

The Health News Updates (October 9, 2014)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

Maternal Health

Coverage of antenatal care in India has to be increased: WHO

In 2013, globally, preterm birth complications were responsible for 15 per cent (0.96 million) of deaths in children under five years of age. It is a leading cause of death in neonates (0-27 days after birth). According to WHO, about 15 million babies are born preterm (before 37 completed weeks of gestation) every year. Such births are seen both in the developed and developing countries.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/dr-flavia-bustreo-assistant-director-general-at-world-health-organisation-who/article6466393.ece>

Preterm birth and pneumonia kill most children under five years in India

Of the 6.3 million deaths in children under the age of five years, nearly 44 per cent of deaths during 2000-2013 occurred during the neonatal period (0-27 days after birth). Preterm birth complications, pneumonia and intrapartum-related complications have been found to be the three main causes of death in children globally.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/preterm-birth-and-pneumonia-kill-most-children-under-five-years-in-india/article6461939.ece>

Ensuring a healthy start to life

The first 1,000 days of life, between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday, are recognised by child development professionals as the critical window of time for influencing lifelong health and intellectual development. India now has a National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy 2013 that lays down government's commitment to providing the comprehensive inputs necessary for the holistic development of all children below six years of age. But there is no holistic direction at the ground level in addressing developmental vulnerabilities, particularly at the critical sub-stage of age 0-3 years.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/ensuring-a-healthy-start-to-life/article6482172.ece>

प्रसूता की मौत पर परिजनों ने किया हंगामा

केजीएमयू के क्वीन मेरी अस्पताल में प्रसूता की मौत पर रविवार को जमकर हंगामा हुआ। रायबरेली की रहने वाली संजना (24) का दो दिन पहले रायबरेली में प्रसव हुआ था। दो दिन बाद भी ब्लीडिंग न रुकने पर डॉक्टरों ने उन्हें क्वीन मेरी अस्पताल के लिए रेफर कर दिया। परिवारीजन प्रसूता को लेकर अस्पताल पहुंचे तो डॉक्टरों

ने हालत नाजुक बताते हुए भर्ती कर लिया।

Source: Amar Ujala

Read more

<http://www.lucknow.amarujala.com/news/city-hulchul-lkw/disruption-at-queen-mary-hospital-hindi-news/>

Reproductive Health

Issues of surrogacy

With a range of alternative medical solutions to childlessness becoming available, surrogacy has emerged as one route for many couples. While some countries have banned the practice, commercial gestational surrogacy, in which a woman is paid to have a baby to whom she has no genetic link, has caught on in countries such as Mexico and India. After the first surrogate delivery in India in June 1994, India has steadily emerged as an international destination.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/issues-of-surrogacy/article6479052.ece>

New law likely to deny surrogacy for single parents

As the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry gears up to table the Assisted Reproductive Technologies (Regulation) Bill, 2014, in the winter session of Parliament, the focus will be on whether the law will allow single parents and foreign nationals to have children through surrogates in India.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/new-law-likely-to-denry-surrogacy-for-single-parents/article6469376.ece>

‘Virtual breast’ to improve cancer detection

A computer-generated 3D ‘virtual breast’ software, that mimics the intricacy of the real organ, could improve cancer detection, scientists say.

Many medical professionals encourage women to get mammograms, even though the tests are imperfect at best: only a minority of suspicious mammograms actually lead to a cancer diagnosis, researchers said.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/virtual-breast-to-improve-cancer-detection/article6464868.ece>

HIV's infection tactics could guide AIDS vaccine, study finds

New research that sheds light on the methods and machinery used by HIV to infect cells provides insight into the tricky virus that potentially could guide the development of a vaccine against the virus

that causes AIDS, according to US government and other scientists.

Source: DNA

Read more

<http://www.dnaindia.com/health/report-hiv-s-infection-tactics-could-guide-aids-vaccine-study-finds-2024585>

Family Planning

Forced sterilization case of HIV positive woman to human rights commission

More than a decade after a Chilean woman was forcibly sterilized because she is living with HIV, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights announced that it will hear her case—the first-ever forced sterilization case for a person living with HIV in Latin America to be decided by an international human rights body.

Source: Feminist India list-serve

Read more

http://reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/chilereport_FINAL_singlepage_s.pdf

How Women Pay The Price For Population Control

While memories of the 21 months of Emergency in 1975-77, imposed by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi, survives even today in the minds of Indian men as the fear of forced sterilisation, the country's population control policies have shifted over the years since then to target the politically less powerful and vulnerable poor women. Almost the entire burden of what is euphemistically called "family planning" is today borne by women. And it has taken a toll on the health of large sections of women in the country.

Source: www.tehelka.com

Read more

<http://www.tehelka.com/how-women-pay-the-price-for-population-control-iod-birth-control-health-female-sterilisation/>

Other Health News

Delving deep into India's fast-growing healthcare industry

The World Health Organization (WHO) has described the framework of a health care system in terms of its basic building blocks. These include "delivery of effective, safe, quality personal and non-personal interventions; a healthcare workforce that is adequate in numbers , completely trained and fairly distributed; a health information system that produces, analyses and disseminates reliable and timely intervention, medical products and technologies that are safe and efficacious, cost effective and accessible; a financing system that raises adequate funds to ensure the population can use needed services and is protected from financial catastrophe; and governance and oversight of the above."

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/books/books-reviews/delving-deep-into-indias-fastgrowing-healthcare-industry/article6475930.ece>

Food security scheme deadline for states expires

NEW DELHI: Rolling out the Food Security Act (FSA) across states seems to have dropped down the priority list of the Narendra Modi government. This is evident from the fact that the Centre did not issue any notification to extend the deadline for its implementation by all states, which ended on October 4.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Food-security-scheme-deadline-for-states-expires/articleshow/44734181.cms>

India's first mental health policy being developed: Minister

Agra: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Tuesday said that the government is in the process of developing India's first mental health policy to curb the country's mental illness burden.

"Looking at the growing mental illness burden, the government is developing a 'National Mental Health Policy' that will involve the country's best experts in the field and cover the full range of complex issues linked to this branch of medicine," he said.

Source: Zee News

Read more

http://zeenews.india.com/news/health/health-news/indiias-first-mental-health-policy-being-developed-minister_1481321.html

Govt to include 3 new vaccines in regular immunization

KATHMANDU, Oct 8: Children across the country will be immunized with three new vaccines within the current fiscal year, thanks to the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) that has included additional shots in the regular immunization list.

Child Health Division (CHD) under the Department of Health Services (DoHS) stated that children will be immunized with inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), additional dose of measles-rubella vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine by the end of 2014 as part of the regular immunization program.

Source: My Republica

Read more

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=84383

India dengue fever cases 300 times higher than officially reported – study

The annual number of dengue fever cases in India is nearly 300 times higher than officially reported, according to a study by US and Indian researchers.

The report also finds the sometimes-fatal viral disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, costs the emerging economic power at least \$1.1bn (£700m) each year in medical and other expenses.

Source: The Guardian

Read more

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/07/india-dengue-fever-300-times-higher-reported-study>

Stop corruption or other nations could turn away Indian doctors: Fiona Godlee

The British Medical Journal sparked off a furious debate in India's medical fraternity when it published an article in May titled 'Corruption ruins the doctor-patient relationship in India', followed by an editorial written by eminent gastro-intestinal surgeon Dr Samiran Nundy. Fiona Godlee, the journal's editor-in chief, spoke to Rema Nagarajan about their decision to launch a campaign against corruption in healthcare, starting with India

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Stop-corruption-or-other-nations-could-turn-away-Indian-doctors-Fiona-Godlee/articleshow/44372779.cms>