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By *editor*

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Health ministers from the 11 countries of WHO's Southeast Asia Region will meet in Delhi from September 10 to 13 to discuss key health issues, like high blood pressure, universal health coverage, targets for controlling non-communicable diseases etc, will be high on the agenda.

Hosted by Union health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, WHO director-general Margaret Chan and WHO regional director for Southeast Asia Samlee Plianbangchang will be present with their team of senior advisers at both meetings.

The experts aim to discuss issues related to growing problem of high blood pressure and its implications on health. The meeting of ministers of health will discuss ways to address this leading risk factor for mortality in the Region and will also adopt the "New Delhi Declaration on High Blood Pressure".

The regional committee meeting will include discussion on key technical issues regarding Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that aims to ensure that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them.

The experts will also discuss targets for prevention and control of non communicable diseases (NCDs), the leading cause of mortality globally and in the Region.

Every year around 7.9 million people die due to NCDs accounting for 55% of all deaths in the Region. The Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly adopted a resolution endorsing the Global Plan of Action for Prevention and Control of NCDs for 2013 to 2020.

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