



World AIDS Day 2020

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Why in News

The World AIDS Day is observed on **1st December every year** all over the world.

Key Points

- It was founded in **1988** by the World Health Organization (WHO) and was the first ever global health day with a motto of raising public awareness about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
 - AIDS is a pandemic disease caused by the infection of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which damages the human immune system.
 - In **2019**, 6,90,000 people died from HIV-related causes and 1.7 million people were newly infected, with nearly 62% of these new infections occurring among key populations and their partners.

- **Theme for 2020:** “Global solidarity, resilient HIV services.”
 - On World AIDS Day 2020, WHO is calling on global leaders and citizens to rally for “global solidarity” to **overcome the challenges posed by Covid-19 on the HIV response.**
 - **HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services are all being disrupted** particularly in countries with fragile health systems.
 - Slowing progress means the world will be missing the “**90-90-90**” **targets for 2020**, which were to ensure that: **90%** of people living with HIV are aware of their status, **90%** of people diagnosed with HIV are receiving treatment, and **90%** of all people receiving **treatment** have achieved **viral suppression**.
 - Any slowing down in provision of these services will leave many vulnerable populations at greater risk of HIV infection and AIDS-related deaths and missing these intermediate targets will make it difficult to **achieve the target of elimination of AIDS by 2030**.
 - In **2020**, the **International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife**, it is a call for more protection and support to these health workers who have long been on the frontline of HIV service delivery.
- **Significance:**
 - It reminds the public and government that **HIV has not gone away** and there is still a **vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education**.
 - It is an **opportunity to show solidarity** with the millions of people living with HIV worldwide.