



Campaign to end Discrimination Towards HIV Patients | Jharkhand | 14 Aug 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, a **campaign will be started in Jharkhand on 1st September, 2024** to create **awareness for eliminating discrimination against [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\)](#)** patients.

Key Points

- It was announced during the launch of an intensified **IEC (information, education, communication) campaign** at the **Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University auditorium**.
- According to the **Jharkhand State AIDS Control Society's** Project Director the **campaign will be conducted at district, block, and village levels**.
 - Especially the **youth will be made aware of HIV and [sexually transmitted diseases](#)** through the campaign.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- **About:**
 - HIV is a virus that attacks the [immune system](#) in the human body.
 - It primarily **targets and damages CD4 immune cells**, which are essential for the **body's ability to fight infections and diseases**.
 - Over time, HIV weakens the immune system, leaving the body **vulnerable to opportunistic infections and [cancers](#)**.
- **Transmission:**
 - HIV is primarily spread through the exchange of certain bodily fluids such as **blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk**.
- **Severity:**
 - If left untreated, the virus destroys a person's immune system and they are said to be in the [Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome stage \(AIDS\)](#) where they get **several opportunistic infections that may result in death**.
- **Cure:**
 - Although there are **no cures for the infection at present**, the disease can be managed using [antiretroviral therapy](#).
 - These medicines suppress the replication of the virus within the body, **allowing the number of CD4 immune cells to bounce back**.

Injured Vulture with 'Dhaka' Inscription Found in Jharkhand |

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Why in News?

Recently, an **endangered white-backed vulture** with an injury was discovered in a dam in **Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district**. The vulture had a **metallic ring fitted to one of its legs**, which was **inscribed with the word 'Dhaka'**.

Key Points

- The police suspect that **John Malot, a bird researcher from Dhaka** who is associated with the **UK-based Royal Society for Protection of Birds**, released the vulture after fitting it with a [solar-powered radio tracking collar](#) in order to monitor the bird's movements from Dhaka to Jharkhand.

Indian white-backed vulture



- They are medium-sized, dark vultures.
- **Scientific name:** *Gyps bengalensis*
- **Distribution:** Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and southern Vietnam.
- **Habitat:** Found mostly in plains and less frequently in hilly regions. Can also be seen in villages and cities near to cultivation.
- **Features:**
 - Adults are **75 to 85 cm tall**.
 - **White neck ruff, rump and under wing coverts.**
 - Adults tend towards black coloration, while younger individuals are browner.
 - Their **wingspan is 180 to 210 cm**.
 - Weight: Ranges from 3.5 to 7.5 kg.
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered