

| <p style="text-align: center;">The Health News Updates (15th June, 2016) From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory http://www.rhobservatory.net/</p> | |
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| National | International |
| Reproductive and Maternal & Child Health | |
| <p>Every 5 Minutes, A Pregnant Woman Dies In India: WHO</p> <p>Every five minutes, at least one Indian woman dies during pregnancy and child birth, the World Health Organisation said on Sunday.</p> <p>According to WHO, of the 529,000 maternal deaths occurring every year, 136,000 or 25.7 per cent take place in India.</p> <p>http://everylifecounts.ndtv.com/every-5-minutes-a-pregnant-woman-dies-in-india-world-health-organisatio-3358</p> | <p>Reproductive Health Urged to be at Heart of Humanitarian Crisis Response</p> <p>As the war in Syria enters its sixth year, researchers and public health practitioners at the American University of Beirut are working to adapt guidelines for sexual and reproductive health care during emergencies so they're more relevant to the Middle East and North Africa.</p> <p>http://womensenews.org/2016/06/reproductive-health-urged-to-be-at-heart-of-humanitarian-crisis-response/</p> |
| <p>Meet mulls steps to bring down maternal mortality in State</p> <p>On Sunday, at a gathering of professionals in the private and public health sectors, a rather easy meeting of minds happened, and the result might make a significant contribution towards maternal health in the State.</p> <p>Speaking at the mid-year conference of obstetricians and gynaecologists here on Sunday, Director of the Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project Derez Ahmed set out an agenda to drive the State's maternal mortality down, and together, they resolved to draw on their collective experience to draw up protocols that would facilitate this.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/meet-mulls-steps-to-bring-down-maternal-mortality-in-state/article8726200.ece</p> | <p>WHO validates countries' elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis</p> <p>The World Health Organization congratulates Thailand and Belarus for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of both HIV and syphilis. WHO also applauds Armenia and the Republic of Moldova for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and syphilis, respectively.</p> <p>http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/mother-child-hiv-syphilis/en/</p> |
| <p>Premature deliveries, low birth weight major causes of infant deaths: Maharashtra govt audit</p> <p>A total of 1,201 infants died in 2015-16 in the Pune circle area, comprising Pune, Satara and Solapur. During the same period, 173 maternal deaths and 536 child deaths, in the age group 1 to 5 years, were registered, according to an audit of maternal and child deaths undertaken by the state's health department.</p> <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/premature-deliveries-low-birth-weight-major-causes-of-infant-deaths-maharashtra-govt-audit-2842142/</p> | <p>Measuring What Works: Evaluating Women's Groups on Maternal Health Uptake in Rural Nepal</p> <p>Last month Women's Deliver Conference in Copenhagen was a turning point for the future of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with regards to women and girls' rights -The SDGs will only be achieved if women and girls are put at the centre of development and the key message from the conference was that there is a need to focus on solutions.</p> <p>http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/measuring-what-works-eval_b_10335082.html?section=india</p> |

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| <p>India will win if it cares for its women and mothers A child is added to India’s burgeoning population roughly every two seconds. Taking into account that almost 300 million people in India still live below the poverty line, the vast majority of our country struggles with even basic health care cover during this incredible life-changing event. A large number of global maternal and neonatal deaths are unfortunately from India. According to the State of the World’s Mothers report, published in May 2013, by Save the Children, India ranked 142nd out of 176 countries. http://forbesindia.com/blog/health/india-will-win-if-it-cares-for-its-women-and-mothers/</p> | <p>Towards a Midwifery Profession in Bangladesh - a Systems Approach for a Complex World Safe motherhood is about a woman's right to choose as well as her right to survive. Registered midwives are required to ensure these two rights. DFID agreed to support the midwifery education programme under BRAC University. The main purpose of the midwifery programme was to develop a competent and compassionate cadre of midwives to serve in hard-to-reach areas of the country.. http://www.thedailystar.net/round-tables/towards-midwifery-profession-bangladesh-systems-approach-complex-world-1239406</p> |
| <p>Amid the grime, signs of hope for Indian health care The Indian government has failed to provide the most basic health care to Indians in rural areas. It spends only about one per cent of its GDP on public health, far less than many other countries. The lack of basic amenities is partially responsible for 1.26 million children under 5 dying every year and a maternal mortality rate of 44,000 a year, according to government statistics – higher than Bangladesh or Nepal. http://www.thenational.ae/opinion/comment/amid-the-grime-signs-of-hope-for-indian-health-care</p> | <p>Infertility Makes the Global Women’s Health Agenda at Copenhagen Conference Infertility was a topic of discussion at the world’s largest women’s health and rights conference just held in Copenhagen by Women Deliver. While reproductive health issues such as maternal health and infant mortality are often the focus among global health topics, infertility is often not. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/infertility-makes-the-global-10327576.html?section=india</p> |
| <p>Health ministry pushes for sex education, to approach HRD ministry by next week Sex education may become part of the national curriculum as soon as the health ministry is ready with a module based on decade-long research aiming to provide basic knowledge about sexuality and reproductive health to schoolchildren. http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/health-ministry-pushes-for-sex-education-to-approach-hrd-ministry-by-next-week/1/689874.html</p> | |
| <p>Family Planning International & India News</p> | |
| <p>Strategy to enhance male participation in family planning on the anvil A strategy to bolster participation of would-be fathers in making informed decisions is in the pipeline to enhance their integration in the family planning process, especially during their spouse's pregnancy, and reduce the burden of contraception on women, an expert has said. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/Strategy-to-enhance-male-participation-in-family-planning-on-the-anvil/articleshow/52533745.cms</p> | |

Family Planning Beyond Sterilization in India

With a population of 1.3 billion and counting, India is predicted to overtake China as the world's most populous nation by 2022, according to a recent U.N. report. Despite the government's long-standing goal to achieve population stabilization, India is still gaining about 18 million people each year, with more than half its population within reproductive age.

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/womenandgirls/family-planning-beyond-sterilization-in-india/>

Putting women at the centre of family planning

Family planning in India has always been looked upon as something that is synonymous with regulating family size and reproductive behaviour. However, in 2012, when India made a commitment at the London Summit on Family Planning, this provided the much-needed impetus to re-imagine the agenda of family planning in India. The revamped family planning vision of reaching out to an additional 48 million new users was seen not just as a 'target' but rather as a 'commitment' to enable users to choose and plan healthier lives for themselves.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/putting-women-at-the-centre-of-family-planning/story-BGaNim7BXGRGwGcwGxuaqO.html>

Government wants to focus on male sterilization; first to do so since Emergency

Even as the health ministry makes a fresh push to revive family planning measures, the ministry of women and child development wants a shift in focus from female sterilization to male sterilization. This is the first time any Indian government has signalled a move towards male sterilization after Congress leader Sanjay Gandhi's infamous efforts in the 1970s.

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/6WYKkKr6SgVavd7Uyx9KaN/Government-wants-to-focus-on-male-sterilization-first-to-do.html>

Abortion

National

Health authorities urge FDA to keep check on illegal sale of abortion pills

Concerns over Jalna's declining sex ratio has prompted the district civil surgeon to urge the Food and Drug Administration to keep a check on sale of abortion pills. Jalna's score for 2015-16 was 887 girls for 1,000 boys, one of the worst in the country.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/Health-authorities-urge-FDA-to-keep-check-on-illegal-sale-of-abortion-pills/articleshow/52682053.cms>

International

Hillary Clinton vows to prioritize abortion rights if elected

Preserving the right to seek and obtain an abortion will remain a key component of her presidential bid, presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton said on June 10. Speaking to the political arm of the national reproductive health and advocacy organisation Planned Parenthood, Clinton placed herself in stark contrast to her Republican rival Donald Trump, whom she portrayed as a sexist enemy of women's rights.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report-clinton-vows-to-prioritise-abortion-rights-if-elected-2222738>

Haryana BAMS Doctor Arrested For Selling Abortion Drugs

The Department of Health and department of women and child welfare in a joint operation conducted a surprise check at a private clinic in sector 15 and BAMS doctor was arrested for selling MTP kits to women.

<http://allindiaroundup.com/news/haryana-bams-doctor-arrested-for-selling-abortion-drugs/>

Women's Rights Groups Criticize Obama For 'Excuses And Silence' On Abortion Policy

As President Barack Obama celebrated his legacy on women's rights at the United State of Women White House summit on Tuesday, reproductive and human rights advocates gathered outside the event to demand his action on abortion access for women raped in conflict.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/obama-helm-amendment-abortion-rights_us_575f5be5e4b053d433061ef5?section=india

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| | <p>Abortion ban in Ireland cruel, discriminatory, degrading: UN U.N. human rights experts ruled Thursday that Ireland's abortion ban subjects women to discriminatory, cruel and degrading treatment and should be ended for cases involving fatal fetal abnormalities. http://globalnews.ca/news/2750935/abortion-ban-in-ireland-cruel-discriminatory-degrading-un/</p> |
| Other Health Related News | |
| <p>Ministry performance gets mixed review from public health experts Some laudable programmes, some frustratingly poor implementation, a whole lot of wait and watch; health as a sector under two years of the NDA government is a mixed bag for public health experts. http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-ministry-performance-gets-mixed-review-from-public-health-experts-2219203</p> | <p>Thank You, World Health Organization! The World Health Organization has long been a leader in matters of public health, from its successes against such dreaded diseases as smallpox to its campaign to control tobacco. Its new Health and Ageing Strategy, passed recently in Geneva at the 69th World Health Assembly, follows in this admirable tradition. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/thank-you-world-health-organization_b_10219228.html?section=india</p> |
| <p>Cabinet nod to increase retirement age of doctors to 65 The Union cabinet on Wednesday gave its approval to raise the retirement age of Central Health Services staff from 62 to 65 years in a bid to make up for shortage of health personnel needed to implement national health programmes. http://www.livemint.com/Science/G8YUbwPILXA6Lr2igsBq5O/Cabinet-nod-to-increase-retirement-age-of-doctors-to-65.html</p> | <p>Nigeria: Tropical Diseases - Hundreds of Millions At Risk - World Health Organisation Chief In May 2016, the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Africa (AFRO) launched a major new partnership to help African countries reduce the burden of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). http://allafrica.com/stories/201606120230.html</p> |
| <p>Staff under various heads of National Health Mission to be integrated The Union health ministry will integrate its staff under the National Health Mission (NHM) working on various programmes under a single umbrella, a ministry official said. The move will check duplication of staff in some places, while opening up possibility of round-the-clock services where it is required. http://www.livemint.com/Politics/rogn4n3qMgLP0XOZ1YjE3M/Staff-under-various-heads-of-National-Health-Mission-to-be-i.html</p> | <p>A to Z at the World Health Assembly: Discussions Range from Antimicrobial Resistance to the Zika Virus The 69th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva demonstrated once again the central role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in global health. Whether one focuses on WHO's global action plan on antimicrobial resistance or the international response to health emergencies like the Ebola and Zika viruses, there were countless venues for official and unofficial decisions and discussions on every health issue under the sun. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-e-lange/a-to-z-at-the-world-health_b_10285070.html</p> |

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| | <p>The 2016 Global Nutrition Report</p> <p>The latest edition of the Global Nutrition Report is released. The Global Nutrition Report acts as a report card on the world’s nutrition—globally, regionally, and country by country—and on efforts to improve it. It assesses progress in meeting Global Nutrition Targets established by the World Health Assembly. The World Health Organization is a Global Nutrition Report Partner. http://www.who.int/nutrition/globalnutritionreport/en/</p> |
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| Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health |
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| <p>Reproductive Health is pleased to announce a mandatory open data policy in the journal</p> <p>The field of global health is evolving and moving forward from not just securing open access publication to aid in the dissemination of research but further still, making the data underpinning the results of that publication open. Funders¹ in the field, and recently the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), are increasingly requiring that researchers make data produced during their grants publicly accessible. https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0190-4</p> |
| <p>Community perceptions of pre-eclampsia in rural Karnataka State, India: a qualitative study</p> <p>Maternal deaths have been attributed in large part to delays in recognition of illness, timely transport to facility, and timely treatment once there. As community perceptions of pregnancy and their complications are critical to averting maternal morbidity and mortality, this study sought to contribute to the literature and explore community-based understandings of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia. https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0137-9</p> |
| <p>Moving beyond disrespect and abuse: addressing the structural dimensions of obstetric violence</p> <p>During recent decades, a growing and preoccupying excess of medical interventions during childbirth, even in physiological and uncomplicated births, together with a concerning spread of abusive and disrespectful practices towards women during childbirth across the world, have been reported. Despite research and policy-making to address these problems, changing childbirth practices has proved to be difficult. http://www.rhm-elsevier.com/article/S0968-8080(16)30002-7/fulltext</p> |