

The Health News Updates (August 8, 2014)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

Maternal and New-Born Health

Woman swims river in spate to save her unborn baby

It's the story of a young mother-to-be's courage. A nine-month pregnant woman swam about 600 metres of a river in spate to reach the mainland to ensure she received timely medical help and her unborn baby wouldn't suffer due to lack of it. This even as machine boat operators and the taluk tahsildar's efforts to reach her flooded village failed.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bangalore/Woman-swims-river-in-spate-to-save-her-unborn-baby/articleshow/39510792.cms>

Mother's 'kangaroo care' with singing beneficial for preterm infant's health

A new research has suggested that mothers and their child's health might improve if the mother sings to her preterm infant while providing 'kangaroo care,' or holding them with direct skin-to-skin contact.

Source: The Business Standard

Read more

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/mother-s-kangaroo-care-with-singing-beneficial-for-preterm-infant-s-health-114080500784_1.html

Blow to Maternal Mortality

Maheswari Rajan, 35, was admitted in a critical condition to a general hospital in rural Chennai. Her child had died in the womb a few days ago and the sepsis (infection) had spread through her body, threatening to turn fatal for her too. India, which accounts for one-third of the global maternal deaths, is home to thousand such Maheswaris, who succumb to pregnancy-induced hypertension and low anaemia levels due to lack of awareness on prenatal care and health facilities in rural pockets of the country. At such juncture, a start-up called Care Mother has come as a relief

Source: The New Indian Express

Read more

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/lifestyle/health/Blow-to-Maternal-Mortality/2014/08/03/article2359154.ece>

Reproductive Health

HIV patients affected by acute shortage of drug

'Drug supply is expected to become normal by mid-August'

An acute shortage of a vital anti-HIV drug — Nevirapine 200 mg — has hit patients across the State in the last one month. This is among the crucial drugs that prevent multiplication of the virus and reduce their presence in the blood.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/hiv-patients-affected-by-acute-shortage-of-drug/article6281171.ece>

Other Health News

‘Childhood diarrhoea affects 2 lakh children annually’

Nearly two lakh children are affected by diarrhoea annually in the State due to consumption of contaminated food and water, lack of sanitation and cleanliness, said Minister for Health and Family Welfare U.T. Khader.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/childhood-diarrhoea-affects-2-lakh-children-annually/article6265115.ece>

अस्पताल में संक्रमण रोकने को मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में बनी कमेटी

जयपुर. सरकार एसएमएस समेत प्रदेश के सभी सरकारी अस्पतालों के ऑपरेशन थिएटर, आईसीयू, लेबर रूम में संक्रमण रोकने के लिए एक नीति (पॉलिसी) बनाएगी। इसके लिए चिकित्सा मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में कमेटी गठित की गई है, जो अगले दो माह में पॉलिसी तैयार करेगी।

Source: Dainik Bhaskar

Read more

<http://www.bhaskar.com/article/RAJ-JAI-committee-formed-to-prevent-infection-4698967-NOR.html>

Citizens Provided Free Medical Facilities under NHM

The Health Minister of India has declared that Public Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to decide the persons eligible to avail free medical service provided by public health facilities and also to decide about providing free medical facility to their citizens. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), Central Government supplements the efforts of the States/UTs to provide affordable, accessible and quality health care to people largely through strengthened public health system.

Source: www.pib.nic.in/Medico Friend Circle Listserve

Read more

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=108038>

PM Narendra Modi wants health insurance for all

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called a meeting on health reforms this week in which the format of the health insurance for all, setting up medical colleges in each district and a three-year BSc course in community health are likely to be discussed.

Source: Hindustan Times

Read more

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-wants-health-insurance-for-all/article1-1248701.aspx>

Health Minister calls for body pledge revolution

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has announced a fresh government initiative to ensure that organs and tissues are collected scientifically from donors and distributed to patients-in-need at minimum cost.

Source: Business Standard

Read more

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/health-minister-calls-for-body-pledge-revolution-114080700375_1.html

Government issues alert for early detection of Ebola Virus

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan told Parliament on Wednesday that advisories were issued to the State Disease Surveillance Units to be on alert for early detection and management of travel related Ebola virus cases reported from the community. While the risk of Ebola virus cases in India is low, measures are in place to deal with any case of the virus, he said.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-issues-alert-for-early-detection-of-ebola-virus/article6288093.ece>

Cuttack gears up to tackle dengue challenge

The district administration has asked all private and government hospitals to send blood samples of patients suspected to be suffering from dengue to SCB Medical College and Hospital for ELISA NS-1 and IGM tests for confirmation.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/cuttack-gears-up-to-tackle-dengue-challenge/article6256712.ece>

WHO to Convene Discussion on Experimental Ebola Treatment

The World Health Organisation said Thursday it will convene a panel of experts in medical ethics next week to explore the use of experimental treatment of Ebola in West Africa.

"Currently there is no registered medicine or vaccine against the virus, but there are several experimental options under development," Xinhua quoted Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, as saying at a daily news briefing here.

Source: The New Indian Express

Read more

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/WHO-to-Convene-Discussion-on-Experimental-Ebola-Treatment/2014/08/08/article2369730.ece>

Money for nutrition not well spent

Malnutrition among women and children remains abysmally high in Uttar Pradesh despite several thousand crores spent annually on supplementary nutrition programmes. According to data kept by the Union ministry of women and child development, UP is among the worst performing states in the area of underweight and malnutrition among children between the age group of 0 to 6 years. Ironically, the poor performance persists despite a consecutive annual fund infusion of nearly Rs 3,000 crore towards the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme to which both the Centre and the state governments contribute.

Source: The Times of india

Read more

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31813&articlexml=Money-for-nutrition-not-well-spent-07082014006005>

Malaria claims nine

ITANAGAR, August 6: Arunachal Pradesh has sounded a high alert after report of nine malarial deaths in Longding district bordering Nagaland. "In the past week, nine people have died due to malaria at Longkhaw Village in the district while 81 cases have been detected during a medical camp organized recently. Out of the total detected patients, 74 were diagnosed with PF (Plasmodium Falciparum) and the rest were PV (Plasmodium Vivax) parasite," District Medical Officer (DMO) L Lowang informed here today.

Source: The Sentinel

Read more

<http://www.sentinelassam.com/arunachal/story.php?sec=2&subsec=7&id=200231&dtP=2014-08-07&ppr=1#200231>

Kashmir not prepared to handle endemic like Ebola, warn docs

Kashmir being one of the most favourite international tourist destinations, doctors here have warned that the Valley is more vulnerable than any other state to pandemic viruses like Ebola, which has so far claimed more than 900 lives in West Africa and is spreading to other countries as well.

Source: The Tribune

Read more

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2014/20140807/j&k.htm#10>

West Bengal: six more die of encephalitis, toll reaches 206

Dreaded encephalitis has continued to take its toll on West Bengal while an utterly unprepared State Government has continued to "monitor the situation" helplessly.

The State reported six more deaths on Wednesday taking the toll to 206 since January. It is another matter that the Health Department gave a more conservative report of 155 deaths taking into consideration only the past a few months.

Source: The Pioneer

Read more

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/nation/w-bengal-six-more-die-of-encephalitis-toll-reaches-206.html>

Government to introduce vaccine to reduce under-5 mortality rate

With an aim to reduce under five mortality rate, the Union health ministry is all set to introduce Pentavalent vaccine in the National Immunisation programme in 11 high burden states. The move will reduce the injection load as a single shot of the vaccine has antigens of five diseases — Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and HIB. While, the vaccine was first introduced in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and later to Karnataka, Puducherry, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, the health ministry has further decided to expand it to states like West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Assam.

Source: The Asian Age

Read more

<http://www.asianage.com/india/government-introduce-vaccine-reduce-under-5-mortality-rate-181>