



Round-table of UNAIDS

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Why in News

Recently, the high-level roundtable of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (**UNAIDS**) was held at the **World Economic Forum** at **Davos, Switzerland**.

- Its theme was, **“Access for all: Leveraging Innovations, Investments and Partnerships for Health”**.
- It laid emphasis on accessibility of health to all with innovative technologies and solutions and also on bridging economic inequalities.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

- It is leading the global effort to **end Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)** as a public health threat **by 2030** as part of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. It was started in **1996**.
- UNAIDS has a **vision** of zero new **HIV infections, zero discrimination** and **zero AIDS-related deaths**, and a **principle of leaving no one behind**.
- The UN Political declaration on ending AIDS was adopted in 2016 which seeks to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

- It is a set of symptoms or syndrome caused by **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)** but it is not necessary that a person infected with HIV will definitely develop AIDS.
- A person infected with HIV is likely to develop symptoms of AIDS over a period of time when his/her immune system is too weak to fight HIV infection.
- This is the last stage of HIV when the infection is very advanced and if left untreated will lead to death.
- A person with HIV whose **CD4 (a type of White Blood Cell called T cells)** count falls below 200 per cubic millimetre is diagnosed with AIDS.

- The risk of HIV progressing to AIDS varies widely between individuals and depends on many factors including:
 - The age of the individual
 - The body's ability to defend against HIV
 - Access to high quality sanitary healthcare
 - Presence of other infections
 - Individual's genetic resistance to certain strains of HIV
 - Drug-Resistant strains of HIV
- **Prevention** includes safe sex, testing and counselling for HIV, voluntary medical male circumcision among other things.

Source: PIB