

The Health News Updates (March 25, 2015)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

Maternal Health

Monitoring system for maternal care set up in Arunchal

The health sector in Arunachal Pradesh received a major boost on Friday with the inauguration of the Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) call centre by State Health and Family Welfare Minister Rajesh Tacho here.

Source: The Hindu
Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/monitoring-system-for-maternal-care-set-up-in-arunchal/article7017236.ece>

What it's like to be a midwife in one of the most remote parts of Vietnam

Quang Thi Un said she didn't give much thought to becoming a midwife or really any line of work until her brother, a teacher, sent her to a new midwifery training program in Vietnam.

"When I watched babies being delivered, I started to love the job," she said recently through an interpreter during a break at a clinic in the remote Muong Ang District in northwestern Vietnam where she now works. After completing two years of training, Quang, who is 29, returned to the small mountainous commune. Over the past four years, she's delivered about 30 babies.

Source: www.pbs.org
Read more

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/life-midwife-vietnam/>

India bets on mobiles in battle on maternal, child deaths

India is betting on cheap mobile phones to cut some of the world's highest rates of maternal and child deaths, as it rolls out a campaign of voice messages delivering health advice to pregnant women and mothers.

Source: www.reuters.com
Read more

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/17/us-india-health-mobilephone-idUSKBN0MD0N520150317>

Supplements for pregnant women in Bangladesh to boost nutrition

In a densely populated agricultural area in rural north-west Bangladesh lies one of the largest flagship programmes for maternal and child nutrition. Since 2000, Jivita has been conducting large-scale community-based nutrition research to inform public health policies and programmes in south Asia and beyond. The latest trial evaluated the impact of daily multiple micronutrient supplements – versus iron-folic acid supplement use – among pregnant women on infant mortality.

Source: The Guardian

Read more

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/mar/09/supplements-for-pregnant-women-in-bangladesh-to-boost-nutrition>

Reproductive Health

Proper Sanitary Pads Are Keeping Girls In School

The story begins in 2009, when 26-year-old Sophia Klumpp and her husband-to-be Paul Grinvalds – she's from the U.S., he's from Canada — began working for a nonprofit group in a rural village in Uganda. Klumpp saw that many of the teenagers in school used threadbare rags or tufts of mattress stuffing as sanitary pads. The embarrassment and the fear of an accident kept many of them away from school for the four or five days of their period each month.

Source: www.npr.org

Read more

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/goatsandsoda/2015/03/09/391030870/proper-sanitary-pads-are-keeping-girls-in-school>

What kills more women than AIDS and breast cancer? Dirty water

Nearly 800,000 women die every year because they lack access to safe toilets and clean water, said the development organisation WaterAid, which analysed data from the Seattle-based Institute of Health Metrics research centre.

Source: www.trust.org

Read more

<http://www.trust.org/item/20150306045758-ivgpx/?source=jt>

Family Planning

Assessing the Impact of Family Planning Advice on Unmet Need and Contraceptive Use among Currently Married Women in Uttar Pradesh, India

MH service utilization including FP advice is more effective in increasing current use of spacing methods as compared to limiting methods. Findings support the need for “effective FP advice” interventions to reduce unintended births and unmet need. However, women from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities are less likely to receive MH services. Thus, efforts are required to ensure that currently married women across socio-economic backgrounds have equal opportunity to receive MH services and information on contraceptive use to meet the demand for family planning methods.

Source: www.journals.plos.org

Read more

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0118584>

Other Health News

Enforce norms restricting junk food availability: HC tells FSSAI

Refusing to term all unhealthy food as “junk,” given the variety of meanings this term represents, the Delhi High Court has directed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to make their guidelines for supplying healthy food for school children in India – the teeth of a legally actionable regulation.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/enforce-norms-restricting-junk-food-availability-hc-tells-fssai/article7009417.ece>

Workshop on preventing vector-borne diseases held

A one-day workshop on prevention and control of vector-borne diseases was held by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation on Wednesday.

Apart from Delhi municipal officials, the Delhi Government’s Secretary (Health) and the programme directors of the 33 government-run hospitals also participated in the workshop.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/workshop-on-preventing-vectorborne-diseases-held/article7009414.ece>

WHO’s ‘5 keys’ for safe food

Stating that food safety is a major determinant of health, diseases and productivity as it affects the survival, well-being and functioning of individuals and societies, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has released ‘five keys’ to safe foods.

The ‘five keys’ include – keep clean, separate raw and cooked food, cook thoroughly, keep food at safe temperature and use safe water and raw material

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/whos-5-keys-for-safe-food/article7009407.ece>

Maneka joins opposition in asking finance minister to reverse budget cut for child scheme

Women and child development minister Maneka Gandhi on Friday put the government in a somewhat embarrassing situation in Lok Sabha when she agreed with opposition members that the severe budget cuts that her ministry faced would adversely affect welfare of children in the country. A vociferous opposition promptly demanded that finance minister Arun Jaitley respond to the issue.

Source: Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Maneka-joins-opposition-in-asking-finance-minister-to-reverse-budget-cut-for-child-scheme/articleshow/46640998.cms>

Commencement of National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Priority Medical Devices and Health Technology Policy

World Health Organization (WHO) Country office for India in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), formally announced the commencement of National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), as the WHO Collaborating Centre for Priority Medical Devices and Health Technology Policy, here yesterday. This is the first WHO Collaborating Centre in South East Asia Region.

Source: www.pib.nic.in

Read more

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=117558>

Evidence on abortion can't be used against doctor: HC

A leading gynaecologist being prosecuted for conducting an abortion on a rape survivor has got relief from the Delhi high court.

Earlier this week, Justice Sunita Gupta had quashed a criminal case against Dr Nisha Jain on the ground that her testimony in court—where she admitted carrying out the abortion—is protected under Indian Evidence Act and can't be used against her.

Source: Times of india

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Evidence-on-abortion-cant-be-used-against-doctor-HC/articleshow/46656924.cms>

Bright but toxic: Used CFL bulbs a health hazard

A study has estimated that 14.93 million compact fluorescent lamps releasing approximately 74.65kg of mercury were disposed of unsafely in Delhi last year. The figure was arrived at through extrapolation from Delhi's population data and CFL usage trends based on a random survey of households and large establishments by Toxics Link, an environmental NGO.

Source: Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Bright-but-toxic-Used-CFL-bulbs-a-health-hazard/articleshow/46682373.cms?>

Study on mobile radiation begins

At least 17 top scientific institutions in the country, including AIIMS and IIT Delhi, have been commissioned by the Union government to address concerns about radiation emitted from mobile phones and phone towers causing illnesses.

Sources said funds ranging from Rs 22 lakh to Rs 2 crore, as demanded, have already been allocated for the research by the department of science and technology.

Source: Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Study-on-mobile-radiation-begins/articleshow/46682500.cms>

NGO, hospital booked for botched-up eye surgeries

A first information report has been registered against office-bearers of Samaj Sewa Samiti, Samalkha; and eye surgeon of Navjeevan Hospital Panipat Ankur Gupta, his support staff and hospital management in connection with botched-up surgeries which led to loss of sight in several of the 19 patients operated upon on March 11, Health Minister Anil Vij said on Tuesday.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ngo-hospital-booked-for-botchedup-eye-surgeries/article7029690.ece>

India flounders as H1N1 spreads

The influenza A(H1N1) virus continues to kill people in India, although its spread is not at a galloping pace. As on March 21, the number of people affected was over 32,200, and the death toll in excess of 1,900. The worst-affected States are Gujarat and Rajasthan. In Gujarat, the number of cases has crossed 6,300 and the death toll is 410. In Rajasthan, the cases number over 6,400 and the death toll is 400. The possibility of the actual numbers being much more than government data indicate cannot be ruled out.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/india-flounders-as-h1n1-spreads/article7028788.ece>

Daily drug therapy for TB patients soon

Accounting for one-fourth of all new TB cases globally, India has been successful in reducing the incidence of the disease by 21.1 per cent between 1999 and 2014, but the prevalence of a more virulent, multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB) is forcing the government to wean patients from the private sector to the public health system.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/daily-drug-therapy-for-tb-patients-soon/article7029328.ece>

Need to understand rare diseases: Kalam

Former President of India A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Friday said that a coordinated effort at the national level is the need of the hour for more research and understanding rare diseases in the country. The former president also felt that there was a need to share knowledge among patients, doctors and researchers to effectively tackle rare diseases.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/there-is-a-need-to-understand-rare-diseases/article7015624.ece>