World Health Day

For Prelims: World Health Day, National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana, India's Health Index, SAMRIDH Initiative

For Mains: World Mental Health Day and its importance, Current Healthcare Landscape in India

Why in News?

Every year 7th April marks the celebration of **World Health Day.**

- **World Mental Health Day** is observed on **10th October every year.**

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What are the Key Highlights about World Health Day?

- **About:**
    - Its idea was conceived at the **First Health Assembly in 1948** and it came into effect in **1950**.
    - It is being celebrated today to mark the foundation of the **World Health Organization (WHO)** on 7th April 1948.
    - Over the years, it has **brought to light important health issues** such as **mental health**, maternal and child care and **climate change.**
- **Aim:**
    - To **create awareness** of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for

the **WHO.**
- **Theme for 2022:**
    - Our Planet, Our Health

What is the Need to Recognise the Day?

- **Rising Deaths due Environmental Causes:**
    - Around the world, **13 million deaths are caused due to avoidable environmental causes.**
        - This includes the climate crisis which is the single biggest health threat facing humanity.
- **Rising Air Pollution:**
    - Over **90% of people breathe unhealthy air** resulting from burning of **fossil fuels.**
- **Impact of Pandemic:**
    - The **pandemic has revealed weaknesses in all areas of society** and underlined the urgency of creating sustainable well-being societies committed to achieving equitable health now and for future generations without breaching ecological limits.
- **Rising Extreme Weather Events:**
    - Extreme weather events, **land degradation** and water scarcity are displacing people and affecting their health.
- **Rising Pollution and Plastics:**
    - **Pollution and plastics** are also affecting people's lives and have made their way into our food chain.
- **Inequitable Distribution of Income:**
    - The **present design of the economy leads to inequitable distribution of income, wealth and power,** with too many people still living in poverty and instability.

What is the Current Healthcare Landscape in India?

- Although **India's healthcare sector has grown rapidly over the last five years** (Compound Annual Growth Rate of 22%), Covid-19 has brought to the forefront persistent challenges such as a weak health system, lack of quality infrastructure, and lack of quality service delivery to vulnerable populations.
- **India's healthcare spending is 3.6% of** Gross Domestic Product (GDP), including out-of-pocket and public expenditure.
    - The combined total **government expenditure** of both central and state is **1.29% of GDP.**
    - India spends the least among **BRICS** countries: Brazil spends the most (9.2%), followed by South Africa (8.1%), Russia (5.3%), China (5%).
- The Government of India has launched the flagship initiative A**yushman Bharat (AB) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** the **world's largest non-contributory Government-sponsored health insurance scheme** that enables increased access to in-patient healthcare for poor and vulnerable families in secondary and tertiary facilities.

What are Related Initiatives for the Health Sector?

- **National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019**
- **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana**
- **Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana.**
- **India's Health Index**
- **SAMRIDH Initiative**

Source: DTE