World Health Day, 2026

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Health*

Why in News?

World Health Day 2026, Prime Minister extended greetings and reaffirmed India's commitment to building a healthier society.

- **Aim –** To raise awareness about ***global health challenges and promote collective action for universal well-being*** through science-based collaboration.
- **Celebrated on – 7th April** (marking the founding day of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948).
- **Coordinating Body –** World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Associated SDG –** *Sustainable Development Goal 3* to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Highlights, 2026

- **Theme, 2026 –** *Together for health. Stand with science.*
- **Slogan** - Under the campaign slogan **"Evidence-led action for a healthier world"**.
- **Focus -** It addresses the critical role of scientific evidence and global collaboration in *protecting the health of people, animals, and the planet.*
- The campaign prioritizes rebuilding trust in medical science to combat the rising spread of health misinformation and unproven medical fads.
- It highlights the ***"One Health"*** approach, acknowledging that human well-being is inseparable from the health of the surrounding ecosystem and animal populations.

Major Initiatives in India related to health

Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY)	• The world's largest health insurance scheme providing ***Rs.5 lakh annual coverage*** for secondary and tertiary care. • A 2026 expansion includes the **Ayushman Vay Vandana Card**, offering this free cover to all citizens **aged 70+.**
Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM)	• Formerly known as Health and Wellness Centres, these units provide comprehensive primary healthcare and free diagnostics. • They focus on science-led preventive screenings for non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension.
Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)	• Creates a seamless digital health ecosystem through the **ABHA ID** to link records across providers. • It ensures evidence-based, paperless treatment and real-time medical history access for patients and doctors.
Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)	• Provides high-quality, science-tested generic medicines at 50–90% lower costs than branded versions. • Jan Aushadhi Kendras make essential healthcare affordable for the common man.

References

1. PIB | World Health Day
2. WHO | World Health Day

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