



# Campaign to end Discrimination Towards HIV Patients

## Why in News?

According to the sources, a **campaign will be started in Jharkhand on 1<sup>st</sup> 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**.