

## **WORLD HEALTH DAY – EVENT**

**NEWS:** World Health Day, observed annually on 7 April, highlights pressing global health issues and mobilises action to improve public health outcomes.

### **WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?**

#### **1. Origin and Objective**

- Initiated by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in **1950**, World Health Day aims to bring together **governments, health institutions, and communities** worldwide to spotlight and address urgent health challenges annually.

#### **2. Theme for 2025**

- The theme for **World Health Day 2025** is “**Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures**”, emphasizing the need for a robust start to life to ensure better long-term outcomes.

#### **3. Focus Area – Maternal and Newborn Health**

- The central focus is on **ending preventable deaths among mothers and newborns** and **ensuring lifelong health and well-being** for women and children.

## **India's Efforts in Strengthening Healthcare**

### **1. Maternal and Child Health Progress**

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):**
  - India's MMR dropped from **130 (2014–16)** to **97 (2018–20)** per 1,00,000 live births.
  - Between **1990 and 2020**, India achieved an **83% reduction in MMR**, far surpassing the **global average reduction of 42%**.
- **Child Mortality Rates:**
  - **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** Fell from **39 (2014)** to **28 (2020)** per 1,000 live births.
  - **Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR):** Reduced from **26 (2014)** to **20 (2020)** per 1,000 live births.
  - **Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR):** Dropped from **45 (2014)** to **32 (2020)** per 1,000 live births.
- **Global Comparison (1990–2020):**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>India Reduction</b>	<b>Global Reduction</b>
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## **Indicator India Reduction Global Reduction**

MMR	83%	42%
NMR	65%	51%
IMR	69%	55%
U5MR	75%	58%

### **Key Interventions for Maternal Health**

- **Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR):**
  - Aims to reduce maternal deaths by auditing each case and strengthening obstetric care systems.
- **Mother and Child Protection (MCP) Card & Safe Motherhood Booklet:**
  - Tools to inform and empower pregnant women on prenatal and postnatal care.
- **Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Portal:**
  - A digital tool to track the care continuum from **antenatal visits to delivery and postnatal services**.
- **Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB):**
  - Launched under **POSHAN Abhiyaan**, this campaign targets **anaemia prevention and treatment** among pregnant women and adolescents.
- **Birth Waiting Homes (BWH):**
  - Established in remote areas to help expectant mothers access healthcare facilities in time.
- **Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Days (VHSND):**
  - Monthly sessions at **Anganwadi Centres** for delivering integrated maternal and child health services.
- **Outreach Camps:**
  - Special camps held in tribal and hard-to-reach areas to monitor **high-risk pregnancies** and provide maternal care.

### **Wider Access to Quality Health Services**

- **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs):**
  - Over **1.76 lakh centres operational** as of April 2025, delivering **primary healthcare services**.
  - Conducted **107.10 crore hypertension screenings** and **94.56 crore diabetes screenings**.

- Held **5.06 crore wellness sessions**, including **yoga and mental well-being activities**.
- **National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS):**
  - Over **17,000 public health facilities** certified for maintaining healthcare quality as of November 2024.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):**
  - Over **76 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA)** created.
  - **52+ crore health records** digitized and linked.
  - **5.95 lakh healthcare professionals** and **3.86 lakh health facilities** verified on the platform.
- **U-WIN Platform:**
  - Tracks immunization for **pregnant women and children (0–16 years)**.
  - As of December 2024, **7.90 crore beneficiaries registered** and **29.22 crore vaccine doses** recorded.
- **eSanjeevani Telemedicine Platform:**
  - Facilitated over **36 crore teleconsultations** since 2020.
  - By April 2025, included **2.32 lakh providers**, **1.31 lakh spokes**, and **17,051 hubs**, making it the **world's largest telemedicine service**.

#### **Affordable Health Coverage through Ayushman Bharat (AB-PMJAY)**

- **Insurance Coverage:**
  - Covers over **55 crore low-income citizens** with **₹5 lakh per family** for secondary and tertiary care.
- **Card Issuance and Hospitalisation:**
  - Over **40 crore Ayushman Cards** issued.
  - **8.5 crore+ hospital admissions** authorized under the scheme.
- **Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana:**
  - Over **25 lakh enrollments** for senior citizen health coverage as of December 2024.

#### **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**

- **Tele-MANAS Helpline:**
  - Offers **24×7 mental health support** in **20 regional languages** through **53 centres** across **36 States/UTs**.
  - Handled over **20 lakh calls** as of April 2025.

- ₹230 crore allocated over 3 years to expand services.
- **Rehabilitation Services:**
  - Around **440 Rehabilitation and Halfway Homes** operational under the **Manoashraya Dashboard** to support mental health recovery.

### **Disease Elimination and Control Initiatives**

- **Malaria:**
  - Between 2017–2023, malaria cases dropped by **69%**, and deaths by **68%**.
  - In 2024, India exited WHO's **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI)** list.
- **Trachoma:**
  - India declared **Trachoma-free** by WHO in 2024.
- **Measles and Rubella:**
  - By March 2024, **50 districts** had **zero measles cases** and **226 districts** reported **no rubella cases**.
- **Tuberculosis (TB):**
  - Under the **National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)**, TB incidence dropped by **17.7%** (2015–2023).
  - **TB-related deaths** and **missing cases** significantly declined (**83% reduction in missing cases**).
- **Kala-azar:**
  - India achieved **100% Kala-azar elimination** in all endemic blocks by October 2024.

### **Conclusion**

1. India has made **significant advancements in public health**, demonstrating a strong commitment to **equity, accessibility, and inclusivity** in healthcare delivery.
2. Landmark initiatives like **Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission, and maternal health schemes (JSY, PMSMA, SUMAN, LaQshya)** have vastly improved health outcomes, especially for women and children.
3. Digital innovations like **ABDM, eSanjeevani, and U-WIN**, along with disease elimination drives and mental health support platforms like **Tele-MANAS**, are strengthening India's journey toward **universal health coverage**.

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