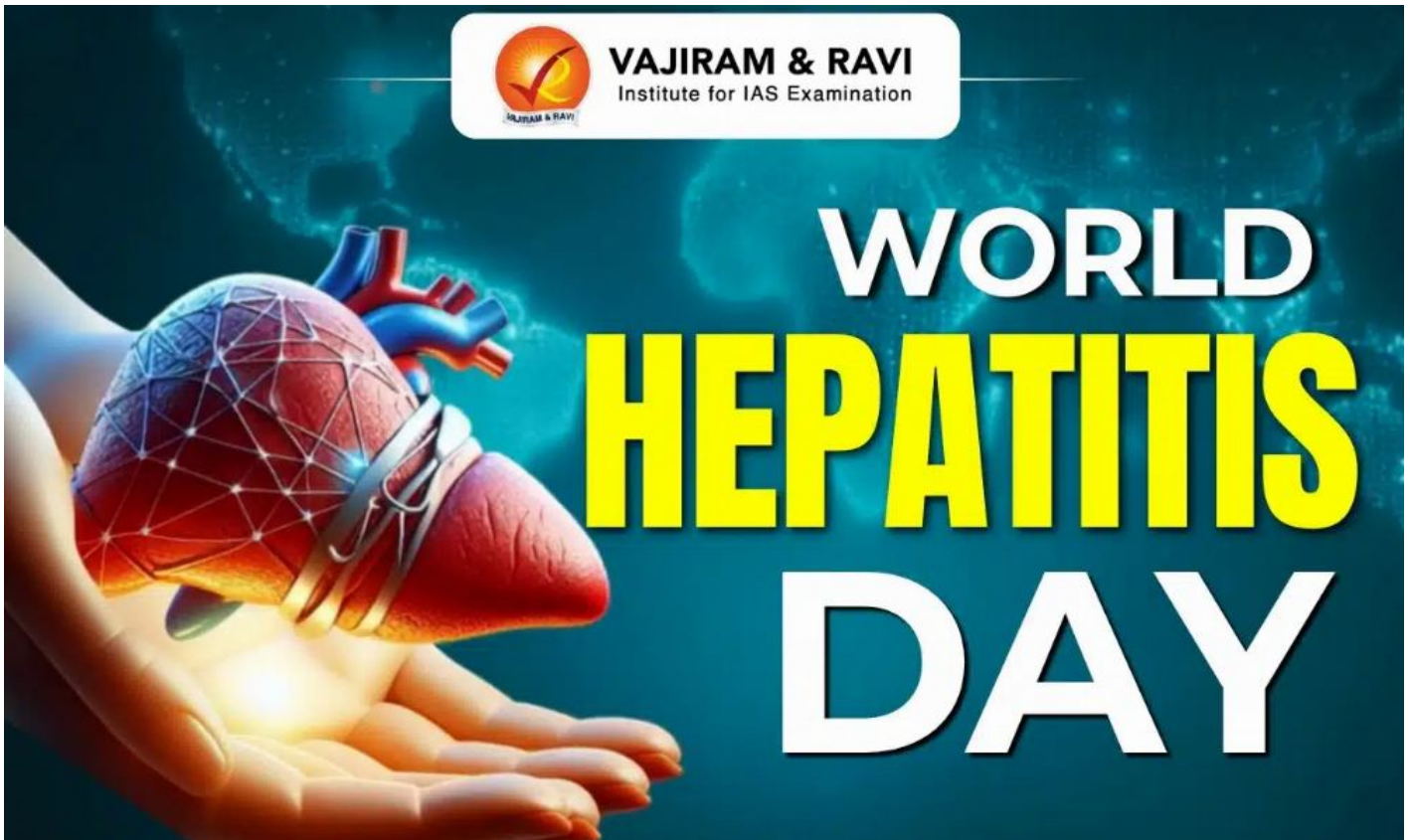


World Hepatitis Day 2026, Date, Theme, Significance, WHO Goal

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World Hepatitis Day 2026 is observed on **Tuesday, July 28, 2026**, to raise global awareness about viral hepatitis, a major public health challenge affecting millions of people worldwide. Led by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the campaign encourages governments, healthcare providers, and communities to improve access to testing, vaccination, treatment, and prevention services. The day also highlights the urgent need to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by **2030**, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Why is World Hepatitis Day Celebrated on July 28?

World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on **28 July** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg**, the **Nobel Prize**-winning scientist who discovered the **Hepatitis B virus (HBV)**. His pioneering research led to the development of the **first diagnostic test** and the **first Hepatitis B vaccine**, revolutionizing the prevention and treatment of the disease.

World Hepatitis Day 2026 Theme

The **World Hepatitis Day 2026 theme** is “**Hepatitis: Let’s break it down.**” Introduced by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the theme calls for breaking down barriers that prevent people from accessing hepatitis testing, vaccination, treatment, and quality healthcare. It also emphasizes reducing stigma, increasing awareness, and accelerating global efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by **2030**.

WHO’s Goal to Eliminate Hepatitis by 2030

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** aims to eliminate **viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030** under its **Global Health Sector Strategy**. The goal focuses on expanding vaccination, improving access to testing and treatment, preventing new infections, and reducing hepatitis-related deaths through stronger healthcare systems and universal health coverage.

World Hepatitis Day 2026 Significance

World Hepatitis Day 2026 highlights the importance of preventing, detecting, and treating viral hepatitis while promoting global efforts to eliminate the disease as a public health threat by 2030.

- **Raises Awareness:** Educates people about the causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment of viral hepatitis.
- **Promotes Early Testing:** Encourages timely screening and diagnosis to prevent severe liver complications.
- **Supports Vaccination:** Highlights the importance of Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccination to reduce infections.
- **Expands Access to Treatment:** Advocates for affordable diagnostics, medicines, and lifelong care for hepatitis patients.
- **Reduces Stigma:** Promotes understanding and fights discrimination faced by people living with hepatitis.
- **Strengthens Healthcare Systems:** Encourages countries to integrate hepatitis services into primary healthcare.
- **Advances the 2030 Goal:** Supports the WHO target of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.
- **Protects Liver Health:** Raises awareness about preventing liver cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer caused by hepatitis.
- **Encourages Global Collaboration:** Brings together governments, healthcare professionals, NGOs, and communities to strengthen hepatitis control efforts.

About Hepatitis

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by viral infections, although it can also result from excessive alcohol consumption, certain medications, toxins, or autoimmune diseases. The liver plays a vital role in digestion, detoxification, and nutrient storage, so hepatitis can significantly affect overall health.

- **Types of Hepatitis**
 - **Hepatitis A (HAV):** Spread through contaminated food or water; usually causes a short-term infection and can be prevented with vaccination.

- **Hepatitis B (HBV):** Transmitted through infected blood, unprotected sex, or from mother to child during birth; can become chronic but is preventable through vaccination.
- **Hepatitis C (HCV):** Primarily spreads through infected blood; often becomes chronic but is curable with modern antiviral medicines.
- **Hepatitis D (HDV):** A rare virus that occurs only in people already infected with Hepatitis B and can worsen liver disease.
- **Hepatitis E (HEV):** Usually spreads through contaminated drinking water and is more common in areas with poor sanitation.
- **Main Cause:** Most cases are caused by five hepatitis viruses: **Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.**
- **Other Causes:** Alcohol abuse, certain medications, autoimmune disorders, and exposure to harmful chemicals can also cause hepatitis.
- **Acute vs. Chronic:** Hepatitis can be **acute (short-term)** or **chronic (long-lasting)**, depending on the type and severity.
- **Most Dangerous Types:** Chronic **Hepatitis B** and **Hepatitis C** are the leading causes of liver cirrhosis and liver cancer worldwide.
- **Silent Disease:** Many infected individuals experience **no symptoms** for years, making regular screening important.
- **Liver Function:** The liver helps digest food, stores nutrients, produces clotting proteins, and removes toxins from the blood.
- **Transmission:** Different hepatitis viruses spread through contaminated food and water, infected blood, unprotected sexual contact, or from mother to child during childbirth.
- **Vaccination Available:** Safe and effective vaccines are available for **Hepatitis A** and **Hepatitis B.**
- **Curability:** **Hepatitis C** can be cured in most cases with direct-acting antiviral (DAA) medicines, while **Hepatitis B** can be effectively managed with long-term treatment.
- **High-Risk Groups:** Healthcare workers, people receiving unsafe blood transfusions, injection drug users, newborns of infected mothers, and individuals with multiple sexual partners are at higher risk.

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