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India towards achieving MDG : Combat HIV/AIDS

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ABSTRACT : Worldwide, the number of people newly infected with HIV continues to fall, dropping 21 per cent from 2001 to 2011. Still, an estimated 2.5 million people were infected with HIV in 2011—most of them (1.8 million) in sub-Saharan Africa. Over a decade, new infections in that region fell by 25 per cent. They dropped by 43 per cent in the Caribbean, the sharpest decline of any region, resulting in an estimated 13,000 new infections in 2011. About 820,000 women and men aged 15 to 24 were newly infected with HIV in 2011 in low- and middle income countries; more than 60 per cent of them were women. According to NFHS-3 the revised HIV estimate of 2.47 million persons in India living with HIV (equivalent to 0.36% of the adult population) was released by NACO in July, 2007. This national estimate reflects the availability of improved data rather than a substantial decrease in actual HIV prevalence in India. HIV/AIDS was first identified in India in 1986, the Government of India (GOI) initiated a systematic response by first establishing the National AIDS Committee (NAC) and then, in 1992, the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Since then, comprehensive educational and awareness programmes have been implemented with mandates to increase prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in India.

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