



National AIDS Control Organisation
India's Voice against AIDS
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
www.naco.gov.in

**Message from the Additional Secretary & Director General,
NACO**

on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and
Illicit Trafficking (26th June)

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking reminds us of the critical need to strengthen our action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. National AIDS Control Organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has consistently aligned all its interventions with international human rights obligations and has been actively collaborating with line-Ministries and departments to ensure that the existing criminal laws are not misused in the context of drug use and HIV. The Government of India has unambiguously and undisputedly adopted harm reduction as a core strategy to prevent HIV among people who inject drugs.

NACO has rapidly increased the availability and accessibility of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) through public health facilities, NGOs and prison settings at free of cost. This helps in reducing legal complications faced by the clients and considerably improved the wellbeing of the injecting drug users. NACO firmly believes that collaboration with and through the community will promote a supportive and enabling environment to raise

awareness about the importance of treating people who use drugs with empathy, providing evidence-based and voluntary services for all.

Let us continue to keep people first, intensify our efforts to stop stigma and discrimination and strengthen prevention activities.