



World Health Day

For Prelims: World Health Day, National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana, India's Health Index, SAMRIDH Initiative

For Mains: World Mental Health Day and its importance, Current Healthcare Landscape in India

Why in News?

Every year 7th April marks the celebration of [World Health Day](#).

- [World Mental Health Day](#) is observed on **10th October** every year.



What are the Key Highlights about World Health Day?

- **About:**
 - Its idea was conceived at the **First Health Assembly in 1948** and it came into effect in **1950**.
 - It is being celebrated today to mark the foundation of the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) on 7th April 1948.
 - Over the years, it has **brought to light important health issues** such as [mental health](#), maternal and child care and [climate change](#).
- **Aim:**
 - To **create awareness** of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for the **WHO**.

- **Theme for 2022:**
 - Our Planet, Our Health

What is the Need to Recognise the Day?

- **Rising Deaths due Environmental Causes:**
 - Around the world, **13 million deaths are caused due to avoidable environmental causes.**
 - This includes the climate crisis which is the single biggest health threat facing humanity.
- **Rising Air Pollution:**
 - Over **90% of people breathe unhealthy air** resulting from burning of **fossil fuels.**
- **Impact of Pandemic:**
 - The **pandemic has revealed weaknesses in all areas of society** and underlined the urgency of creating sustainable well-being societies committed to achieving equitable health now and for future generations without breaching ecological limits.
- **Rising Extreme Weather Events:**
 - Extreme weather events, **land degradation** and water scarcity are displacing people and affecting their health.
- **Rising Pollution and Plastics:**
 - **Pollution and plastics** are also affecting people's lives and have made their way into our food chain.
- **Inequitable Distribution of Income:**
 - The **present design of the economy leads to inequitable distribution of income, wealth and power**, with too many people still living in poverty and instability.

What is the Current Healthcare Landscape in India?

- Although **India's healthcare sector has grown rapidly over the last five years** ([Compound Annual Growth Rate](#) of 22%), [Covid-19](#) has brought to the forefront persistent challenges such as a weak health system, lack of quality infrastructure, and lack of quality service delivery to vulnerable populations.
- **India's healthcare spending is 3.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, including out-of-pocket and public expenditure.
 - The combined total **government expenditure** of both central and state is **1.29% of GDP.**
 - India spends the least among **BRICS** countries: Brazil spends the most (9.2%), followed by South Africa (8.1%), Russia (5.3%), China (5%).
- The Government of India has launched the flagship initiative **Ayushman Bharat (AB) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** the **world's largest non-contributory Government-sponsored health insurance scheme** that enables increased access to in-patient healthcare for poor and vulnerable families in secondary and tertiary facilities.

What are Related Initiatives for the Health Sector?

- [National Medical Commission \(NMC\) Act, 2019](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana.](#)
- [India's Health Index](#)
- [SAMRIDH Initiative](#)

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