World Health Day – Significance & Concerns

Why in news?

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April 7th of every year is celebrated as World Health Day under the sponsorship of WHO.

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What is the significance of World Health Day?

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- World Health Day is one of eight official global health campaigns marked by WHO.
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- Which include World Tuberculosis Day, World Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World AIDS Day, World Blood Donor Day, and World Hepatitis Day.
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- On World Health day WHO organizes international, regional and local events related to a particular theme.
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- It primarily focuses on universal health coverage by fixing medical infrastructure.
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- For the year 2018 the theme is “Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Everyone, Everywhere”.
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What are the measures suggested by WHO towards UHC?

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- UHC ensures that all people get quality health services, where and when they need them, without suffering financial hardship and not having to make a choice between good health and other life necessities.
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- WHO aims to \n
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    1. Inspire – Policy makers by highlighting their power to transform health of the nation by driving policy change.
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    2. Motivate – By providing examples of countries who have accomplished this goal and encourage them to find their own path.
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    3. Guide - By providing tools for structured policy dialogue on how to advance UHC.
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What is the status UHC in India?

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- While India has done well on some indicators like immunisation of children for hepatitis B and Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis.
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- India’s health indicators such as Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and under-5 Mortality Rate are still on the higher side.
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- There is also an increasing number of deaths due to TB and Malaria.
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- The probability of an individual dying of the non-communicable diseases such as cancer between ages 30 - 70 is nearly 20 per cent.
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- India has a long way to go as its healthcare infrastructure are inadequate and healthcare professionals are deficit particularly in the poorer parts of the country.
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Source: Business Line

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