

## **“HIV Scenario in India: Challenges and Opportunities for prevention”**

Ramesh S. Paranjape

Director, National AIDS Research Institute (ICMR), Pune.

India is estimated to have 2.3 million persons infected with HIV. Last five years have shown a steady decline in the estimated number of infections and prevalence of HIV in general population. However, a worrying trend is that there is increasing prevalence in certain areas that were low prevalence areas so far. The challenges in controlling HIV infection in India include inability to bring all PLWHA in health care system, reaching hard to reach populations such as Men having sex with men and Intra-venous Drug Users, stigma and discrimination etc. Behavioural interventions, targeted interventions for high risk groups, providing free Anti-retroviral programmes to all those infected with HIV are some of the interventions aimed at containing the epidemic. New technologies such as HIV vaccines and vaginal microbicides provide new opportunities for control of HIV transmission. Challenges in containing HIV infection in India and opportunities for controlling HIV epidemic will be discussed.