



drishti

## WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/who-regional-committee-for-south-east-asia](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/who-regional-committee-for-south-east-asia)

Recently, India has hosted the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** Regional Committee for South-East Asia.

### Highlights of the Conference

- India's disease burden is shifting from **communicable to non-communicable diseases**, i.e. diet-related diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity, are rising rapidly.
- Some **recent steps that** were taken by the government in health care:
  - The government is observing the entire month of September as **“Poshan Maah”** (Nutrition Month) to sensitize the public towards healthy eating, It intends to address the twin issues of malnutrition and problem of obesity in some sections of the population, and intensifying the campaign towards a **‘Malnutrition-Free India’**.
  - Since, the unsafe food and poor diet create a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition (particularly affecting infants, young children, elderly and sick).
    - To curb this, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** has adopted a **“Food Systems approach”** to ensure our citizens have access to safe and healthy food.
    - Food Systems approach judiciously combines the regulatory and capacity-building measures with consumer empowerment initiatives.
    - Citizens are being sensitized through a **people’s movement called ‘Eat Right India’** which has a tagline: Sahi Bhojan. Behar Jeevan’ – ‘Right diet leads to better quality life’.
  - Recently, the Prime Minister of India launched the **‘Fit India Movement’**. on the occasion of National Sports day, This, along with Eat Right India campaign, will help India to fight lifestyle diseases like hypertension, obesity and diabetes effectively,
  - **Ayushman Bharat** is **India’s road to Universal Health Care**.
  - India also plans to increase full immunization coverage to 90% people through

- intensification of campaigns under **Mission Indradhanush**.
- These initiatives depict India's commitment to preventive and promotive healthcare as an important pillar of **its health policy, i.e. Universal Health for all**.

**Source: PIB**