

The Health News Updates (April 8, 2015)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

Maternal Health

Bending the Curve and Saving Newborn Lives

Every once in a while, a major innovation comes along -- one that has the potential to change the lives and health of families all over the world -- especially in remote, hard-to-reach areas.

Source: Huffington Post

Read more

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mariam-claeson/bending-the-curve-and-sav_b_6994300.html?ir=India

'Visibly Pregnant' Girls Are Banned From School In Sierra Leone

Across Sierra Leone, students are preparing to return to school April 14, after nine months off because of the Ebola epidemic. But one group has been banned from returning, according to a new decree by the minister of education: "visibly pregnant" girls.

Source: Maternal Health Task Force Blog

Read more

http://www.npr.org/blogs/goatsandsoda/2015/04/06/397272538/visibly-pregnant-girls-are-banned-from-school-in-sierra-leone?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=goatsandsoda

Abortion

Nurses must be allowed to perform abortions

Open to the idea of inclusion of nurses and AYUSH doctors as abortion providers, the Rajasthan government will soon start negotiations with stakeholders to arrive at a consensus on the issue.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/nurses-must-be-allowed-to-perform-abortion/article7066423.ece>

Kansas becomes first US state to ban abortion procedure

Kansas became the first state on Tuesday to ban a common second-trimester abortion procedure that critics describe as dismembering a foetus.

Republican Gov. Sam Brownback, a strong abortion opponent, signed a bill imposing the ban, and the new law takes effect July 1. He and the National Right to Life Committee, which drafted the measure, said they hope Kansas' example spurs other states to enact such laws. Already, the measure also has been introduced in Missouri, Oklahoma and South Carolina.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/kansas-to-ban-abortion-procedure/article7080314.ece>

Reproductive Health

Sanitary freedom keeps African schoolgirls in class

Johannesburg (AFP) - Sue Barnes had no problem getting sanitary pads while she grew up in South Africa. But not every girl, she came to realise, is so lucky and their periods weigh over daily life.

In 2010, Barnes learned that girls from poor families were skipping school each time they were menstruating, because they cannot afford sanitary pads.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/>

Read more

<http://news.yahoo.com/sanitary-freedom-keeps-african-schoolgirls-class-112732651.html>

Other Health News

Health data of patients to be centralised

The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry is mulling over centralising medical history of patients for easy access of hospitals and laboratories through a new platform called the National eHealth Authority (NeHA). The initiative will allow healthcare professionals access to complete and accurate health history for better diagnosis and treatment without compromising on patient confidentiality.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/under-national-ehealth-authority-health-data-of-patients-to-be-centralised/article7062843.ece>

On World Health Day, know how to keep your food safe

Unsafe food and water contaminated with faecal matter and chemicals kills more than 2 million people annually, mostly children. The most common sources of contamination are uncooked foods of animal origin, and fruits and vegetables.

Source: Hindustan Times

Read more

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/wellness/on-world-health-day-know-how-to-keep-your-food-safe/article1-1334624.aspx>

Significant rise in health expenditure required'

India's public expenditure on health was meagre and the country needed an effective, affordable and universal health care system backed by robust infrastructure, President Pranab Mukherjee said here on Saturday.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/significant-rise-in-health-expenditure-urgently-required->

[president/article7068241.ece](http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/president/article7068241.ece)

Bespoke cancer vaccines hold promise

Personalised cancer vaccines that target people's individual tumours have shown early signs of promise in tests on three patients diagnosed with advanced skin cancer.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/medicine-and-research/bespoke-cancer-vaccines-hold-promise/article7067565.ece>

Biocontrol fungus may aid cancer fight

Scientists from the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) are preparing to join hands to establish the anti-cancer properties of a rare genus of medicinal fungus that acts as a biocontrol agent against an agricultural pest.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/biocontrol-fungus-may-aid-cancer-fight/article7063679.ece?ref=tpnews>

Take-home salaries of govt employees may rise as mandatory health insurance to go

NEW DELHI: Take-home salaries of millions of workers could rise with the government moving to free employees from compulsory coverage in a state-run healthcare programme that costs them 6.5% on a cost to company basis, and give them the choice to buy a health insurance product from an insurance firm instead.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/46821457.cms>

'Health insurance cover too low to benefit patients'

NAGPUR: Medical fraternity of the city is disappointed with the budget giving little attention to the health sector yet again. The silver lining was the focus on health and accidental insurance. Focus on senior citizens as well as declaration of providing physical aids and assisted living devices for the elderly from below poverty line (BPL) has also been appreciated.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/Health-insurance-cover-too-low-to-benefit-patients/articleshow/46415477.cms>

Hygiene, safety, themes of World Health Day celebrations

Puducherry observed World Health Day with several programmes on the World Health Organization-

observed theme of 'Food Safety' on Tuesday.

The Department Of Public Health Dentistry and the NSS unit of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Dental Science in association with the Puducherry Municipality, organised a health camp at Gandhi Thidal.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/hygiene-safety-themes-of-world-health-day-celebrations/article7079863.ece>

AIDWA launches campaign for women's health care

Members of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) launched a signature campaign in Thanjavur on Tuesday to highlight the need for increased health care delivery systems, upgrade the Rajah Mirasdar Hospital to meet the burgeoning demands of patients from neighbouring districts.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/aidwa-launches-campaign-for-womens-health-care/article7079346.ece>

Pradhan promises swift completion of Lady Goschen Hospital

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday promised necessary financial assistance from Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited towards completion of a new building for the Government Lady Goschen Hospital, which has been stalled by the contractor for non-clearance of dues.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/pradhan-assures-of-completion-of-lady-goschen-hospital-at-the-earliest/article7070629.ece>

Remove 'leper' from the book, says law panel

India needs to repeal or amend urgently laws which discriminate against persons with leprosy, and stop the official use of the word "leper", the Law Commission recommended in its 256th report submitted to the Law Ministry on Tuesday.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/remove-leper-from-the-book-says-law-panel/article7078581.ece>

Immunisation drive in Bengal, N-E, Odisha

Mission Indradhanush, a Union Government scheme to immunize children from preventable diseases, was launched in six districts of West Bengal on Tuesday.

“The mission depicting seven colours of rainbow, targets to immunise all children under seven vaccine preventable diseases including Diptheria, Pertusis, Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, Polio and Measles,” stated a Press Information Bureau release.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/immunisation-drive-in-bengal-neodisha/article7078998.ece>

Centre for Control of Chronic Conditions launched

Aimed at generating world-class knowledge that can impact policy and practice, and contribute towards reducing the burden of chronic conditions in India and beyond — the Centre for Control of Chronic Conditions (CCCC) — was launched by Minister of State for Science and Technology Y.S. Chowdary here.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/centre-for-control-of-chronic-conditions-launched/article7079301.ece>

Health ministry for anti-tobacco warnings in text books

NEW DELHI: 'Catch them young' seems to be the new mantra to discourage consumption of tobacco products. The health ministry plans to impress upon the HRD ministry to introduce a chapter in school textbooks on the serious health effects of tobacco consumption.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Health-ministry-for-anti-tobacco-warnings-in-text-books/articleshow/46844488.cms>

Unicef, tea gardens monitor workers' health

Guwahati: As the state observed World Health Day on Tuesday with customary awareness drives, the tea industry, in association with Unicef, is silently working to better the health condition of women, adolescents and girls from the backward tea tribe community.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Unicef-tea-gardens-monitor-workers-health/articleshow/46841865.cms>

Bangladesh ahead of India in nutrition monitoring

Bangladesh performed better in conducting regular surveys on the nutritional status of respective population compared to India, reports the Times of India.

Source: www.thedailystar.net/

Read more

<http://www.thedailystar.net/world/bangladesh-ahead-india-nutrition-monitoring-75720>

Over 900 kids under five die in UP everyday

LUCKNOW: Housemaid Aarti is a proud mother who works in an uptown officers' colony. Oblivious to death that looms over the baby's head, she works hard to raise her child well. The baby has missed a DPT shot given in the twelfth month, making him vulnerable to infections that may lead to his death. This is what happens to 958 children under five years of age every day in UP.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/Over-900-kids-under-five-die-in-UP-everyday/articleshow/46818278.cms>