

02 – 06 – 2023

News: 76th World Health Assembly

- Recently, the 76th annual World Health Assembly was held at World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters (HQ), Geneva, Switzerland, from 21st to 30th May 2023.
- The theme for 2023 is “WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all”.
- The participation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister in the 76th World Health Assembly highlighted India's commitment to global health.
- Taiwan was excluded from the WHO assembly due to opposition from China and Pakistan.

World Health Assembly (WHA)

- The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of World Health Organisation (WHO).
- It is held yearly at World Health Organisation headquarters in Geneva.
- It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.

- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to **determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, review and approve the proposed program budget.**
- The Health Assembly is **held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **WHO Executive Board Executive** gives effect to the decisions and policies of **the World Health Assembly**, to advise it and generally to facilitate its work (not World Health Assembly).
- The Health Assembly in May 2015 has adopted **Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030.**

World Health Organization (WHO)

- World Health Organization (WHO), the **United Nations' specialized agency for Health** was founded in 1948.
- Its headquarters are situated in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- There are **194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices.**
- It is an **inter-governmental organization** and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.

- The World Health Organisation shares a common funding model with other United Nations agencies.
- WHO gets its funding from two main sources: **Member States paying their mandatory or assessed contributions** (countries' membership dues), and **voluntary contributions** from Member States and other partners.
- This includes **mandatory or “assessed contributions”** from the member countries, which are determined by each country's income level and population.
- This is **supplemented by “voluntary contributions”** from both member states and non-governmental organisations.
- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is the **joint collaboration of FAO and WHO**.
- The WHO **provides leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends**.
- It began functioning on **April 7, 1948** – a date now being celebrated every year as **World Health Day**.

- **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)** in partnership with World Health Organisation (WHO), implements the **World Food Safety Day** on **June 7th** of every year on behalf of **UNGA**.
- Recently, **China** has been declared **Malaria – Free** by World Health Organization.
- Recently, **Monkeypox** outbreak has been declared as a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)** by the World Health Organization.
- The WHO said **China** is the first country in the **Western Pacific** region to be declared malaria free in more than 30 years, following **Australia** in 1981, **Singapore** in 1982 and **Brunei** in 1987.
- The **eradication** of a disease is permanent and global, while the **elimination** of a disease is an achievement restricted to a specific geographic area.
- **Anti-Microbial Resistance** has been declared as a global public health threat by World Health Organisation.
- Recently, **Madhya Pradesh** has become the second state after **Kerala** to develop an action plan to manage antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- World Health Organisation endorses four diseases – specific days to generate awareness: **HIV-AIDS** (1st December), **TB** (24th March), **Malaria** (25th April), and **Hepatitis** (28th July).

- Recently, **NITI Aayog** has released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled ‘**Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals**’ along with **WHO India and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Recently, WHO endorsed the world's first malaria vaccine Mosquirix (Current Affairs).

Objectives

- To act as the **directing and coordinating authority on international health work**.
- To establish and maintain effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups and such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate.
- To provide **assistance to the Governments, upon request, in strengthening health services**.
- To **promote cooperation among scientific and professional groups which contribute to the advancement of health**.

- Recently, World Health Organisation announced the eradication of Measles and Rubella from Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- **Moscow Declaration on WHO** emphasis need for fixing multi-sectoral responsibility towards ending TB by 2035, the global target. It recognises need

for multi-sectoral accountability framework to end TB, which is both political and technical.