

# UN award for India's Hypertension Control Initiative

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**In news-** Recently, **India has won** UN Interagency Task Force, and WHO Special Programme on Primary Health Care Award **for its 'India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI)'**, a large-scale hypertension intervention under the National Health Mission.

## **About the Award-**

- The 2022 award recognizes achievements during 2021 on multisectoral action in the prevention and control of NCDs, mental health and the wider NCD-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It recognize outstanding commitment and action to prevent and control NCDs and deliver integrated people-centered primary care & made in three categories:
  1. Ministries of health and government health agencies
  2. Ministries and government agencies outside health
  3. Non-governmental organizations, academia and foundations.
- For 2022 the awards Scheme was expanded to recognize work in primary care for prevention and control of NCDs.

## **What is India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI)?**

- IHCI is a **collaborative initiative of the health ministry, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), state governments and World Health Organization-India.**
- IHCI has been able to leverage and strengthen the existing health care delivery system, hypertension control interventions under National Health Mission and improve the linkages between populations-based screening

initiative with health care.

- The **UN award recognises the outstanding commitment and action of India to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**; and deliver integrated people-centric primary care.
- **The initiative was launched in 2017**, and expanded in a phased manner to cover more than 130 districts across 23 states.
- Under the initiative, at least 3.4 million people with hypertension are taking treatment in government health facilities, including Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centres (HWCs).
- **Hypertension is called a silent disease**, and estimates suggest that **one in four adults in India has high blood pressure**.
- The control of hypertension at primary care system level will contribute to reducing deaths due to heart attacks, stroke and also kidney failures.
- The project strategies are easily scalable within the health system. The strategies include
  - A simple drug-dose-specific standard treatment protocol.
  - Ensuring adequate quantity of protocol medications.
  - Decentralisation of care with follow-up and refills of medicines at Health Wellness Centres.
  - Task sharing involving all health staff and a powerful real-time information system which can track every patient for follow-up and blood pressure control.
- Under IHCI, nearly half of those who were treated had blood pressure under control.
- It **complements the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS) of the Health ministry** IHCI accelerates the achievement of targets of the government by ensuring a continuum of care and giving a boost to the ongoing

“Ayushman Bharat” programme.