In view of evolving global scenario, the threat of an epidemic of HIV looming large was heralded in India after the first HIV positive individual was detected in United States in 1981.


Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) established facilities to screen individuals with high risk behaviours at National Institute of Virology, Pune and Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore in 1985 in order to monitor emergence of HIV infection in India.

- Soon after the detection of first HIV infected individual in a sex worker in Chennai in 1986, the National AIDS Committee was formed in 1986.

- The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) was formed in 1987. The programme aimed at prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and a decrease in morbidity and mortality associated with HIV infection through surveillance, blood safety and awareness programme.

- In 1989 a medium term plan was developed with support of World Health Organisation (WHO), with focus on the most five affected States-Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, West Bengal and Manipur and Andhra Pradesh. Main emphasis on this plan was to reinforce the programme implementation capacities and to bring in a targeted approach in Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and surveillance activities.

- Surveillance to track the epidemic
- IEC through mass media to change behaviours, Blood safety- reduction in HIV transmission through infected blood and blood products.
- Control of hospital infections
- Strengthening STD Services.
- Condom promotion
- Social mobilization through NGOs.

NACP Phase-II (2000-2006)

With a significant paradigm shift from Phase-I to Phase-II, emphasized on strong political advocacy, decentralisation and State ownership, focus on vulnerable groups, a shift in emphasis from mass awareness to behaviour change and increasing NGOs and Community participation, care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) and adoption of a “rights” approach. Other activities included were:

- School AIDS education and University talk AIDS Programme.
- Regular family health awareness campaign.
- Setting up targeted interventions in over 1000 locations.
- Voluntary Counselling and Testing facilities in 883 Centres.
- Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) Programme in 332 centres.
- Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) in 60 Centres.
NACP Phase-III (2007-2012)

From lessons learnt in the past and viewing the challenges ahead, India initiated design of NACP-III with the following key objectives:

- Prevent new infections.
- Care, support and treatment to PLHAs.
- Capacity building (infrastructure, systems and human resources) considering district as a Unit.
- Uniform nationwide robust monitoring and evaluation system.