

## **AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY CELEBRATES WORLD AIDS DAY**

Panaji: [December 1, 2023](#)

Goa State AIDS control Society celebrated World AIDS Day on the theme 'Let Communities Lead' which was inaugurated by Secretary Health, Shri. Arun Kumar Mishra, IAS at Menezes Braganza hall, Panjim [today](#).

Shri. Mishra in his address expressed that, communities have to play a vital role to fight against life threatening disease HIV/AIDS and thus theme 'Let Communities lead' for the year is very much appropriate for the cause. If we need to overcome HIV or AIDS there has to be a feeling of acceptance among communities so as to eliminate the stigma, inequality and discrimination that prevails for the people with HIV. Once the society accepts the people infected with HIV as they are, more strongly it will focus on positive measures to eradicate the virus and its further spread, he said.

Shri. Mishra lauded the tireless efforts of Goa AIDS Control Society to combat against the dreadful Virus and implementing various measures to prevent further infection. He expressed satisfaction as the trend of HIV tests is remarkably increased and the number of HIV cases is declining in recent years.

Director, Health Services Dr. Geeta Kakodkar appreciated the work and determination of NGOs who are involved in combating HIV/AIDS in the State. She urged the student community not to indulge into harmful practices such as liquor or drugs consumption and also not to fall prey to dangerous content on social media thereby preventing new infection in the society.

Medical Superintendent, South Goa District Hospital Dr. Rajendra Borkar spoke on the present scenario of HIV AIDS and various measures to be taken to prevent infection of the virus.

Winners of a quiz competition held for higher secondary students by Goa State AIDS Control Society were awarded prizes on the occasion. Various facilities such as ICTC/ARTc/LAC/STI/SRL and NGOs associated with Goa AIDS Control Society were also felicitated.

Chief Medical Officer, Health Services, Dr. Uttam Desai welcomed the gathering and Jt. Director, GSACS, Shri. Umakant Sawant proposed the vote of thanks.

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