



HIV Outbreak in Uttarakhand Village | Uttarakhand | 05 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a [HIV](#) outbreak has been reported in Ramnagar, Nainital, raising awareness on the impact of drug addiction and unprotected sexual interactions.

Key Points

- **HIV Spread:**
 - Over 19 men in Ramnagar tested positive for [HIV](#) after unprotected sexual interactions.
 - Authorities emphasize this as a wake-up call for stricter community health vigilance.
- **HIV in India - Statistics:**
 - As of 2022, around **2.47 million Indians live with HIV**, with a **0.2%** adult prevalence rate.
 - New infections have dropped by over 42% since 2010, with AIDS-related deaths declining by nearly 77%.
- **Government Efforts:**
 - India's [National AIDS and STI Control Programme \(2021-2025\)](#) is funded largely domestically, focusing on prevention, testing, and treatment.
 - The [Ministry of Social Justice](#) operates a national helpline to support those with addiction and substance-related issues.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- **About:**
 - HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which 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.