



# Resolution 75/260 of UNGA: HIV/AIDS

## Why in News

The Union Health Minister addressed the **75<sup>th</sup> session** of the [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) on prevention of [HIV/AIDS](#).

- The **Resolution 75/260 of UNGA** deals with the Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the political declarations on HIV/AIDS.

## Key Points

### ▪ Important Points of Address:

- **HIV/AIDS Prevention Model:** India's unique HIV prevention model is centered around the concept of '**Social Contracting**' through which the 'Targeted Interventions Program' is implemented with support from civil society.
  - The program is aimed at behaviour change, communication, outreach, service delivery, counselling & testing and ensuring linkages to HIV care.
- **Legal Framework:** The [HIV & AIDS Prevention and Control Act, 2017](#), provides a legal and enabling framework to safeguard the human rights of infected and affected populations.
- **Free Treatment:** India is providing free **anti-retro-viral treatment** to close to 1.4 million people.
  - **Anti-retro-viral therapy:** It is a combination of daily medications that stop the virus from reproducing.
  - The therapy **helps in protecting CD4 cells** thus keeping the immune system strong enough to fight off the disease.
  - It, besides reducing the risk of transmission of HIV, also **helps in stopping its progression to AIDS** (a spectrum of conditions caused by infection due to HIV).
- **National AIDS Control Program:**
  - The **National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)** launched the first phase of the **National AIDS Control Programme in (1992-1999)**.
    - NACO is a division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
    - It was constituted in 1992 to provide leadership to HIV/AIDS control programmes in India through 35 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Societies.
  - India is gradually transitioning the people living with HIV to **Dolutegravir** (a safer and efficacious **anti-retro-viral medication** regimen).
- **The target of Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV:** For this, viral load testing facilities have been scaled up, and HIV counselling, testing and community-based screening for early diagnosis have been ramped up.
- **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and HIV/AIDS:** There are a number of [SDGs](#) related to the HIV response:
  - **SDG 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
    - **Target 3.3: End AIDS as a public health threat by 2030**
  - **SDG 4: Quality education**, including targets on **comprehensive sexual and**

**reproductive health (SRH) education** and life skills.

- **SDG 5: Gender equality**, including targets on **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** and the elimination of violence, harmful gender norms and practices.
- **SDG 10: Reduced inequalities**, including targets on **protection against discrimination, and the empowerment** of people to claim their rights and enhance access to HIV services.
- **SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions**, including reduced violence against key populations and **people living with HIV**.

▪ **Other Initiatives:**

- **Project Sunrise:** The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016, to tackle the rising HIV prevalence in north-eastern states in India, especially among people injecting drugs.
- **The Red Ribbon:** The red ribbon is the universal symbol of awareness and support for people living with HIV.
  - Wearing a ribbon is a great way to raise awareness on and during the run up to World AIDS Day.
- **90-90-90:** 90% of those who are HIV positive in the country know their status, 90% of those who know their status are on treatment and 90% of those who are on treatment experience effective viral load suppression.
- **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM):** The Global Fund is a 21<sup>st</sup>-century partnership organization designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.

### Human Immunodeficiency Virus

- **HIV attacks CD4, a type of White Blood Cell (T cells)** in the body's immune system. T cells are those cells that move around the body detecting anomalies and infections in cells.
- After entering the body, HIV multiplies itself and destroys CD4 cells, thus severely damaging the human immune system. Once this virus enters the body, it can never be removed.
  - The CD4 count of a person infected with HIV reduces significantly. In a healthy body, CD4 count is between 500- 1600, but in an infected body, it can go as low as 200.
- Weak immune system makes a person prone to opportunistic infections and cancer. It becomes difficult for a person infected with this virus to recover from even a minor injury or sickness.
- By receiving treatment, severe forms of HIV can be prevented.

**Source: PIB**

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