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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Nagaland to launch second edition of 'Intensified IEC Campaign' from tomorrow to spread HIV awareness
- BJP Nagaland launches Har Ghar Tiranga campaign with activities across state
- Nagaland sees steep drop in HIV prevalence among injecting drug users, sexual transmission dominate new cases
- Wokha district to launch phase 2 of Clean Doyang Mission amid debris pile-up

Nagaland is set to launch the second edition of the "Intensified IEC Campaign" from tomorrow. This initiative is part of the two-month nationwide campaign under the aegis of the National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The launch coincides with International Youth Day, highlighting the focus on youth engagement and awareness. The campaign aims to reach a wide audience across villages and communities with crucial information related to the prevention and control of HIV, and address stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections. Addressing media persons today in Kohima, Project Director of the Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS), Health and Family Welfare Department, Dr. Ahu Sekhose, informed that the campaign will be officially launched at the NBCC Convention Centre, Kohima, at 11:00 AM. He shared that a series of engaging activities have been planned in collaboration with various departments and organisations.

The launch day will also feature the release of the campaign theme song "HIV Li" by the Tetseo Sisters. Other activities include Play-and-win games, Meet-and-greet with influencers, HIV counselling and testing facilities, Selfie points, Interactive sessions with People Living with HIV and members of the Drug Users' Community and many more engaging initiatives. Dr. Sekhose has appealed all stakeholders to extend their active support and cooperation in ensuring the success of the campaign.

The Nagaland unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched the Har Ghar Tiranga today with several activities across the state. In Dimapur, the party held a special fellowship programme with differently-abled students at the Deaf Biblical Ministry. Speaking at the event, State BJP President, Benjamin Yepthomi commended the resilience of the students, calling them living testimonies of faith in action. He also expressed gratitude to the parents, teachers, volunteers and staff for their dedication, and urged collective efforts to build a more inclusive and compassionate community.

As part of the campaign, free medical camps were organized in District Jails of the state, including in Kohima, Kiphire and Wokha.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated 184 newly constructed type-seven Multi-Storey flats for Members of Parliament at Baba Kharak Singh Marg in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Modi said, 21st-century India is eager for development as it is sensitive to its responsibilities. He said, around 350 new MP houses have been built so far since 2014.

Mr Modi said, MPs from different states will live together in these houses which symbolizes the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat.

Nagaland has witnessed a steep decline in HIV prevalence among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), from a staggering 50 percent in the early 1990s to just 2.53 percent

today. However, the battle against HIV is far from over, as sexual transmission now accounts for nearly 87 percent of new HIV cases in the state. This was shared by Project Director of the Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS), Health and Family Welfare Department, Dr. Ahu Sekhose, today during a press briefing held in Kohima. Highlighting the evolving HIV scenario in the state, Dr. Sekhose said the HIV prevalence among IDUs has dropped significantly to 2.53 percent from 39 percent as recorded by the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1994.

The Project Director added that despite positive indicators such as a nearly stable overall HIV prevalence rate, from 1.39 percent in 2020 to 1.37 percent today, Nagaland still ranks second-highest in the country for HIV prevalence, behind Mizoram. Dr. Sekhose also emphasized that while more than 90 percent of Nagaland's population is aware of HIV transmission routes, this awareness has not been fully translated into safe sexual behavior. Aligning with Sustainable Development Goals and under the guidance of the National AIDS Control Organisation, the NSACS is actively working toward achieving the '395s' strategy, a key global HIV control framework.

Reaffirming NSACS's commitment to these goals, the Project Director urged continued public cooperation to combat HIV in the state.

The once-picturesque Doyang reservoir is now marred by plastic bottles, floating logs, and garbage, raising concerns over its ecological health and the livelihoods connected to it. In view of this alarming accumulation of wastes, Wokha district will launch the second phase of the Clean Doyang Mission soon. Sharing concerns to Akashvani News Kohima, Deputy Commissioner Wokha, Vineet Kumar, said he has taken serious note of the situation, and added that the Mission will be launched probably next week, once weather conditions are favourable.

In sports, Mon and Niuland have clinched their spots in the semi-finals of the 24th Dr. T. Ao Trophy Inter-District Football Championship. In the first quarterfinal, Mon triumphed over Dimapur 3-1, with Amun, Manton, and Manyem all scoring apiece. Meanwhile, Niuland defeated Chümoukedima 1-nil after an own goal in the first-half extra time sealed the deal.

And, India Meteorological Department, IMD, has forecast light to moderate rainfall at many places in the North East during the next three days. The showers will likely be accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning. The IMD predicted heavy rainfall is likely to continue over isolated areas in Nagaland and its neighbouring states till 15th of August.

