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Editorial

"World Health Dayand Pediatric Surgery Day 2026: May the Future Generation Be Protected by the Power of Science"

Look, this is an extraordinary occasion. It is a surprising and incredible fortune that today is Tuesday, April 7—a day of unprecedented connectivity. In 2026, both World Health Day and World Pediatric Surgery Day are observed on the same day! This is a potent message rather than only a coincidence. We are concentrating on World Pediatric Surgery Day today within the larger framework of World Health Day. It is difficult to achieve universal health coverage without providing children with safe and reasonably priced surgical services.

We must recognize that surgery is not a luxury; it is a child's right to live. If we cannot assure that children receive affordable and safe surgery, the objective of long-term health will remain elusive. So, with the power of science and our efforts, let us create a healthy future for our children.This pair reminds the worldwide medical community of an unavoidable truth: 'Universal Health Protection' or 'Health for All' is never achievable without providing safe, timely, and cheap pediatric surgical procedures to children. Let this day serve as a commitment to provide every youngster with the advantages of contemporary science.

I would like to include some significant scientific reasons in addition to human emotions:

1) Prospects for the future: We must keep in mind that pediatric surgery is the best investment in public health, not a convenience. Because a child's surgery ensures a healthy life for the following eighty to ninety years, unlike an adult's. You or the legislators are aware that this is a long-term "lifetime investment" rather than merely an operation when I mention 80–90 years.

2) Economic Impact and Importance: By eliminating handicap, pediatric surgery not only saves lives but also boosts the nation's productive workforce. This is known as "saving Daly" (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) in the context of public health, and it also benefits the nation's economy.

3) Scientific excellence: Thanks to current microsurgery and AI-assisted robotic or minimally invasive surgery, sophisticated surgeries may now be performed successfully on babies, which is a true miracle of science.

4) The issue of rights: We should aim to make surgery a basic right for all children rather than aextravagance.

By celebrating these two days simultaneously, the global medical community has brought to the fore a strictreality—it is impossible to achieve 'universal health protection' without ensuring safe, timely and affordable surgery for children. In the context of this day, one thing has become very clear today—surgery is not an isolated part of public health.Our priorities need to be rearranged. The fundamental goal behind the current global movement is to provide every child with access to safe and reasonably priced surgical services. According to medical science, pediatric surgery is one of the best long-term social expenditures in public health, not merely a medical operation.

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Experts agree that enhancing mother and child health through surgery is essential to achieving the SDG targets. Thus, today's topic is "Together for health." Stand with science: Our goal should be to create a society in which no child is denied surgery because of financial constraints or geographic distance. A generation is almost saved when a youngster undergoes effective surgery.So, let's work together and have faith in science to protect children's rights. The planet won't be fully healthy in the future unless we can use science to give every child this better service.

Let today's theme be - May every child be healthy through the hands of science.

Thank you.