

## Health Ministry forms a Solidarity Human Chain

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### More than 17,000 Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres become operational



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with World Health Organization (WHO) has formed a Solidarity Human Chain as part of the World Health Day celebrations to reaffirm their commitment to bridging gaps and working collaboratively towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The theme of World Health Day 2019 is Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere. Speaking at the function, Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health) stated that this event emphasizes our commitment to ensure all people and communities have access to quality healthcare services, where and when they are required, without suffering financial hardship. At the event, Preeti Sudan also administered the solidarity pledge to work towards making universal health care available to everyone, everywhere.

Preeti Sudan said that the government is committed to strengthening 1,50,000 health facilities as Health and Wellness Centres which will deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care closer to where people live in the rural and urban areas. "As of today, more than 17,000 HWCs are operational across the country and are providing services for non-communicable diseases in addition to existing services for reproductive and child health, communicable diseases etc," she elaborated.

World Health Organization Representative to India Dr. Henk Bekedam said, "A well-equipped primary health care delivery system is the key to achieving universal health coverage. This will require bringing quality care closer to people; strengthening peripheral health centres with linkages to secondary and tertiary care; and equipping primary health care providers to effectively deliver a package of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services. Let's join hands to work on this."