive HIV care package.

Status of ART Roll-out

Number of patients on ART as on 28 February 2006

Sl. No.		State	Name of the Centre	No. of patients				
				Male	Female	Children	TS/TG	Total
NACO supported ART Centres								
1	TN_1	Tamil Nadu (14)	GHTM, Tambaram, Chennai	1298	893	180	9	2380
2	TN_2		Madras Medical College, Chennai	320	170	1	0	491
3	TN_3		Government Medical College, Madurai	679	373	29	0	1081
4	TN_4		Government Hospital, Namakkal	647	518	53	0	1218
5	TN_5		Kilpouk Medical College, Chennai	15	12	10	0	37
6	TN_6		Medical College, Salem	87	68	3	0	158
7	TN_7		Medical College, Tirunelveli	61	19	4	0	84
8	TN_8		Medical College, Coimbatore	30	15	0	0	45
9	TN_9		Medical College, Theni	62	53	15	0	130
10	TN_10		Medical College, Thanjavur	31	16	0	0	47
11	TN_11		Medical College, Vellore	38	19	5	0	62
12	TN_12		Medical College, Kanyakumari	40	18	1	0	59
13	TN_13		Medical College, Trichy	35	29	0	0	64
14	TN_14		IOG	41	37	5	0	83
15	Mah_1	Maharashtra (9)	JJ Hospital, Mumbai	1793	829	62	3	2687
16	Mah_2		KEM Hospital, Mumbai	326	187	35	0	548
17	Mah_3		Nair Hospital, Mumbai	142	68	9	0	219
18	Mah_4		Sion Hospital, Mumbai	125	72	29	0	226
19	Mah_5		Government Medical College, Sangli	442	310	48	0	800
20	Mah_6		B.J. Medical College, Pune	587	354	59	0	1000
21	Mah_7		Government Medical College, Nagpur	583	228	70	0	881
22	Mah_8		NARI, Pune	83	37	0	0	120
23	Mah_9		ARCON, Mumbai	72	0	0	0	72
24	Ap_1	Andhra Pradesh (3)	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad	723	325	15	0	1063
25	Ap_2		Government Medical College, Guntur	694	343	12	0	1049
26	Ap_3		Government Medical College, Vizag.	114	61	0	0	175
27	Kar_1	Karnataka (5)	Lady Curzon Hosp., Bangalore	494	235	34	0	763
28	Kar_2		Mysore Medical College, Mysore	207	114	3	0	324
29	Kar_3		VIMS, Bellary	40	14	1	0	55
30	Kar_4		KIMS, Hubli	401	202	24	0	627
31	Mnp_1	Manipur (2)	RIMS, Imphal	349	163	12	0	524
32	Mnp_2		Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Imphal	485	324	87	0	896
33	Nld_1	Nagaland (1)	Naga District Hospital, Kohima	89	42	9	0	140
34	Del_1	Delhi (5)	RML Hospital, New Delhi	787	292	122	4	1205
35	Del_2		LNJP Hospital, New Delhi	15	6	2	0	23
36	Del_3		AIIMS, New Delhi	318	102	25	3	448
37	Del_4		DDU Hospital, New Delhi	10	4	0	0	14
38	Del_5		LRS Institute of TB, New Delhi	16	3	1	0	20

Patients on ART as on February 28 2006

NACO-supported ART Centres	26047
State-supported ART Centres	840
NGO-supported ART Centres	3699
Intersectoral Partners	2327
Private Partners	3581
Grand Total	36494

Success Stories from Orissa: A Kalyani Initiative

When Panchu Bhol in Badurabar, a remote village in Puri district of Orissa tested positive he was devastated. He lost his job, friends and self-confidence. Village folk who were ignorant about the “strange disease” which had struck one of their own, decided to keep a safe distance from him. He was shunned by the same people who earlier sought his company and advice. With each passing day, his fears and anxieties compounded, weakening his will to live. Convinced that death was round the corner, he cried for the better part of the day.

Alert to news of this nature, when the Kalyani team in Bhubaneswar heard of Panchu Bhol’s plight, they immediately planned to shoot their next episode in his village and see if they could alleviate his suffering as also bring about a behaviour change amongst the villagers. Sahri Didi, a well-known figure on the programme and Chakulia Panda, a friendly

non-judgemental stock character were part of the team which went straight to the Bhol household. Panchu was hiding and refused to come out, lest he be ridiculed or subjected to humiliating interrogation. When he did finally emerge, the only coherent thing he was muttering was, “I am going to die”. From here on, began an interactive dialogue between the Kalyani team, Panchu’s family and the swelling group of curious onlookers.

In the 90 minutes that followed, a lot of questions got answered and people including Panchu realised that his being HIV positive did not mean that he had to lead an isolated existence or that he would die a painful death. He could continue with his normal chores, provided he availed of counselling and treatment at the nearest VCTC and ART centre. However, the villagers were told not to make the mistake Panchu made and to educate themselves



Panchu Bhol holding his daughter in an emotion-filled moment

on the routes of HIV transmission and to protect themselves under all circumstances.

Sanjay Jena, Secretary of a local youth organisation offered him a job at the Kalyani Health Club that he was proposing to initiate in Badurabar. Sahri Didi tied rakhi to Panchu, Sanjay embraced him and the unit placed his daughter in his lap, an act he had not indulged in ever since he had tested positive. By the end of the episode’s shooting, Panchu had a smile on his face and the entire village seemed more compassionate and understanding. With a renewed sense of purpose he began planning for a new phase in his life.

The Kalyani team consulted Dr. Jayant K. Panda, Assistant Professor at the SCB Medical College in Cuttack where Panchu is being treated and found that he was in a controlled state of health and that his wife and daughter were not infected. The doctor acknowledged the team’s efforts in removing the one thing that was retarding Panchu’s recovery, his blinding fear of the social stigma attached to being HIV positive.



Panchu Bhol’s family in Puri district of Orissa

Observance of World AIDS DAY

NACO along with its State AIDS Control Societies, partners, donors, NGOs and volunteers orchestrated a diverse and widespread response to the observance of World AIDS Day 2005, by holding state and district level functions in different parts of the country covering high risk groups and the general population.

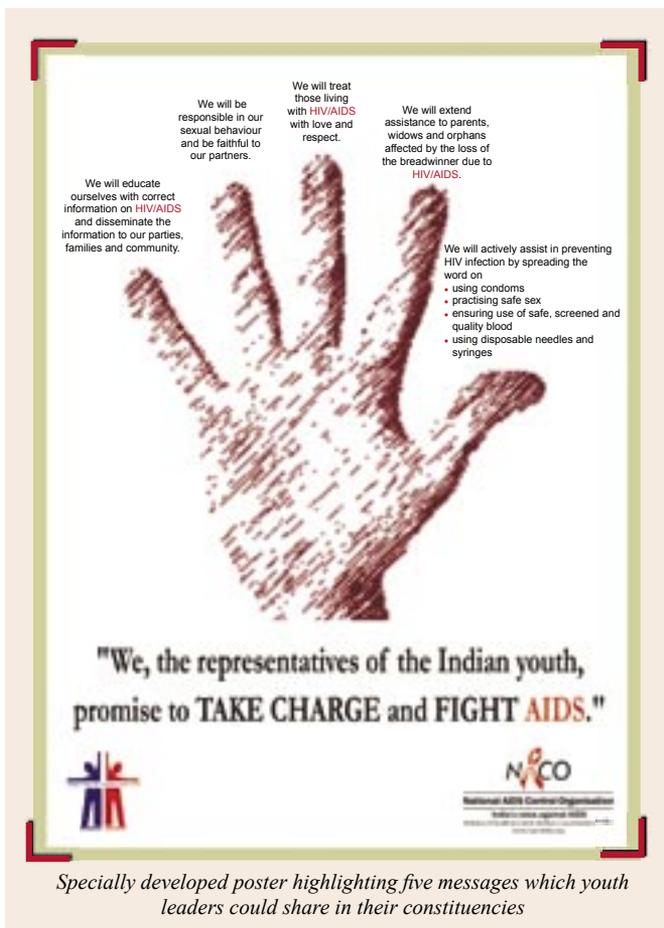
This year's theme of "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise" was an appeal for governments to assess their progress, vis-à-vis promises made in combating the epidemic and to do a reality check on the achievements and road blocks. Workshops were organised on issues of concern, involving

the highest political leadership and community functions were held with active participation of PLHAs, NGOs, CBOs and government officials. The occasion also coincided with the installation of condom vending machines at multiple locations, inauguration of ART centres and stepping up of services in community care centres.

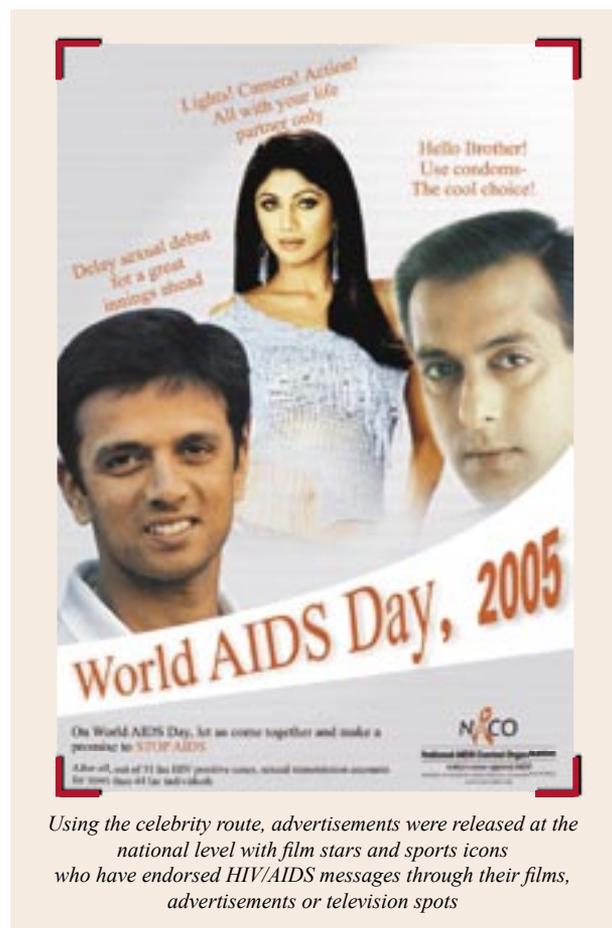
Celebrities, Shilpa Shetty, Sachin Tendulkar and Salman Khan endorsed the 'A', 'B' and 'C' routes (Abstinence, Being Faithful and Condom Use) in messages and full page advertisements released by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare at the national

level and by Chief Ministers and Ministers of Health at the state level. Phone-in programmes, panel discussions, interviews, special audience shows and programmes were broadcast on AIR and Doordarshan. For generating an expanded response to the epidemic, non-paid media was tapped for publishing stories, articles, interviews and special supplements in addition to running high-visibility free scroll messages on television.

At the national level, two mega functions were held with the support and active participation of the country's highest political leadership signifying a commitment to the motto, "As one nation, with one resolve, we shall defeat HIV/AIDS together."

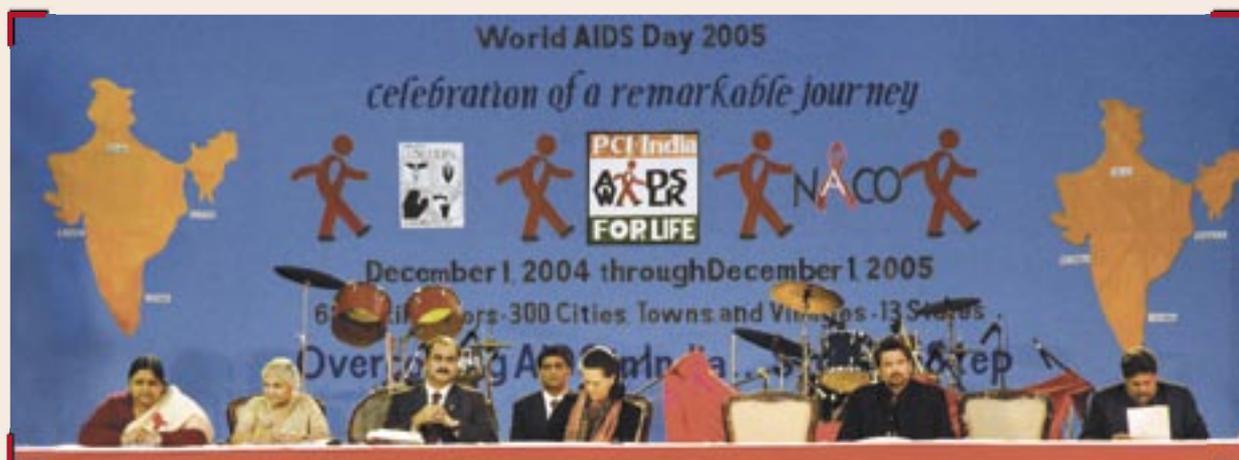


Specially developed poster highlighting five messages which youth leaders could share in their constituencies



Using the celebrity route, advertisements were released at the national level with film stars and sports icons who have endorsed HIV/AIDS messages through their films, advertisements or television spots

NACO-PCI Walk for Life: Celebration of a Remarkable Journey



L-R: Smt. P. Lakshmi, MoS H&FW, Smt. Sheila Dikshit, CM Delhi, Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister, H&FW, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council, Sh. Anil Kapoor, film star and Sh. Kapil Dev, cricketer at the concluding function of the NACO-PCI Walk for Life

World over the efficacy of walkathons has been established, especially when advocating a social cause. NACO, in association with Project Concern International (India), celebrated the culmination of the year long “AIDS Walk for Life” to a packed audience of 10,000 people on December 1 2005 at New Delhi’s Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. Film personalities and national leaders lauded the walkers’ efforts who traversed more than 6,800 kms across 13 states distributing IEC material, dispelling myths about HIV and spreading awareness and information about services. The walkers recounted the hero’s welcome they were accorded in each state they visited, with local celebrities, administration and residents actively involving them in meaningful dialogues.

Smt. Sonia Gandhi, reiterated the government’s commitment towards creating an enabling environment for PLHAs to live with dignity, care and support. Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister,



Silence surrounding HIV/AIDS must be broken. The Government cannot show results unless the unified and collective voice of adults, youth, women and elders is heard loud and clear.

Smt. Sonia Gandhi

H&FW, Shri Oscar Fernandes, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Smt. Sheila Dikshit, CM Delhi, Smt. P. Lakshmi, MoS H&FW, Sh. Kapil Dev, cricketer, film personalities Anil Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty, Salman Khan and Sharmila Tagore were the other guests of honour. Popular rock band Parikrama and Punjabi pop singer Jasbir Jassi entertained the audience.

AIDS Walk for Life: Factfile

- Thirty walkers completed a year long journey around India to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- Commencing on December 1 2004 in New Delhi, the walk ended exactly a year later on World AIDS Day 2005.
- Most of the participants were young students and staff from schools and colleges, staff and target beneficiaries of national/international NGOs, PLHAs, friends and families.
- The walk was supported by more than 600 partner organisations, including SACS and over 50 sponsors from the private and public sector.
- The Walk for Life has been included in the Limca Book of Records as the longest ever walk undertaken for a social cause.

Celebspeak: Straight from the Heart



Anil Kapoor, film star, Asha Ramaiah, National Advocacy Officer, INP+, Salman Khan & Shilpa Shetty, popular film stars sharing their sentiments at the closing function of the NACO-PCI Walk for Life

“HIV/AIDS can happen to anybody. Let us make prevention our business and bring all the compassion we can in our interaction with PLHAs.”

Anil Kapoor, popular film star.

“Will you stop shaking hands with me, hugging me, watching my films and loving me if you discovered I was HIV positive? Then why should you hesitate in doing the same with those who are living with HIV and AIDS? Those who do not respect PLHAs are not worth being respected themselves.”

Salman Khan, film star and teen icon.

“Portraying the character of a PLHA in a film changed my entire perspective towards HIV/AIDS. I feel strongly about them having equal rights, especially at the work place.”

Shilpa Shetty, film star who played a HIV positive character in ‘Phir Milenge’.

“Children should be our priority. Those orphaned by AIDS and those infected with HIV need our support the most.”

Sharmila Tagore, film star and Goodwill Ambassador, UNICEF

“Women must be educated on protecting themselves. If tested positive, services and treatment should be made accessible to them. Most importantly, they must know that like me they too can have a child and lead a normal married life.”

Asha Ramaiah, National Advocacy Officer, INP+

PM Addresses Youth Leaders

Youth and student wing leaders of all national parties can take a lead role in the fight against HIV by being ambassadors of information and spreading awareness messages in their constituencies. As a follow-up to Special Session on HIV/AIDS held in 2004, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble PM, inaugurated the National Youth Convention, held on the occasion of World AIDS Day on December 1 2005 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

The Prime Minister set the tone for the Convention, calling all NGOs, CSOs, private sector and religious leaders to join hands and mainstream the issue of AIDS into their agenda, since a campaign of the size that had been launched in India, could not meet with success if left solely to the government and its agencies.

Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister, H&FW placed the context of the Convention in perspective by telling the young political representatives to play an active role in spreading



“Youth leaders can contribute in shaping public opinion, attitudes and behaviour through their work and lifestyles. They have a social responsibility to support the NACP by stimulating responsible discussion on sensitive issues and to convey the message of hope and compassion, that is vital for society to sensitively handle the war against HIV.”

Dr. Manmohan Singh

awareness and halting the spread of the epidemic. Sh. Oscar Fernandes said that his Ministry would be mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in various innovative programmes

involving youth across the country. Smt. P. Lakshmi, MoS H&FW, Sh. P.K Hota, Secretary, H&FW, Ms. Sujatha Rao, AS & DG, NACO and partners were also present on the occasion.

The day's proceedings were structured in a manner which encouraged open dialogue. Breaking the ice were the specially culled out series of spots, advertisements and clips by NACO which used celebrities and sports icons to endorse messages on HIV/AIDS control and prevention. A bi-lingual question-answer session moderated by Sh. Rahul Dev, senior journalist, Ms. Mona Mishra, UNDP and Dr. Sunil Mehra from Mamta got the participants involved in a lively exchange.

Jagran, a group specialising in theatre and mime gave a brief theatrical presentation, dispelling myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS.

Nearly 800 youth leaders from all political parties along with youth representatives from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, development partners, NGOs and members of the media took part in the day-long convention making their individual commitments to the cause of HIV/AIDS and promising to join hands in what is a national issue of concern.

All participants were given special kits which included IEC material, booklets detailing basic information on HIV/AIDS, posters, red ribbon badges and even a packet of condoms. Young parliamentarians like Milind Deora interacted with the participants.

Key Messages for Youth Leaders

- Awareness about routes of transmission and protection.
- Increasing feminisation of the epidemic with early marriage increasing vulnerability of young women.
- Encouraging young people to know their HIV status.
- Reaching out to out-of-school children, including street children.
- Showing greater sensitivity to PLHAs.
- Being vigilant against any damaging report or news item.

States Display Diversity and Creativity while Observing WAD

Brainstorming and hectic preparations precede the finalisation of an execution plan for observing World AIDS Day by each of the 38 State AIDS Control Societies. While the broad guidelines are given by NACO, SACS use their own imagination to create a widespread response which percolates down to every district, sub-district and village level through an active network of NGOs, volunteers, the corporate

sector and CSOs. This time support came in from faith leaders, like the flagging of the AIDS rally by the Jathedar of Akal Takht Golden Temple in Amritsar and the Bishop in Goa leading a youth rally. For NACO, this is an encouraging sign since religious leaders exert great influence over the community.

Most states as part of their mass mobilisation initiatives organised

cycle and motorcycle rallies, walkathons, human chains, public oaths, talk shows on radio and television and competitions at the school and college level. Active participation of Chief Ministers, Health Ministers, Health Secretaries and other officials articulated the Government's commitment to HIV/AIDS. Local celebrities like film stars and models endorsed safe sex messages. Community participation and extensive media coverage contributed to the success of WAD observance at the state level.

Pune Runs for "Race Against AIDS"



Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister for H&FW takes part in the charity Run Against AIDS

Over 40,000 people gathered at the Khandoji Baba Chowk in Pune at 7 am on Sunday, December 4 2005, to cheer marathoners who were participating in the 20th Pune International Marathon organised by the Pune International Marathon Trust (PIMT) in collaboration with NACO, AVERT Society and Maharashtra SACS. The 42,195 km marathon was flagged off by Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister, H&FW.

While professional marathoners and enthusiastic long distance runners from 16 countries vied for the total prize money of Rs 15 lakh, rest of Pune took part in the 3km long Charity Run Against AIDS. Sh. Oscar Fernandes Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Sh. S.Y Quraishi, Secy Sports and Youth Affairs, Smt. Sujatha Rao, AS&DG NACO were also present on the occasion.

Glimpses

- 86-year old K.B Grant was the oldest participant and the first to register.
- A self-designed CVM created by Dilip Deshpande on his bicycle had the slogan, 'Jahan Chahe, Vahin Mile' doing the rounds of the marathon. 100 such machines were developed for Pune.
- Hon'ble Union Minister for H&FW ran the entire 3km distance.
- Other celebrities included Leander Paes, Yukta Mookhey, Zeenat Aman, Varsha Usgaonkar and Amrita Thapar.

According to city MP and Chairman, PIMT, Suresh Kalmadi, "The objective of the AIDS Charity Run is to spread greater awareness about AIDS and safe sex". The event was preceded by a week-long intensive IEC campaign which had road shows and competitions for youth.

Dilli Bole AIDS Nahin



Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister, Delhi, inaugurates 'Jeet' Cricket Match

Delhi State AIDS Control Society (DSACS) coined the slogan, "Dilli Bole AIDS Nahin" as part of a massive campaign launched by Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Chief

Minister, Delhi along with Dr. A. Ramadoss, Union Minister, H&FW. A series of events were held with the objective of making people aware of the vulnerabilities

to HIV, prompting them to bring about desired behaviour change and protecting themselves against HIV.

Smt. Dikshit inaugurated "Jeet", a cricket match between combined teams of cricket veterans, doctors, representatives from transgender community and PLHAs. She played a token round of cricket with PLHAs and after signing the bat, handed it over to ex-captain of Team India, Mr. Bishen Singh Bedi. She also released three publications of DSACS, namely "Meri Suno", painting catalogue by school children, chart book on HIV/AIDS in Delhi and Synopsis on Syndromic Management of STI/RTI. Four mobile games, namely Quiz with Babu, Safety Cricket, Ribbon Chase and Messenger were also launched.

CRPF & CWWA Sensitises Officers and Jawans on HIV/AIDS

The Central Reserve Police Force is the first para military force which accepted the prevalence of HIV infection in its cadre and has since worked toward empowering wives of officers and jawans on all aspects of HIV/AIDS.

The CRPF Wives Welfare Association (CWWA) in collaboration with NACO held a workshop on HIV/AIDS at Kadarapur, Gurgaon for trainee officers at the CRPF Academy. The specially constituted team of volunteers created general awareness on HIV infection, alcohol and drug addiction amongst force personnel and their families. A quiz competition was



Sh. J.K. Sinha, DG CRPF and Smt. Rashmi Sinha, President CWWA at the inauguration of a workshop in Gurgaon

organised to motivate personnel to seek accurate information on routes of transmission and prevention

against HIV. Interestingly, Sh. J.K. Sinha, Director General CRPF took part in the competition along with different ranks of officers. It helped in breaking the ice and ensuring an informal and open question-answer session on HIV/AIDS.

A special IEC exhibition was also organised at the venue. Young officers were also counselled on safe sex practices, maintaining healthy lifestyles, routinising the use of condoms, getting themselves tested for HIV and going a step beyond protecting themselves to ensuring that their subordinates also understood the seriousness of the epidemic and led lifestyles which allowed them to make protection their business.

States Observe W



WORLD AIDS DAY 2005
SERVICE DELIVERY DAY
JOIN HANDS FOR BETTER SERVICES
K.G.H. VISAKHAPATNAM DATE: 5-12-05

Race against AIDS

STOP AIDS

WORLD AIDS DAY CELEBRATION
1st DECEMBER - 2005
STOP AIDS MAKE THE PROMISE
STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY
MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BUDA & NIGER WHEEL-BUSUDA

WORLD AIDS DAY
On the occasion of World AIDS Day
Welcome to the launch of mobile games
and publication on HIV/AIDS
by Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit.

WORLD AIDS DAY
1st DEC - 2005
"STOP AIDS KEEP THE PROMISE"
PURA STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

WORLD AIDS DAY
STOP AIDS
KEEP THE PROMISE

World AIDS Day



