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27/07/2018

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India has significantly brought down HIV incidence and its related deaths, but it has to do more in removing social stigma to have an inclusive approach. Analyse.

HIV in India:

1) India has significantly brought down HIV cases and deaths by 27% and 56% in 2010 and 2017.

2) India now have the potential to treat a large number of 78 patients since Tuberculosis is considered as the biggest killer of HIV Patients.

3) Social stigma around HIV infected people is high but this seems to decline with increasing awareness.

Even though, India has achieved such achievement towards HIV it still has a huge burden of HIV patients in the world.

1) Homosexual men, drug users and sex workers are at the highest risk of HIV

2) India has criminalised Sex work and gay sex and it is punishable by law. Due

to the fear of prosecution prevents such group

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from seeking HIV screening and treatment.

3) Patients end up having to spend more money for either insurance or medical treatment simply because of their condition. Some places simply turn away people with HIV/AIDS.

4) India can legitimise stigma and incentivise the harassment of certain group that are at the highest risk of HIV.

Right to health is universal and India must ensure that nobody is left behind. It must find different ways to reach out to the vulnerable groups.