

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** <u>Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)</u> 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** <u>sexually transmitted diseases</u> 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 <u>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome stage (AIDS)</u> 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 <u>antiretroviral therapy</u>.
 - These medicines suppress the replication of the virus within the body, allowing the number of CD4 immune cells to bounce back.

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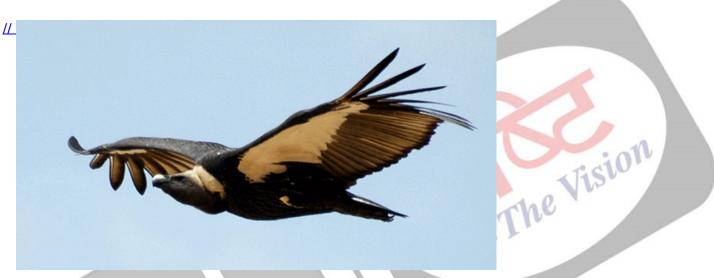
Why in News?

Recently, an **endangered white-backed <u>vulture</u>** 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 <u>solar-powered radio tracking collar</u> 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