



Global Coalition Against HIV

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Why in News

Recently, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally addressed the Ministerial meeting of the **Global Prevention Coalition (GPC)** for Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) Prevention.

It was hosted by Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on behalf of the **Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC)**.

Key Notes

- **Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC):**
 - It is a **global coalition** of United Nations Member States, donors, civil society organizations which was established in the year 2017 to support global efforts to accelerate **HIV prevention**.
 - **Membership:** It includes the 25 highest HIV burden countries, **UNAIDS** Cosponsors, donors, civil society and private sector organizations.
 - **Goal:** To strengthen and sustain political commitment for primary prevention by setting a common agenda among key policy-makers, funders and programme implementers.
- **Significance of the Conference:**

The conference this year holds significance in achieving the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) commitment to **end Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) by 2030**.

Member States of the **GPC** had agreed to reduce new adult **HIV** infections by **75%** at the end of 2020 from 2010 levels.

- **India at the Conference:**

- Acknowledged that **Global AIDS** response has shown remarkable success in reducing new infections, improving access to prevention services for key population and treatment services for **People Living with HIV (PLHIV)**, reducing **AIDS** related mortality, enabling reduction in mother to child transmission of **HIV** and creating an enabling environment.

GPC has shown to the world a model where multiple stakeholders can come together and work cohesively towards a common goal.

- Observed that the **global AIDS response** in general has been a fountainhead of innovative service delivery models with rich **civil society involvement and cross learning**.

- **India Against HIV:**

- **India's unique HIV prevention model:**

- **Aim:** To provide outreach, service delivery, counselling & testing and ensuring linkages to HIV care
- **Centered around** the concept of **Social Contracting** through which the **Targeted Interventions (TI) programme** is implemented.

- **Protected the gains made in HIV during Covid-19** by taking swift and timely action to reach out to the last mile with a robust implementation plan for **Anti-Retroviral drugs (ARV)** dispensation.

Advisories and guidance notes were issued by **National Aids Control Organization (NACO)** from time to time aligned with global guidelines in the context.

- **Revamped its Targeted Intervention (TI) programme** to focus on hard-to-reach populations to keep its commitments- People living in prisons and other closed settings were considered as priority populations and interventions launched were gradually scaled up since **2016**.

- **The HIV Counselling & Testing Services (HCTS) and Community based Screening of HIV** for improving early diagnosis were also ramped up.
- The **coverage of testing for HIV** across the country was increased to achieve the **Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV**.
- **The Test and Treat Policy:** Approximately **50,000 PLHIV** who were lost to follow-up were linked back to **Antiretroviral Treatment services** through **Mission SAMPARK**, while **Viral Load Testing** facilities have been scaled up from the existing ten public sector labs to 64 labs across the country.

- Enacted **The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017** which has provided a legal and enabling framework for safeguarding the human rights of the infected and affected populations.

- **Project Sunrise**

A new initiative called '**Project Sunrise**' was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016, to tackle the rising HIV prevalence in north-eastern states in India, especially among people injecting drugs.

- **Helping the world:**

- India's provision of **generic (ARV)** to the world has had a critical impact in controlling the HIV epidemic.
- India is ready to extend its **unique HIV prevention model** to the rest of the world by tailoring the intervention as per local settings.

- **Other international initiatives against AIDS:**

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)**

Founded in 2002, it is a partnership organization designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.