

**The Health News Updates (15<sup>th</sup> October, 2015)**  
**From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory**  
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

National	International
<b>Reproductive and Maternal &amp; Child Health</b>	
<p><b>Nipped in the bud</b>            Like any adolescent, Sangeeta Lohar has dreams about her future. The confident 17-year-old wants to complete her education and become a nurse — hastily clarifying with a smile, “a nurse, not in a tea garden hospital, but in a town”. Girls in her community of adivasis working in the tea gardens of Assam are rarely able to live out their childhood or weave dreams for themselves. Child marriages are common among them, leading to poor social indices.  <a href="http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/know/teen-clubs-are-sprouting-in-assams-tea-gardens-to-fight-the-decades-old-scourge-of-child-marriage/article7742529.ece">http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/know/teen-clubs-are-sprouting-in-assams-tea-gardens-to-fight-the-decades-old-scourge-of-child-marriage/article7742529.ece</a></p>	<p><b>Keeping our promise to 120 million women and girls</b>            Let’s begin with a hard truth: unplanned pregnancy is for many a matter of life and death. Every two minutes a woman dies due to pregnancy-related complications — a grim transformation of what should be one of the happiest times into one of the most dangerous. For other women, unplanned pregnancy stands in the way of the future they want for themselves and their families. And because we know the health of mothers, newborns and children go hand in hand, unplanned pregnancy can have devastating long-term consequences for families, too.  <a href="https://www.devex.com/news/keeping-our-promise-to-120-million-women-and-girls-87070">https://www.devex.com/news/keeping-our-promise-to-120-million-women-and-girls-87070</a></p>
<p><b>Doctors in India are shamelessly lying to women to perform unwarranted hysterectomies</b>            A group of activists with the health movement Karnataka Janaarogya Chaaluvali recently conducted a fact-finding exercise in 38 villages in Kalaburgi district. They found that 707 women had had hysterectomies, and out of them more than half were younger than 35 years of age and more than 20% younger than 30..  <a href="http://qz.com/515588/doctors-in-india-are-shamelessly-lying-to-women-to-perform-unwarranted-hysterectomies/">http://qz.com/515588/doctors-in-india-are-shamelessly-lying-to-women-to-perform-unwarranted-hysterectomies/</a></p>	<p><b>Girls need access to sexual, reproductive health services: UN</b>            Countries should be able to work together to build a world where adolescent girls have access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has said.  <a href="http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/10/12/girls-need-access-sexual-reproductive-health-services-un.html">http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/10/12/girls-need-access-sexual-reproductive-health-services-un.html</a></p>
<p><b>Pregnant With Possibilities</b>            It could have been a day when a smiling health minister unveiled a great contraceptive innovation for women: three-monthly injections that obviate the need for daily pills or invasive sterilisations. But World Contraception Day, that falls every year on 26 September, went by without so much as a blush on the nation’s cheek. All eyes were instead riveted on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s tour of the Silicon Valley.</p>	<p><b>Why Reproductive Health Can Be A Special Struggle For Women With Disabilities</b>            Women with disabilities are far less likely to make essential appointments regarding their reproductive health due to the physical and emotional hurdles they encounter in a typical clinic. From inaccessible exam tables to assumptions that disabled women are not sexually active, barriers in the medical field can leave women discouraged and uneducated</p>

<p><a href="http://www.tehelka.com/2015/10/pregnant-with-possibilities/?singlepage=1">http://www.tehelka.com/2015/10/pregnant-with-possibilities/?singlepage=1</a></p>	<p>about their own health.</p> <p><a href="http://thinkprogress.org/health/2015/10/01/3707749/reproductive-health-care-disabilities/">http://thinkprogress.org/health/2015/10/01/3707749/reproductive-health-care-disabilities/</a></p>
<p><b>Launch of NIPI to help 1.4cr kids fight anaemia: Rathore</b></p> <p>JAIPUR: In a bid to help children fight anemia, the health department launched the National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI), which is expected to benefit over 1.4 crore children, who're up to 10 years of age. Health minister Rajendra Rathore launched the initiative at Officers Training School (OTS), on Friday.</p> <p><a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Launch-of-NIPI-to-help-1-4cr-kids-fight-anaemia-Rathore/articleshow/49203193.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Launch-of-NIPI-to-help-1-4cr-kids-fight-anaemia-Rathore/articleshow/49203193.cms</a></p>	<p><b>Teen Pregnancy Prevention with a Reproductive Justice Approach</b></p> <p>Over the past year, the SYPP Center, a capacity building program within the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, in collaboration with Youth Policy Institute, has been facilitating a community mobilization project in the Hollywood neighborhood of Los Angeles.</p> <p><a href="http://www.healthcanal.com/pregnancy-childbirth/67445-teen-pregnancy-prevention-with-a-reproductive-justice-approach.html">http://www.healthcanal.com/pregnancy-childbirth/67445-teen-pregnancy-prevention-with-a-reproductive-justice-approach.html</a></p>
<p><b>Odisha Launches 104 Health Helpline to track all expectant mothers and new born infants</b></p> <p>Report by Odisha Diary bureau, Bhubaneswar: After the 102 and 108 services, Odisha, today launched 104 Health Helpline in partnership with Ziqitza Healthcare Limited, a professional ambulance service provider. The launch took place at the 104 Call Centre operated by Ziqitza Health Care Ltd at Bhubaneswar. This helpline would track all expectant mothers and new born infants through Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS).</p> <p><a href="http://www.orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=62153">http://www.orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=62153</a></p>	<p><b>China's Great Efforts in Healthcare for Women, Children Impresses the World</b></p> <p>China's performance in reducing maternal and child mortality and improving women and children's health was recognized as being highly successful in a study report released by World Health Organization (WHO) and PMNCH. China was titled as one of the "fast-track" countries who were set to meet Millennium Development Goals 4 (to reduce child mortality) and 5 (to improve maternal health).</p> <p><a href="http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/features/health/1510/581-1.htm">http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/features/health/1510/581-1.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Why healthy mothers matter</b></p> <p>The costs of taking a business-as-usual approach to poor nutrition in pregnancy are simply too high to ignore. Healthy mothers give birth to healthy children who grow up to be productive adults. By contrast, women who begin pregnancy too thin and do not gain enough weight during pregnancy are far more likely to have low birth-weight babies.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/why-healthy-mothers-matter/article7727105.ece">http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/why-healthy-mothers-matter/article7727105.ece</a></p>	<p><b>Gender Equality Could Unlock Trillions Of Dollars Of Economic Growth</b></p> <p>Twelve trillion dollars is the size of the economic opportunity in increased equality of the sexes, according to a new report from McKinsey consultants. Never mind the moral reasons for advancing women's rights, there's an overwhelming economic case for enabling women to participate more equally in economy and society.</p> <p><a href="http://www.fastcoexist.com/3051700/gender-equality-could-unlock-trillions-of-dollars-of-economic-growth">http://www.fastcoexist.com/3051700/gender-equality-could-unlock-trillions-of-dollars-of-economic-growth</a></p>

**Family Planning  
International & India News**

**Release NDMC funds: BJP**

The Bharatiya Janata Party will protest outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence if the Delhi government doesn't release funds for the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's family welfare programme, leaders of the civic body said on Wednesday. The NDMC Standing Committee on Wednesday passed a proposal to wrap up its family welfare programme and transfer the 201 employees to other departments as it hasn't been getting funds from the State government.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/release-ndmc-funds-bjp/article7763181.ece>

**Government aims to offer women birth-control shots. But are they risk-free**

Last month, the government announced its intention to introduce an injectable contraceptive for women into the national family planning programme, in disregard of the many opposing voices. As per news reports, the Union health ministry hopes to add the Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate-based injectable contraceptive to its kitty of free-of-cost birth control services such as female sterilisation, intrauterine device, condoms, male sterilisation and pills. The government decision overlooks a number of concerns.

<http://scroll.in/article/759560/family-planning-government-wants-to-provide-women-birth-control-injections-but-are-they-risk-free>

**Pak keen on birth control lessons from India**

Fighting population explosion back home, Pakistan has expressed keen interest in India's family planning programme. The Pakistan delegation raised the issue during the bilateral meeting with the Indian side at the just-concluded gathering of the SAARC Health Ministers in New Delhi.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/pak-keen-on-birth-control-lessons-from-india/66613.html>

**The gap between rich and poor reaches new milestone: Report**

The wealth gap between the top one percent and the rest of us is shocking, and if the trend continues, it will only get worse, according to a new study published by Credit Suisse.

The top one percent now control half of the world's wealth. To make it into this elite group, an individual needs to have a net worth of at least \$759,900 US. Total global wealth is estimated to be \$250 trillion.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/the-gap-between-rich-and-poor-reaches-new-milestone-report/article/446552>

**Abortion**

**National**

**Five-month pregnant girl dies during abortion; doctor at large**

In a tragic incident, a girl died during an abortion in Pinjore. The doctor, who performed the abortion, has been booked under Sections 304, 313, 314 and 315 of the IPC. The doctor is on the run.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/f>

**International**

**Reuse, Reduce, Reproductive Rights: How Abortion Can Help Save the Planet**

To find out more about how access to contraception and safe abortions could save the planet, Broadly spoke to Allison Doody, an International Advocacy Associate at PAI, an organization that aims to put women in charge of their sexual health.

[https://broadly.vice.com/en\\_us/article/reuse-reduce-reproductive-rights-how-abortion-can-](https://broadly.vice.com/en_us/article/reuse-reduce-reproductive-rights-how-abortion-can-)

<p><a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-34441403">ive-month-pregnant-girl-dies-during-abortion-doctor-at-large/145366.html</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/oct/14/devolution-abortion-laws-scotland-labour">help-save-the-planet</a></p> <p><b>Devolution of abortion laws in Scotland prompts Labour warning</b>  Abortion laws are to be devolved to the Scottish government in a move that Labour has said could end up eroding the right of women to make their own decisions. The Scottish National party welcomed the devolution and said it had no plans to change the current law that allows abortions until 24 weeks into pregnancy.  <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/oct/14/devolution-abortion-laws-scotland-labour">http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/oct/14/devolution-abortion-laws-scotland-labour</a></p>
<p><b>India activist to fight sex determination ruling</b>  The first Indian woman to initiate proceedings against her ex-husband and his relatives under a law that bans foetal gender determination, has vowed to challenge a court order that absolved the accused of charges that they illegally tested the gender of her foetuses and subsequently pressured her to terminate her pregnancy.  <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-34441403">http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-34441403</a></p>	<p><b>State Laws Can Ensure a Woman’s Right to an Abortion</b>  Health care providers and women seeking abortions are increasingly subjected to legal requirements that make abortion care more difficult to obtain. These requirements are contrary to medical evidence and best practices, in addition to interfering with the relationship between health care providers and their patients.  <a href="http://www.newsweek.com/state-laws-can-ensure-womans-right-abortion-381408">http://www.newsweek.com/state-laws-can-ensure-womans-right-abortion-381408</a></p>
<p><b>Other Health Related News</b></p>	
<p><b>IIHMR University organises 20th Annual Conference - Pradanya 2015</b>  India’s globally recognised and leading healthcare research institutions, IIHMR University, today inaugurated its 20th Annual Conference – Pradanya 2015. Till the 20th century Universal Health Coverage (UHC) was challenge and could reach to high-income countries only. Lower- and middle-income countries were struggling earlier for UHC but since last two decades they could fruitfully reformed to make quality healthcare which is at par with high-income countries. Countries as diverse as Brazil, Ghana, Mexico, Rwanda, Turkey and Thailand have made tremendous progress toward universal health coverage in recent years.  <a href="http://www.indiaeducationdiary.in/ShowEE.asp?newsid=36121">http://www.indiaeducationdiary.in/ShowEE.asp?newsid=36121</a></p>	<p><b>The great nutrition challenge</b>  The Global Hunger Index 2015 that was released on Monday as well as the Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2015, which was released in September, present an updated set of findings on the state of malnutrition and hunger across the globe. The aims of both these reports are many, but perhaps the most important one is putting the critical data together on the scale of the global problem and helping nations see where they sit on this grand problem of malnutrition. And a grand problem it is. Any problem that affects one in three individuals on this planet is a grand problem. It is hard to deny that.  <a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/the-great-nutrition-challenge/">http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/the-great-nutrition-challenge/</a></p>
<p><b>Free TB treatment plan a hit in Mumbai, ministry to replicate project in other cities</b></p> <p>A YEAR after the Ministry of Health And Family Welfare (MoHFW) introduced the pilot project to offer free tuberculosis (TB) treatment for city patients, it has come to the</p>	<p><b>20,000 Pharmacies in State Down Shutters</b></p> <p>BENGALURU: The Karnataka Chemists and Druggists Association (KCDA) has claimed that at least 20,000 pharmacies in the state downed its shutters on Wednesday.</p>

<p>fore that a significant 6,882 tuberculosis patients have been benefited by the service. With the success of the pilot project in Mumbai, a similar programme has now been launched at Nagpur and the ministry plans to start it in several other cities in India as well. Anyone can avail this service, provided they go to a doctor who is registered under the programme.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/free-tb-treatment-plan-a-hit-in-mumbai-ministry-to-replicate-project-in-other-cities/">http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/free-tb-treatment-plan-a-hit-in-mumbai-ministry-to-replicate-project-in-other-cities/</a></p>	<p>The association had called the bandh in protest against the Union government’s decision allowing the online sale of drugs.</p> <p><a href="http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/20000-Pharmacies-in-State-Down-Shutters/2015/10/15/article3080820.ece">http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/20000-Pharmacies-in-State-Down-Shutters/2015/10/15/article3080820.ece</a></p>
<p><b>MCD to set up 12 health centres in every zone: Upadhyay</b> Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Chief Satish Upadhyay on Wednesday announced that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will set up two grievance cells in every ward and 12 health centres in every zone.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thestatesman.com/news/delhi/mcd-to-set-up-12-health-centres-in-every-zone-upadhyay/95534.html">http://www.thestatesman.com/news/delhi/mcd-to-set-up-12-health-centres-in-every-zone-upadhyay/95534.html</a></p>	<p><b>Will National Medical Device Policy Disrupt Indian Healthcare?</b></p> <p>A flurry of commitments is being made by the government this year to strengthen the Make-in-India campaign including the National Medical Device Policy. But can a policy help to deliver healthcare goals? Can National Medical Device Policy turn the tug-of-war between government and entrepreneurs in to a win-win solution?</p> <p><a href="http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/will-national-medical-device-policy-disrupt-indian-healthcare/49377193">http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/will-national-medical-device-policy-disrupt-indian-healthcare/49377193</a></p>
<p><b>India emerging as major destination for quality healthcare: Commerce Secretary :Rita Teatota</b></p> <p>NEW DELHI: Government is focusing on several areas including quality standards and easy visa processes to make India a global destination for healthcare services, Commerce Secretary Rita Teatota today said.</p> <p>Teatota said the country was emerging as a major destination for quality and affordable healthcare sector.</p> <p><a href="http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/india-emerging-as-major-destination-for-quality-healthcare-commerce-secretary-rita-teatota/articleshow/49226397.cms">http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/india-emerging-as-major-destination-for-quality-healthcare-commerce-secretary-rita-teatota/articleshow/49226397.cms</a></p>	<p><b>Expanding the boundaries of global health: The intersection of the public and private sector</b></p> <p>“There is a shift taking place in the public health arena to strategically engage the private sector to address global health needs,” said Bridget McHenry, a fellow for Global Health Fellows Program II, serving as organizational development adviser for Office of Population and Reproductive Health in U.S. Agency for International Development’s Global Health Bureau.</p> <p><a href="https://www.devex.com/news/expanding-the-boundaries-of-global-health-the-intersection-of-the-public-and-private-sector-86828">https://www.devex.com/news/expanding-the-boundaries-of-global-health-the-intersection-of-the-public-and-private-sector-86828</a></p>

## Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health

### **Effectiveness of a nurse-led intensive home-visitation programme for first-time teenage mothers (Building Blocks): a pragmatic randomised controlled trial**

Many countries now offer support to teenage mothers to help them to achieve long-term socioeconomic stability and to give a successful start to their children. The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a licensed intensive home-visiting intervention developed in the USA and introduced into practice in England that involves up to 64 structured home visits from early pregnancy until the child's second birthday by specially recruited and trained family nurses. We aimed to assess the effectiveness of giving the programme to teenage first-time mothers on infant and maternal outcomes up to 24 months after birth.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2815%2900392-X/fulltext>

### **'What men don't know can hurt women's health': a qualitative study of the barriers to and opportunities for men's involvement in maternal healthcare in Ghana**

The importance of men's involvement in facilitating women's access to skilled maternal healthcare in patriarchal societies such as Ghana is increasingly being recognised. However, few studies have been conducted to examine men's involvement in issues of maternal healthcare, the barriers to men's involvement, and how best to actively involve men. The purpose of this paper is to explore the barriers to and opportunities for men's involvement in maternal healthcare in the Upper West Region of Ghana.

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content/12/1/93>

### **Regional differences in unmet need for contraception in Kenya: insights from survey data**

Women are described as experiencing unmet need for contraception if they are fecund, sexually active and wish to postpone or limit childbearing but fail to use contraception to do so. The consequences of unmet need include unwanted pregnancy, induced abortions, school dropout due to pregnancy and premature maternal deaths. Global efforts aimed at addressing the adverse effects of unmet need abound. In Kenya, one in every four married women in the reproductive age bracket (15–49 years) has unmet need for contraception. Regional differences exist but the reasons behind these differences remain poorly understood. The purpose of this study was to examine the extent to which regional differentials in unmet need for contraception exists and to explain the regional differences in unmet need for contraception in Kenya.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6874/15/86>

### **Advancing sexual health through human rights: The role of the law**

Since the International Conference on Population and Development, definitions of sexuality and sexual health have been greatly elaborated alongside widely accepted recognition that sexual health requires respect,

protection and fulfilment of human rights. Considerable progress has also been made in enacting or changing laws that affect sexuality and sexual health, in line with human rights standards. These measures include legal guarantees against non-discrimination and violence, decriminalisation of consensual sexual conduct and guaranteeing availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of sexual health information and services to all.  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17441692.2014.986175>

**Integrating views on support for mid-level health worker performance: a concept mapping study with regional health system actors in rural Guatemala**

Mid-level health workers are on the front-lines in underserved areas in many LMICs, and their performance is critical for improving the health of vulnerable populations. However, improving performance in low-resource settings is complex and highly dependent on the organizational context of local health systems. This study aims to examine the views of actors from different levels of a regional health system in Guatemala on actions to support the performance of auxiliary nurses, a cadre of mid-level health workers with a prominent role in public sector service delivery.  
<http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/14/1/91>