

The Health News Updates (September 29, 2014)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

Maternal Health

India may miss U.N. Millennium Development Goal for maternal mortality rate

India, which accounts for the largest number of maternal deaths in the world, is unlikely to achieve the fifth Millennium Development Goal of reducing maternal mortality to 109 per 1,00,000 live births by 2015.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/india-may-miss-un-millennium-development-goal-for-maternal-mortality-rate/article6455141.ece>

Supplement food scheme comes to a halt

TRICHY: An ambitious project launched by the health wing of the Trichy Corporation few months back to provide supplement packs to high-risk pregnant women in the city to bring down the maternal mortality rates (MMR), has ceased to continue after the first day of its launch. Sources in the corporation said that the plan has been put on hold as it was not in the scheme of things of the government.

Source: Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/Supplement-food-scheme-comes-to-a-halt/articleshow/42678096.cms>

Reproductive Health

They need the baby, she needs the money

Childless couples yearning for kids, profit-making IVF clinics, poor women renting wombs, and medical technology available for a price make up India's booming, unregulated infertility market.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sunday-anchor/they-need-the-baby-she-needs-the-money/article6453307.ece>

“There are 20 million infertile couples in India”

Eminent scientist Pushpa M. Bhargava, Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Assisted Reproductive Technologies (Regulation) Bill, 2013, spoke to Vidya Venkat about the need to pass the Bill, which will come up in the winter session of the Parliament.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sunday-anchor/pushpa-m-bhargava-there-are-20-million-infertile-couples-in-india/article6453374.ece>

Regulate surrogacy, say activists

Social activists are battling for a ban on commercial surrogacy and have demanded that the practice be regulated like organ donation. Citing the findings of a report on surrogacy in Mumbai, Delhi and Gujarat, they said that in the absence of regulation, surrogacy has transformed into an unfettered, multi-million dollar industry.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/regulate-surrogacy-say-activists/article6436134.ece>

Pesticide causes infertility in rural men?

If the figures presented by AHIVF & Infertility Research Centre, Ranchi are to be believed then rural males associated with agriculture are facing the risk of becoming infertile due to their exposure to pesticides. The situation calls for attention as a large number of rural males are directly dependent on agriculture for sustenance.

Source: The Pioneer

Read more

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/ranchi/pesticide-causes-infertility-in-rural-men.html>

Other Health News

Pricing row hits pharma industry

Last week's announcement by the country's drug price regulator doing away with a provision that permitted it to determine the price of drugs considered 'non-essential', was the culmination of a conflict between it and drug manufacturers.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/pricing-row-hits-pharma-industry/article6453089.ece>

WHO's Heart Day advice: reduce salt intake

Cutting down on salt can lower the risk of developing heart disease and stroke, the World Health Organisation said on the eve of World Heart Day, targeting a 30 per cent reduction in salt intake in all supporting nations by 2025.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/whos-heart-day-advice-reduce-salt-intake/article6455489.ece>

Bridging the divide

While primary medical care is sporadically available, specialised medical care is almost non-existent. An Indian who lives outside the metro cities is denied access to specialists unless he is prepared to

travel to the metros and consult one. But this is too logistically strenuous and financially taxing to be a viable option for most of the populace. This parlous state of affairs is what is sought to be addressed by iClinic, established in January

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/bridging-the-divide/article6452747.ece>

5 firms get sub-licence to make new AIDS drug

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) has announced six new sub-licences with Aurobindo, Cipla, Emcure, Hetero Labs, Laurus Labs and Desano to allow generic manufacture of anti-AIDS drug tenofovir alafenamide (TAF). This follows MPP's signing a licence with U.S. pharmaceutical major Gilead Sciences Inc. for the company's TAF, which is a novel investigational medicine.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/5-firms-get-sublicence-to-make-new-aids-drug/article6446642.ece>

To counter rabies, RIG now available at PHCs

With a view to reduce the response time for incidence of dog bites, the Health Department has now made available, at primary health centres, rabies immunoglobulin (RIG), which hitherto was available only at Government hospitals and tertiary care centres such as Coimbatore Medical College Hospital.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/to-counter-rabies-rig-now-available-at-phcs/article6454534.ece>

Amidst birth, death and danger

"It is my belief that every doctor should at some point give back to people and society," says Dr.Lt. Col. P. Nandakumar, as he talks about his recent trip to South Sudan as part of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), more popularly known as 'Doctors Without Borders'. Nandakumar, who is an anaesthetist, served in the Indian Army, before retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in 1985"

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/amidst-birth-death-and-danger/article6445867.ece>

Country running out of anti-HIV drug stock

Members of HIV-positive people's networks in the country are warning of an impending shortage of the anti-retroviral drugs that keep the virus in check. Any break in consumption of the drugs could lead to the virus gaining higher resistance to them and, thereby, to a resurgence of the AIDS epidemic in the country.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/medicine-and-research/country-running-out-of-antihiv-drug-stock/article6439374.ece>

Dhumal upset with health services in state

Expressing concern over deteriorating health services in the state, senior BJP leader and former chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal blamed the Congress-led state government for the entire mess. In a statement issued on Sunday, he said due to apathetic attitude of health staff, patients were suffering a lot and they were forced to approach private hospitals to get treatments by paying exorbitant fees.

Source: The Hindustan Times

Read more

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/punjab/chandigarh/dhumal-upset-with-health-services-in-state/article1-1269443.aspx>

Country experience with strengthening of health systems and deployment of midwives in countries with high maternal mortality

This paper complements the other papers in the Lancet Series on midwifery by documenting the experience of low-income and middle-income countries that deployed midwives as one of the core constituents of their strategy to improve maternal and newborn health.

Source: The Lancet

Read more

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)60919-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)60919-3/fulltext)

Pakistan tops list of countries in first-day child deaths

KARACHI: The health sector in Pakistan needs immediate media attention to highlight deteriorating child health issues in particular. It is shocking facts Pakistan has the highest number of first day child deaths in the world, breastfeeding not increased even 1 percent in the last five years while malnutrition is affecting half of mothers and children amongst Pakistani population. Save the Children drive is aiming to change and seeks active media support. For the purpose a two-day training workshop was conducted for health journalists.

Source: Daily Times

Read more

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/24-Sep-2014/pakistan-tops-list-of-countries-in-first-day-child-deaths>

Maneka Gandhi for action plan to tackle malnutrition

Union minister for women and child development (WCD) Maneka Gandhi on Monday laid stress on putting in place a comprehensive time bound action plan in the form of “National Nutrition Mission” to tackle malnutrition.

Source: Asian Age

Read more

<http://www.asianage.com/india/maneka-gandhi-action-plan-tackle-malnutrition-391>