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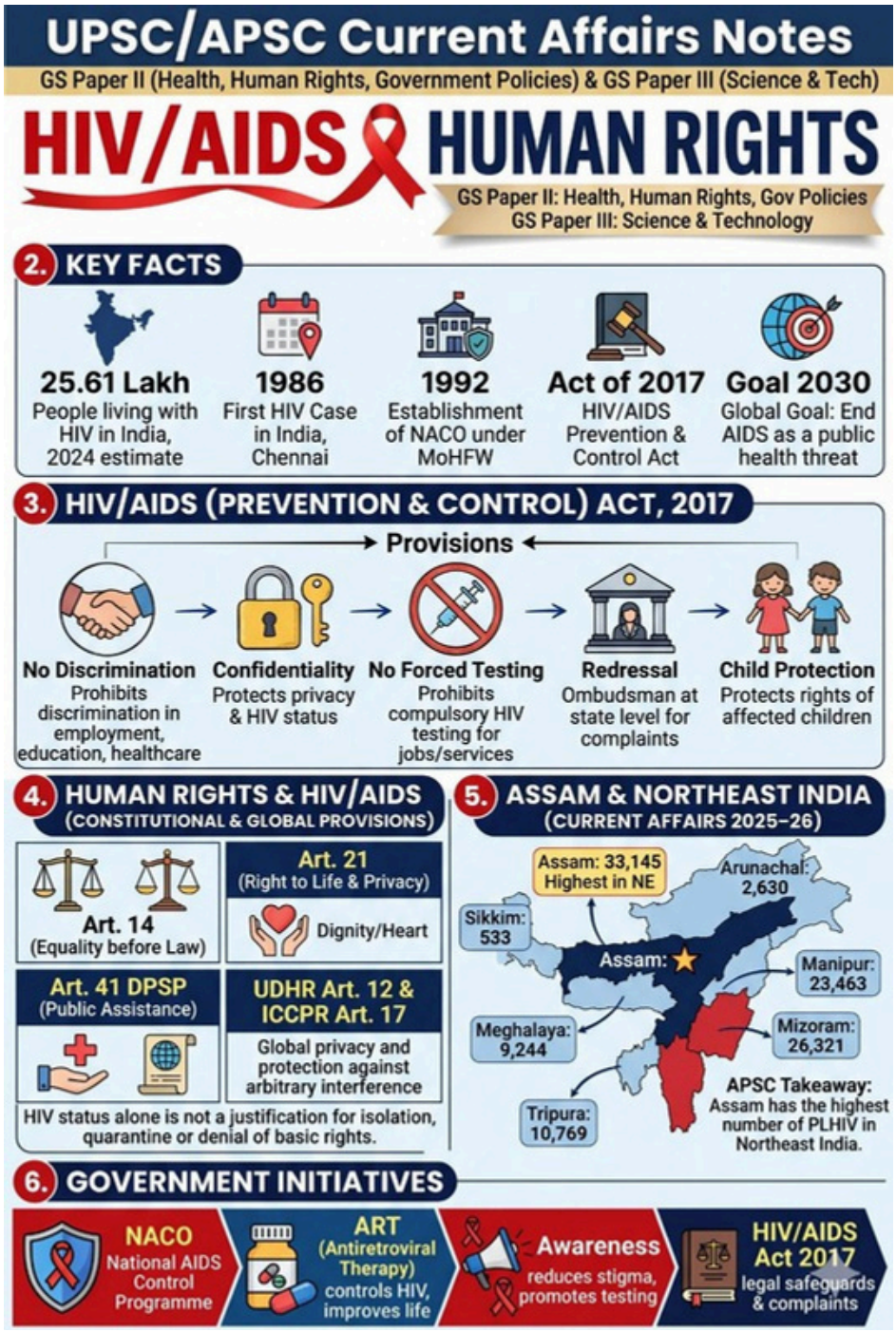
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Science and Technology (GS Paper III)

HIV/AIDS and Human Rights



Key facts

- People living with HIV in India: Approximately 25.61 lakh, as stated in the provided material.
- First HIV case in India: Reported in Chennai (then Madras) in 1986.
- **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)**: Established in 1992 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- **Major legislation**: Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017.
- Global goal: End AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017

Objective: Protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and prevent discrimination.

Key provisions:

- **Prohibits discrimination in employment, education, healthcare and housing.**
- **Protects confidentiality of HIV status, subject to legal exceptions**.
- **Prohibits compulsory HIV testing as a precondition for employment, healthcare or access to public facilities, subject to statutory exceptions.**
- **Provides a complaints mechanism, including an Ombudsman at the state level.**
- **Prescribes penalties for certain violations.**
- **Protects the rights of children affected by HIV/AIDS**.

Human rights and HIV/AIDS

Constitutional/legal provision	**Significance**
Article 14	Equality before law
Article 21	Right to life, dignity and privacy
Article 41, DPSP	Public assistance in cases of sickness and disability, within the State's economic capacity
UDHR, Article 12	Protection against arbitrary interference with privacy
ICCPR, Article 17	Protection against arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy

Assam and Northeast India

According to the figures in the provided material for 2025–26:

State	**People living with HIV**
Assam	33,145
Mizoram	26,321
Manipur	23,463
Tripura	10,769
Meghalaya	9,244
Arunachal Pradesh	2,630
Sikkim	533

Government initiatives

- **NACO: Implements the National AIDS Control Programme.**
- **Antiretroviral therapy (ART): Helps control HIV and improve quality of life.**
- **Awareness campaigns: Promote prevention, testing and reduction of stigma.**
- **HIV/AIDS Act, 2017: Provides legal safeguards against discrimination and mechanisms for complaints.**

Prelimsquestions

1. TheHIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act was enacted in:

A. 2002
B. 2010
C. 2017
D. 2020

Answer: C

Mains practice question

"HIV/AIDS is not merely a public health challenge but also a human rights issue." Discuss the role of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 in protecting the rights of affected persons.