

## GOA HOSTS NATIONAL RED RUN 2.0 RACE AGAINST HIV

**Panaji: January 18,2025**

The much-anticipated National Red Run 2.0 took place in Miramar today with an aim to raise awareness about HIV prevention through sports and community engagement.

Shri Shripad Naik, Minister of State for Ministry of New & Renewable Energy in presence of Ms. V. Hekali Zhimomi, IAS, Additional Secretary & Director General, National AIDS Control Organisation Shri Nikhil Gajraj, IAS, Joint Secretary, National AIDS Control Organisation and Smt. Lalitha Umraskar, Project Director, Shri Umakant Sawant, Joint Director (IEC), Goa State Aids Control Society flag off the rallies at Miramar circle.

Total 145 students participated out of which 66 males ,61 females and 18 transgender participated. All States and Union Territories successfully organized District and State-level Red Runs in three categories from which the top two winners participated in the 10 km National Red Run finale in Goa.

The Red Run Event was organized in three different categories. In the first category Shri Nabeel Sahi of Kerala was declared as winner. Shri Daniel Wahlong of Meghalaya was on second position and Shri Skehamlong Subha of Meghalaya was on third position.

In category - 2, winner was Ms. Shreya from Chandigarh, Runners up, Ms Anjali of Uttarakhand and Ms. Manisha of Madhyapradesh was on third position.

Category three- Tanu Thsokesom of Manipur was the winner, M. Naresh of Madhyapradesh, Runners up and Gargi Chkhalkar of Maharashtra was on third position.

For prize distribution ceremony Shri Sadanand Shet Tanavade Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Ms. V. Hekali Zhimomi, IAS, Additional Secretary & Director General, National AIDS Control Organisation Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Shri Nikhil Gajraj, IAS, Joint Secretary, National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Smt. Vandana Dhume, Director, Health Services, Smt. Lalitha Umraskar, Project Director, Goa State Aids Control Society Were among the invites for the event.

Earlier, Smt. Lalitha Umraskar, Project Director, Goa State Aids Control Society welcome the guests.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Shripad Naik said the National Red Run is like a utsav which is specially designed to encourage youth involvement in HIV/AIDS prevention, dispelling myths, and providing safe spaces for discussion.

Shri Naik appealed to the youths to unite for the social cause in order to eradicate drastic disease. There is no effective medicine for this disease but we all can keep ourselves away from this disease, the minister added.

Shri Sadanand Shet Tanavade spoke on the awareness and said more awareness is needed among the youths to stay away from this stigma. Awareness not only in Goa but throughout the country is needed, he added.

The Red Run Event was organized by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) in collaboration with the Goa State AIDS Control Society.

Additionally, a 02 km solidarity run was organized at the same venue for over 1000 participants from diverse backgrounds, including policymakers, representatives from Government, civil society, communities, youth, development partners persons with special abilities, Transgender, defence personnel, police and also general public to show support for those living with HIV. Certificate of Completion and medal was given away to all participants.

Shri Shourya Bisara proposed a vote of thanks.

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