

The Health News Updates (April 1st, 2016)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

Maternal and Child Health- National

7 newborns died daily in city last year: govt

Civic officials said the downward trend in mortality figures has been gathering momentum over the last few years. Dr Padmaja Keskar, Executive Health Officer, BMC said Mumbai has good treatment facilities, medical colleges and maternity homes, and is well-connected to other parts of the state and to most parts of the country. "A lot of people from outside the city come here, but since their addresses are of Mumbai, the births and deaths are entered in the city's records," she added.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/news/7-newborns-died-daily-in-city-last-year-govt/article8363640.ece>

JP Nadda, Union minister of health and family welfare expressed his views on immunisation and child health

New vaccine like rotavirus is being introduced in a phased out manner in the Indian immunisation programme. He therefore expresses that immunisation is a cost-effective exercise that will help the country in two ways. The aim is not only to make improvements in health but also invest in human capital that will contribute to India's economic growth in the future. Not only this, immunisation helps in significantly reducing poverty. The cost of hospitalisation and overall treatment owing to the rotavirus infection in India runs in crores of rupees. India spends ₹490 crore and ₹538 crore on hospitalisation and outpatient visits each year on an average, respectively.

Source: The Hindustan Times

Read more

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/immunisation-strengthening-the-foundation-for-india/story-eNnW2G9OWbJWVN9gNXCIyO.html>

Panel to probe into four maternal deaths in a week

Efforts are being made across the nation to reduce maternal mortality and here is a case of maternal deaths occurring in just a week. On March 11, Zanana Hospital had witnessed unruly scenes when attendants of a pregnant woman alleged that she had died due to negligence of the hospital. The woman was 25-year-old Bharti, who was resident of Bagru area.

Source: Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Panel-to-probe-into-four-maternal-deaths-in-a-week/articleshow/51433243.cms>

Health Budget Figures Tell a Sick Story

Are the new health insurance schemes going to play a positive role in improving health of the

poor and economically weak families.

Source: The Wire

Read more

<http://thewire.in/2016/03/16/health-budget-figures-tell-a-sick-story-24924/>

Three Births - A special report on the current maternal health system in India

Today, public health officials say that nearly 70 per cent of Indian babies are born in some type of medical facility, but the underfunded public health system is struggling to cope with a rush of new patients.

Private clinics are springing up to meet the extra demand, but they are largely unregulated.

While the number of maternal deaths has fallen in recent years, the drop has not been nearly as sharp as policymakers hoped.

Source: Financial Times

Read more

<http://ig.ft.com/sites/special-reports/three-births/>

Reproductive and Sexual Health

National

International

Family Planning and Contraceptives

SC Raps States for Outsourcing Sterilisation Camps to NGOs

Many sterilisation camps are being conducted without any care to following the standard sterilisation guidelines.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioner, said the target for sterilisation set by the Centre was the "trigger point" and states have to fulfil them.

Source: The New Indian Express

Read more

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/SC-Raps-States-for-Outsourcing-Sterilisation-Camps-to-NGOs/2016/03/29/article3352679.ece>

Most Filipinos want candidates to prioritize family planning - survey

The survey, conducted from February 15 to 20 among 1,800 registered voters, showed 8 out of 10 or 79% of Filipinos give high importance to an electoral candidate's support for family planning.

Commissioned by the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), the survey also revealed 9 out of 10 (86%) Filipinos want the government to allocate funding for family planning services.

Source: Rappler.com

Read more

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/127401-pulse-asia-survey-family-planning>

Haryana launches injectable contraceptive project

This March Govt set a go for the injectables to be part of the National Programme. With the launch in Haryana and few other states one needs to keep a watch on its implementation to see its use in a voluntary manner and with informed consent.

Who will tackle our population growth?

Philippines' reproductive law has been passed in 2012, but have the women started enjoying the rights is yet to be understood. Will reproductive choices be respected within the larger Catholic church influence?

Source: The Manila Times

<p>Source: Indiatimes Read more http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/haryana-launches-injectable-contraceptive-project/1/628984.html</p>	<p>Read more http://www.manilatimes.net/who-will-tackle-our-population-growth/250504/</p>
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Cervical Cancer

<p>Cervical Cancer Shot in the Pipeline in TN</p> <p>Cervical Cancer has been reported second highest in Chennai city. A senior official of TN Health and Family Welfare Department told Express that discussions are at a nascent stage and a decision would be taken only after the assembly elections. “Yes, plans are being drawn and even the Centre is planning to introduce the vaccine under the universal immunisation programme. We have plans for rotavirus as well,” he said. The question is does the vaccine entire protect from cervical cancer and it is really needed.</p> <p>Source: The New Indian Express Read more http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil_nadu/Cervical-Cancer-Shot-in-the-Pipeline-in-TN/2016/03/30/article3353661.ece</p>	
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Abortion/Sex selection

	<p>Utah becomes first US state requiring anesthesia for abortions at 20 weeks</p> <p>This law only creates more risks for women. Many doctors in Utah and across the country are concerned that the requirement could increase the health risks to women by giving them unnecessary heavy sedation in order to protect a fetus from pain.</p> <p>Source: The Gaurdian Read more http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/28/utah-bill-anesthesia-abortions-20-weeks</p>
	<p>Brazil Confiscates Abortion Pills From Pregnant Women Exposed To Zika</p> <p>Many pregnant women in Brazil who have been infected with Zika have been seeking help from Women on Web. The current Forced stopping of shipment of the pills are creating</p>

	<p>shortage to accessing safe abortions. Source: Think Progress Read more http://thinkprogress.org/health/2016/03/28/3763898/brazil-abortion-pill-confiscated-zika/</p>
	<p>FDA approves new abortion drug label in win for public health advocates</p> <p>It is a change public health advocates and reproductive rights activists have sought for more than a decade, as the drug's outdated labeling, adopted from a label approved by European regulators in the 1980s, became an effective weapon for anti-abortion forces. The FDA now instructs clinicians to prescribe just 200mg of mifepristone, down from 600mg, and a higher dose of misoprostol, a drug that causes the uterus to expel its contents after the mifepristone takes effect. Most abortion doctors have already been following this dosage regimen for years.</p> <p>Source: Think Progress Read more http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/30/fda-approves-new-abortion-drug-labeling-reproductive-rights</p>
	<p>'I can't think of a time when it was worse': US abortion doctors speak out</p> <p>It is a time of heightened tension in Texas, following the passing of one of the most restrictive anti-abortion bills in the nation, made famous by Democrat Wendy Davis's 11-hour filibuster against it in 2013. The Boyds have been warned by the FBI not to give media interviews because of fears for their safety. Over the years, they have had two arson attacks at their clinics, one in the 1980s and one in 2007, as well as countless death threats. But they have chosen to ignore the agency's instructions, to highlight what they say is a roll back of women's hard-won reproductive rights.</p> <p>Source: Inquirer.net Read more http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/21/us-abortion-doctors-speak-40-years</p>

Other

Fundamentalism in the way of Reproductive Rights

A few years ago, Arrow set out on a research project on the impact of "religious fundamentalism" on reproductive health policy in countries like Bangladesh, India, Morocco and the Philippines. The project was carried out in the Philippines by Likhaan, which has collaborated with Arrow on a number of research, advocacy and service delivery projects, and whose projects here I have written about several times.

Source: Inquirer.net

Read more

<http://opinion.inquirer.net/94045/religion-and-rights>

Other Health News- National

In rural health, Gujarat among BIMARU states

Gujarat seems to have been portraying as developing well, but the state of rural health system shows that it is much behind Bihar, Rajasthan and a few other states. Nitin Patel, the health minister, said that lack of interest in practicing in rural areas from doctors and medical staff has led to this situation. "Other states do not have people with good purchasing power, while people of Gujarat can afford to spend money on healthcare facilities.

Source: The Times of India

Read more

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/In-rural-health-Gujarat-among-BIMARU-states/articleshow/51593362.cms>

Centralisation, the bane of governance in India

This article tells us the bane of centralisation but will decentralisation in all sectors doc actually shift all powers at the local level??

Source: The Financial Express

Read more

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/fe-columnist/column-centralisation-the-bane-of-governance-in-india/227459/>