

Chief Secretary leads others in donating blood:

As part of promoting voluntary blood donation in the State and to create awareness among the people that donating blood is the greatest gift one can give to humanity, Shri D.S. Poonia, Chief Secretary, Manipur took the lead in donating blood today by becoming the first donor during a voluntary blood donation camp held at the Conference Hall of Old Secretariat.

The camp was organized by Manipur State AIDS Control Society and State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) in association with Blood Bank, J.N. Hospital. This is first time that any such campaign was done at the State Secretariat.

The function was inaugurated by Shri D.S. Poonia, Chief Secretary, Manipur.

Top officials of State Government including Shri Shambhu Singh, Commissioner (Higher Education), Govt. of Manipur, Shri V. Vumlunmang, Commissioner (H&FW), Govt. of Manipur and President, MACS, Shri K. Moses Chalai, Commissioner CADA, Dr. Prem Singh, Project Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Shri Pradeep Kumar Jha, Project Director, MACS, Deputy Commissioners of Ukhrul and Senapati, Director, Education (S), Asst. Commissioner, Tamenglong, officers of Manipur Finance Service besides officials and staff of MACS, employees of State Secretariat and voluntary blood donors donated blood on the occasion.

In all 37 units of blood were collected during the camp.

World Blood Donors' Day observed in state:

The World Blood Donors' Day was observed at different places in the state on June 14, 2009. The Indian Red Cross Society, Manipur Branch observed the Day by organising a blood donation camp today.

The Mass United Green Association (MUGA), Tronglaobi and Blood Bank, JN Hospital, Porompat in association with Manipur AIDS Control Society (MACS) organised a function to observe the day under the theme "100% Voluntary Non-remunerated donation of blood and blood components" at the conference of Rongmei Christian Development Society (RCDS), Thaninkhun, Bishnupur District. About 100 blood donors from different parts of the District took part in the observance function.

Lions Club of Thoubal district also observed the day at Thoubal Waikhom Mani Girls' College under the sponsorship of Manipur State AIDS Control Society and State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC).

Observance of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day:

As observed in other parts of the country, the Indian Red Cross Society, Manipur State Branch with support from Manipur State AIDS Control Society and State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) observed the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on October 1, 2009 at Blood Bank, RIMS Hospital. As part of the observance, a voluntary

blood donation camp was organized in which a total of 138 voluntary blood donors donated their blood on the day. On the occasion a felicitation function for the repeated blood donors and donor motivators was held where Shri D.S. Poonia, Chief Secretary, Manipur presented momentos and gifts to the donors. A lucky draw of the donors was also held wherein 10 Nokia mobile handset were given away.

Media sensitised to HIV/AIDS reporting

A one day State level Media Workshop reporting which aims to equip the media persons on responsible news relating to the issue of HIV/AIDS and to ensure accurate language and terminology and gender sensitive reporting as well as avoid discrimination was held today this morning at the Conference Hall, Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MSACS).

MACS Project Director Pradeep Kumar Jha said that tackling HIV/AIDS without media support would prove futile. He also sought public cooperation in different programs being taken up by MACS to contain HIV/AIDS.

The population of HIV infected people has been rising at the average rate of 2000 persons every year, said Dr Kh Pramodkumar Singh, Project Director (Technical). Observing that the trend was alarming, he said that HIV control programmes would be launched at district level too in accordance with National AIDS Control Programme Phase-III launched by NACO. For this, district level committees have been constituted.

Speaking as a resource person, Irengbam Arun, Editor Ereibak daily called upon all concerned to frame the State AIDS policy in a transparent manner. Social scientists, doctors and experienced NGOs should be roped in while formulating the State AIDS policy, he said.

Commenting on the presentation of the MACS Project Director that the State AIDS Policy formulated in 1996 did not encompass media, women and children and that efforts were being made to plug these loopholes this time, Arun called for transparency while revising the policy. Policies framed by bureaucrats only would have several drawbacks during implementation.

For detail and insightful reporting on several health issues including HIV/AIDS, journalists need to put in extra efforts. At the same time, MACS and the State Government should institute fellowships for journalists dedicated to health issues, he said.

K. Sarojkumar Singh, Imphal correspondent of the Times of India who also spoke as a resource person observed that journalists in Manipur are not well paid, small in number and lacking proper study on HIV epidemic. As media would constitute a fundamental force in the war against HIV/AIDS, a media policy may be framed at the initiative of MACS, he said.

Senior Mr. Manipur and MACS Brand Ambassador Kh Pradipkumar Singh also spoke on the occasion.

During the workshop, Press Council of India (PCI) guidelines on media reporting relating to the issue of HIV/AIDS and correct terminology related to HIV/AIDS reporting were also distributed to the media persons.