

**Department of Public Relations  
Chandigarh Administration**

Press Release

**International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Observed by  
Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society**

**Chandigarh, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017:** Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society had organized a State Level function to observe International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking on 30th June 2017 in Rural Health Training Centre, Sector -56, Chandigarh.

The Chief Guest, Kaustubh Sharma, IPS, Zonal Director/NCB, Zonal Unit/Chandigarh along with, Sh. S.K. Verma IPS (retd), Former DGP, Punjab & Member Director, NGO SOSVA, and Sh. Manish Kumar, Team Leader, TSU , Acting Project Director Mr. Sandeep Mittal, CSACS inaugurated the programme by Lamp lighting.

Various issues regarding Drug Abuse especially to Injecting Drug Users were discussed during the function. Experiences shared by Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) on Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) & affected family member were key spotlight of function. Two beneficiaries of OST informed that after starting of OST through OST Centre, they are living drugs free life from long time and quality change in their life has been registered. One female family member of IDU affected family had also enlightened the participants about the positive change brought in their life after her brothers who were Injecting Drug Users started OST. All three brothers of this female were IDUs at some part of time, since they were put on OST, all are practicing drugs free life and OST brought quality change in their lives.

Dr Kaustubh Sharma, IPS, Zonal Director/NCB, Zonal Unit/Chandigarh in his key address said that their organization is working to aware people especially youth about harmful effects of drugs and motivate them for drugs free life. He added that the habit of drugs initiates from lower narcotics such as alcoholism and gradually reach to Injecting Drugs. He, therefore, stressed upon for not using any kind of narcotics including alcohol. He also appreciated the Injecting Drugs Users for giving up drugs and shifting to OST and encouraged them for try to end OST drugs also.

Acting Project Director Mr. Sandeep Mittal, CSACS informed that Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society is implementing two specific Targeted Intervention Projects(TI) with the help of partner NGOs for reaching out more than 1200 IDUs .Out of these more than 400 IDUs have been put on Opioid Substitution therapy (OST) which has successfully weaned them from injecting drug use and preventing transmission of HIV. At present there are four OST Centres at Ram Darbar, Manimajra, Daddu Majra, Palsora RHTC-56 running successfully in Chandigarh.

Other prominent speakers during the function were Sh. S.K. Verma IPS (Retd.), Director SOSVA, Dr. Meenal from Department of Community Medicine, GMCH-32,

Chandigarh and Sh. Munish Kumar, Team Leader TSU. Total 150 people participated in the programme.

