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India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI)

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Why is in news? India wins UN award for its initiative to control and prevent hypertension under National Health Mission

- The India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) won the '**2022 UN Interagency Task Force and WHO Special Programme on Primary Health Care Award**' at the UN General Assembly side event held at New York in USA on 21st September, 2022.
- The **India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI)** which is a **large-scale hypertension intervention** under National Health Mission, has been recognized for its exceptional work within India's existing primary healthcare system.
- The award recognizes the **outstanding commitment and action of India to prevent and control Non-Communicable Diseases and deliver integrated people-centric primary care.**
- India has set a **target of 25% relative reduction** in the prevalence of hypertension (raised blood pressure) **by 2025.**
- To achieve this, it is important to **fast-track access to treatment services** by strengthening interventions such as the India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI).
- It was in **September 2017** that the **India Hypertension Management Project** was launched with an aim to reduce disability and death related to cardiovascular disease (CVD).
- The India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) is a **multi-partner initiative**, implementing and scaling up a public health hypertension control program across India.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**), State Governments, World Health Organization (**WHO**), and Resolve to Save Lives initiative of Vital Strategies, in a collaborative effort, launched India Hypertension Management Initiative (IHMI).
- 21.3% of women and 24% of men aged above 15 have been diagnosed with hypertension in India.
- As per the recent **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**, Southern States of India have a higher prevalence of hypertension than the national average. The prevalence of hypertension is the highest in Kerala, followed by Telangana state.
- The initiative was launched in 2017 and expanded in a phased manner to cover more than 130 districts across 23 states.
- Under the initiative, more than 34 lakh people with hypertension are taking treatment in government health facilities, including Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centres.

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthy Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**