

Auto Expo ends with AIDS camp

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The prevalence of HIV/ AIDS is 4.6 per cent in the trucker community, which is 12 times higher than the general population. Taking this on view, the Transport Corporation of India (TCI) Ltd organised a sensitisation camp at Auto Expo 2010 in the Capital.

The initiative, an attempt to sensitise the high-risk group of truckers along with urging the corporate world for to start a fight against HIV/ AIDS, was a part of project 'Kavach' under the corporate social responsibility wing of the TCI (TCI Foun-

dation).

TCI Foundation project director Shekhar said, "Truckers have a difficult life, with job insecurity, rigorous working conditions and dangers around every bend. They constantly face segregation from society and, therefore, it is not rare to find that they turn to alcohol, drugs and resort to unsafe commercial sex to seek relief from their itinerant and monotonous life, which makes them susceptible to HIV/ AIDS."

The Auto Expo that concluded today at Pragati Maidan served as a platform for involving the corporate sector in crusade against HIV/ AIDS, taking the sensitisa-

tion campaign to the next level of building an empowered community.

Given the fact that India is home to about five million truckers, the project 'Kavach' has been designed to sensitise the industry partners about the vulnerability of truck drivers to HIV/ AIDS. Shekhar said that the situation warrants collective effort.

Counselling sessions were also held for truck drivers during the fair.

It apprised them about safe sexual practices, correct and consistent use of condoms to avoid being victims to sexually-transmitted diseases.