



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

76th Session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

Investment in **Primary Health Care (PHC)** as the most inclusive, equitable and cost-effective way to achieve **Universal Health Coverage** was emphasized during the **Ministerial Roundtable Conference at the 76th session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia** in New Delhi.

- **Delhi Declaration** on strengthening primary health care as a key element towards achieving universal health coverage was signed at the meeting.
- Reaffirming the vision of the Government of India of “**Antyodaya**” (the principle of leaving no one behind), it was stated that India’s strong health system relies on a “**whole of government**” and “**whole of society**” approach with the goal of improving essential health services and health systems to pre-pandemic levels.
- Importance of **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** was emphasized which are transforming the delivery of comprehensive primary health care services.

Read More: [Accredited Social Health Activist \(ASHA\)](#), [Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission \(ABDM\)](#)

Saima Wazed Elected as WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

Saima Wazed (from Bangladesh) was elected as the **Regional Director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region** during the **76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Southeast Asia**.

- The Regional Committee for **South-East Asia** is WHO's governing body in the Region.
- **The WHO Southeast Asia Region has 11 Member States** - Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste. WHO has country offices in all 11 Member States.
 - The WHO South-East Asia Regional Office is **headquartered in New Delhi, India**.

Chinese Antarctic Fleet Sets Off to Build New Research Station

Two Chinese icebreaker research vessels and a cargo ship have set sail for **Antarctica**.

- The mission's primary objective is to complete the **construction of China's fifth research station in the Antarctic**, situated on Inexpressible Island near the **Ross Sea**.
 - The Ross Sea is located off the coast of Antarctica. It is one of the last **intact marine ecosystems** in the world.
 - **China has four research stations in Antarctica:** Great Wall(1985), Zhongshan(1989), Kunlun(2009), and Taishan(2014).
- An icebreaker is a ship specially designed to navigate through ice-covered waters, and also provide a safe waterway for other vessels.
- **India has two active research stations in Antarctica, 'Maitri' and 'Bharati.'**

Read more: [India's Antarctic Missions](#), [PACER Scheme](#)

Culmination of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

The **Indian Prime Minister** marked the culmination of [Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav](#) with the conclusion of the '**Meri Maati Mera Desh**' campaign.

- Commencing on the **12th of March 2021**, the inception of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** drew **inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's [Dandi Yatra](#)**.
 - Notably, the conclusion of this celebratory event was observed on the **31st of October 2023, coinciding with the birth anniversary of [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#)**.
- During the same occasion, the **foundation stone for the Amrit Vatika and Amrit Mahotsav Memorial** was also ceremoniously laid.
- The "**Meri Maati Mera Desh**" campaign pays homage to the courageous individuals who made significant sacrifices for the nation.
 - Through collaborative efforts at various levels, the campaign involves diverse activities such as **erecting memorials, taking pledges, planting indigenous saplings**, and honoring freedom fighters and their families through ceremonies.

Read more: [Dandi March 1930](#), [Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel](#)

Rohini Nayyar Prize

Engineer-turned-social worker **Deenanath Rajput** was awarded the **Rohini Nayyar Prize** for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development for his work in changing the lives of over 6,000 tribal women in **Naxalite affected areas of Chhattisgarh** through the establishment of a **[farmers' producers organization \(FPO\)](#)**.

- This is the **second edition of the Rohini Nayyar Prize**, which was instituted in the memory of the eponymous economist and administrator Rohini Nayyar who passed away in **2021**.
- **Rohini Nayyar Prize awardee is granted a cash prize of ₹10 lakhs.**

Read More: [Gandhi Peace Prize](#), [Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize](#)

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