

The Health News Updates (October 16, 2014)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

Maternal and Child Health

‘Malnourishment declined sharply among children in India’

A new provisional data from a survey conducted by the government and UNICEF shows the proportion of underweight children in India might have declined from 45.1 per cent in 2005-6 to a historic low of 30.7 per cent last year, new provisional data from a survey conducted by the government and UNICEF shows.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/malnourishment-declined-sharply-among-children-in-india/article6497025.ece>

Reproductive Health

Surrogacy needs regulation, say experts

NEW DELHI: The decision of an Australian couple to abandon one of the twins born through surrogacy in India has raised legal and ethical issues that highlight the need for a mechanism to regulate the 'billion dollar industry'.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Surrogacy-needs-regulation-say-experts/articleshow/44795837.cms>

Top tech firms will pay for egg-freezing

Silicon Valley titans Apple and Facebook announced this week that they would be willing to cover the costs of women employees who may seek to freeze their eggs, an initiative presumably aimed at improving the participation of women, during their childbearing years, in a male-dominated industry.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/medicine-and-research/top-tech-firms-will-pay-for-eggfreezing/article6503729.ece>

Fertility specialist held on charge of selling newborn, running surrogacy racket

A fertility specialist has been arrested on charges of running a surrogacy racket, and kidnap and sale of newborns. Nandini Layout police said K.T. Gurusurthy was arrested based on the complaint filed by Dhan Bosco, a businessman.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/fertility-specialist-held-on-charge-of-selling-newborn-running-surrogacy-racket/article6492156.ece>

‘Low cost screening technique for cervical cancer’

Having evaluated the utility of Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) for screening of precancerous or cancerous lesions of cervix and after having compared it with Papanicolaou Smear (Pap Smear), the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here is now offering a low- cost screening technique for cervical lesions.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/low-cost-screening-technique-for-cervical-cancer/article6498608.ece>

Other Health Issues

Fighting India’s silent epidemic

Tackling TB requires both strengthening the public sector and engaging the private sector

Over 60 per cent of all Indians seek health care in the private sector according to India’s last National Family Health Survey. This undoubtedly makes the private sector the largest provider of health services in India. The government health system, though vast and well-intentioned, continues to be overburdened with multiple challenges including long waiting hours, an ageing infrastructure, limited funding and human resources. Even though parallel providers of health services, the absence of partnerships between the public and private sector has disastrous implications for patients and for disease control. A striking case study is that of TB.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/fighting-indias-silent-epidemic/article6493937.ece>

For public health as political priority

A systemic reform of the health sector in order to meet the key objectives of equity, efficiency and quality is long overdue. In this, the Central and State governments need to make interventions intelligently, decisively and strategically so that the poor reap the benefits.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/for-public-health-as-political-priority/article6493944.ece?homepage=true>

A multi-sectoral approach to dengue control

Dengue fever is rearing its ugly head again in India with new cases of infections and even deaths being reported from different States. The world’s fastest growing vector-borne disease, dengue sees an estimated 50-100 million cases being reported annually in over 100 endemic countries. Ever since its detection in the early 1950s, there has been a 30-fold increase in dengue incidence. Almost half of the world’s population is currently considered at risk of contracting dengue. The Southeast Asia region contributes to more than half of the global burden of the disease. About 52 per cent of the world’s population at risk resides in this region. Dengue is endemic in 10 of the 11 member states,

and India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are among the 30 most endemic countries in the world. More than 4, 00, 000 cases of dengue were reported in this region in 2013.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-multisectoral-approach-to-dengue-control/article6497574.ece>

Ready for deadlier Ebola-like outbreak?

Marburg virus, which is part of the Ebola virus family, killed a 30-year-old radiologist working in Mengo Hospital in Kampala in Uganda last month. At least 146 people who came in contact with him were tracked for symptoms, which are identical to Ebola. Eleven got symptoms but tested negative for Marburg.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/lifestyle/wellness/ready-for-deadlier-ebola-like-outbreak/article1-1274229.aspx>

New Parliament committee on Health

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, today assured members of the newly constituted Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare that broad expansion of the number of under-graduate and post-graduate seats are being considered without compromising on the quality of medical education.

Source: Medico Friend Circle List Serve

Read more:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=110556>

India's New Mental Health Policy: Radical, but Tough to Implement

India's health minister unveiled the country's first-ever mental health policy last week, calling for an increase in funds to provide those with mental illness accessible and affordable care.

The policy calls for a higher number of mental health professionals to be trained, from community-based counselors to specialized psychiatrists. At present, India has only one psychiatrist for every 343,000 people.

Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com>

Read more

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2014/10/14/indias-new-mental-health-policy-radical-but-tough-to-implement/>

Ebola and WHO Reforms: Who Cares?

The ongoing Ebola story has highlighted the importance of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating international action to combat emerging infectious disease threats. But it has also revealed the deficiencies in its performance which have now allowed a disease outbreak in West Africa to turn into a major international emergency. But in the current crisis in West Africa blame for its performance has been more prevalent than praise.

<http://www.globalhealthcheck.org/?p=1678>

WHO says there could be up to 10,000 new cases of Ebola per week in two month

LONDON: In the most ominous warning till date over the Ebola outbreak, the World Health Organisation estimates that there could be up to 10,000 new infections from the deadly disease per week within two months.

Source: The Times of India

Read more:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/WHO-says-there-could-be-up-to-10000-new-cases-of-Ebola-per-week-in-two-months/articleshow/44814121.cms>

HIV relief for only 52 orphans, destitute kids

NEW DELHI: Just 52 orphans and destitute children have got the benefit of the only financial assistance scheme Delhi government offers to people living with HIV/AIDS. In a status report on children impacted by HIV/AIDS, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights has questioned the complex eligibility criteria for the scheme launched in fiscal 2012-13.

Source: The Times of India

Read more:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/HIV-relief-for-only-52-orphans-destitute-kids/articleshow/44819643.cms>

Maneka Gandhi expresses concern over falling sex ratio

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi has expressed concern over falling sex ratio and said the Ministry will start a programme, Beti Bachao, in north and western States of India. She recently released 'The State of the Girl Child India' 2014 Report 'Pathways to Power', Plan India's sixth annual report on the state of girls in the country.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/maneka-gandhi-expresses-concern-over-falling-sex-ratio/article6502774.ece>

Good weather brings dengue back to city

The good weather in the Capital seems to have come with its own set of woes. This week alone the city saw 38 new dengue cases, taking the total to 158 so far. According to figures released by the civic body, the North Corporation has reported 27 cases, South 63 and East 22.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/good-weather-brings-dengue-back-to-city/article6504668.ece>

Cigarette packs to have pictorial warnings on both sides

Inclusion of larger and more noticeable warnings have a significant impact, says Harsh Vardhan

The Union Health Ministry has issued a notification making it mandatory for cigarette manufacturing companies to carry statutory warning against smoking on both sides of a cigarette pack and covering at least 85 per cent of the packaging.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/policy-and-issues/cigarette-packs-to-have-pictorial-warnings-on-both-sides/article6504389.ece>

Second US healthcare worker has Ebola

A second positive case of Ebola was discovered in a health care worker in Dallas, Texas, who had helped care for Thomas Duncan, the first ever Ebola patient diagnosed in the U.S., and who died one week ago, according to authorities.

The worker, whose confirmed infection of the deadly disease comes after nurse Nina Pham (26) initially contracted it, also worked at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, and tested positive for Ebola late Tuesday evening.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/second-us-healthcare-worker-has-ebola/article6503317.ece>

Poor response to PM's call on toilets

The corporate sector has been sluggish in responding to the government's call for using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for building toilets in government schools with various companies signing up to building only 16,009 toilets two months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the appeal. And, 2,44,934 government schools need toilets.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/poor-response-to-pms-call-on-toilets/article6504386.ece>

Behavioural change critical

That high toilet coverage without concomitant utilisation of the facilities at a very high level and washing hands with soap will not bring about a reduction in diarrhoeal episodes and worm infestation, or any improvement in nutrition and growth, has been clearly brought out in a study undertaken in rural Odisha.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/behavioural-change-critical/article6503713.ece>

SC to hear PIL against hike in drug price

The Supreme Court will hear next week a public interest writ petition challenging a circular providing for increase in the prices of life-saving and other essential drugs.

A Bench of Chief Justice H.L. Dattu and Justices S.A. Bobde and A.M. Sapre told petitioner-advocate M.L. Sharma on Thursday that the PIL would be listed for hearing as expeditiously as possible.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/medicine-and-research/sc-to-hear-pil-against-hike-in-drug-price/article6492733.ece?ref=sliderNews>

DRDO now takes on mosquitoes, launches repellent cream

According to DRDO, the artificially developed molecules in the cream interfere with the sensory mechanism of the mosquito, so that the insect is unable to detect human blood.

The DRDO now unveils a new insect repellent cream against mosquitoes, vectors of diseases like malaria, and dengue.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/medicine-and-research/drdo-now-takes-on-mosquitoes-launches-repellent-cream/article1454879.ece?utm_source=MostPopular&utm_medium=Medicine&utm_campaign=WidgetPromo

Rice and reason

Have you ever wondered why over 40 per cent of the people in India are diabetic? Some doctors say that this is because the Indian body is prone to diabetes, just like some cars may guzzle more fuel or give you less mileage, because that's simply how they're built. Sedentary living and bad eating habits have only made the problem worse.

Source: The Hindu

Read more:

http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/medicine-and-research/rice-and-reason/article3307234.ece?utm_source=MostPopular&utm_medium=Medicine&utm_campaign=WidgetPromo