

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

National	International
<b>Reproductive and Maternal &amp; Child Health</b>	
<p><b>'Using the law to ensure sexual reproductive health and rights'</b></p> <p>Litigation can prove to be a powerful tool to ensure health rights, asserts the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) Nagaland. With this objective in mind, the HRLN, supported by CAN Youth conducted a daylong consultative session in Dimapur on June 25 to formulate strategy and advance the rights of women and adolescents, in particular – reproductive and sexual health rights.</p> <p><a href="http://morungexpress.com/using-law-ensure-sexual-reproductive-health-rights/">http://morungexpress.com/using-law-ensure-sexual-reproductive-health-rights/</a></p>	<p><b>Bangladesh shows progress in child survival</b></p> <p>IN recent years, Bangladesh has made solid progress in reducing mortality rates among children under age 5. Part of its success can be traced to the expansion of community-level health interventions. Accelerated progress will depend on expanded and more equitable provision of antenatal care and skilled birth attendance.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thedailystar.net/the-state-the-worlds-children-2016/bangladesh-shows-progress-child-survival-1247602">http://www.thedailystar.net/the-state-the-worlds-children-2016/bangladesh-shows-progress-child-survival-1247602</a></p>
<p><b>Nearly half of women of reproductive age in India anaemic: Study</b></p> <p>As many as 48.1 percent of women of reproductive age in India have anaemia, which is only slightly less than the prevalence percentages in West African nations of Guinea and Nigeria, says the Global Nutrition Report 2016.</p> <p><a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/Nearly-half-of-women-of-reproductive-age-in-India-anaemic-Study/articleshow/52834914.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/Nearly-half-of-women-of-reproductive-age-in-India-anaemic-Study/articleshow/52834914.cms</a></p>	<p><b>Best friends" save women's lives in war-weary Central African Republic</b></p> <p>The conflict in the Central African Republic has been marked by rampant killings and sexual violence; 2.3 million people are currently in need of humanitarian aid. Health facilities have been destroyed and whole communities have been uprooted, leaving women like Mathilde without pregnancy care or support services.</p> <p><a href="http://www.unfpa.org/news/best-friends-save-women%2899s-lives-war-weary-central-african-republic">http://www.unfpa.org/news/best-friends-save-women%2899s-lives-war-weary-central-african-republic</a></p>
<p><b>On time delivery – the large blind spot in India's immunisation programme</b></p> <p>The majority of children immunised under the government's universal immunisation programme don't get their vaccinations on time. New research shows that two-thirds of children under the age of five had either not been vaccinated at all, or received their vaccine shots much later than prescribed.</p> <p><a href="http://scroll.in/article/809505/on-time-delivery-the-large-blind-spot-in-indias-immunisation-programme">http://scroll.in/article/809505/on-time-delivery-the-large-blind-spot-in-indias-immunisation-programme</a></p>	<p><b>Life Cycle: Why Periods are a Global Health Issue</b></p> <p>Ask any girl in the world about her period, and she'll tell you it's a problem. It can be messy and painful, and make you bloated and moody. It can lead to embarrassing accidents. But in some countries, menstruation has much more serious impact. If you're a girl in a low- or middle-income country, your period can keep you out of school, lead to you losing your job and even make you a target of sexual violence.</p> <p><a href="https://www.newsdeeply.com/womenandgirls/life-cycle-why-periods-are-a-global-health-issue/">https://www.newsdeeply.com/womenandgirls/life-cycle-why-periods-are-a-global-health-issue/</a></p>

<p><b>Centre launches scheme for pregnant women 13 days after PM Modi moots idea at rally</b></p> <p>That India's maternal mortality rate is a matter of grave concern is undisputed. Determining how many schemes India needs to tackle the problem may be less simple.</p> <p>According to World Bank data, India's maternal mortality rate was 174 per 100,000 live births in 2015. The health ministry recently launched its third programme to bring down this rate, just 13 days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi mooted the idea at a rally.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/narendra-modi-launches-scheme-pregnant-women-pmsmy-isy-saharanpur-rally-2870227/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/narendra-modi-launches-scheme-pregnant-women-pmsmy-isy-saharanpur-rally-2870227/</a></p>	<p><b>Breaking the Awkward Silence Around Sex Education</b></p> <p>Maternal disorders are the leading cause of death for young women. Experts say teaching children about sexual health and reproductive rights can help reverse that trend and contribute to gender equity.</p> <p><a href="https://www.newsdeeply.com/womenandgirls/breaking-the-awkward-silence-around-sex-education/">https://www.newsdeeply.com/womenandgirls/breaking-the-awkward-silence-around-sex-education/</a></p>
<p><b>MP: Aadhaar cards for newborns to check infant mortality</b></p> <p>Increasing cases of infant mortality in Madhya Pradesh have forced the health department to begin a monthly Child Death Review (CDR). Madhya Pradesh topped the country in infant mortality rate (IMR) for the 12th successive time with 52 deaths of children less than one year of age per 1,000 live births, according to a survey released by the central government in June.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/mp-aadhaar-cards-for-newborns-to-check-infant-mortality/story-c1w3fAq9cheUU37xMPn2bJ.html">http://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/mp-aadhaar-cards-for-newborns-to-check-infant-mortality/story-c1w3fAq9cheUU37xMPn2bJ.html</a></p>	<p><b>Nigeria: Health Expert Seeks End to Women's Reproductive Issues</b></p> <p>Perturbed by the growing incidences of menstrual irregularities, infertility and miscarriages among women, experts in the healthcare sector at the weekend, began training doctors on the use of modern and evidence-based approaches towards halting women's reproductive health challenges.</p> <p><a href="http://allafrica.com/stories/201606211145.htm!">http://allafrica.com/stories/201606211145.htm!</a></p>
<p><b>Infant mortality rate: Target set by Millennium Development Goals not met</b></p> <p>Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin 2014, published by the Registrar General of India and was released earlier this month shows that none of the ten big states (for which data is available) have been able to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) as per the target set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/infant-mortality-rate-target-set-by-millennium-development-goals-not-met/article8773717.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/infant-mortality-rate-target-set-by-millennium-development-goals-not-met/article8773717.ece</a></p>	<p><b>Don't put women's health in middle of N.J. budget battle</b></p> <p>In 2010, when cuts severely curtailed women's health programming in New Jersey, that funding accounted for less than 0.022 percent of the entire state budget — a minuscule tab for keeping more than half the state's residents healthy.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/06/dont_put_womens_health_in_middle_of_nj_budget_batt.html">http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/06/dont_put_womens_health_in_middle_of_nj_budget_batt.html</a></p>
<p><b>Family Planning</b></p> <p><b>International &amp; India News</b></p>	
<p><b>City to lay stress on family planning</b></p> <p>The city would celebrate World Population Stabilization Month from Monday until July 24. The month-long activities would be split into two fortnights - June 24 till July 10 as World Population Awareness Generation And Mobilization Fortnight and July 11 To July 27 as Service Delivery Fortnight For Family Planning.</p> <p><a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/City-to-lay-stress-on-family-planning/articleshow/52948777.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/City-to-lay-stress-on-family-planning/articleshow/52948777.cms</a></p>	

### **Over-populated or under-developed? The real story of population growth**

"The number of births has peaked, or has levelled off globally," says John Wilmoth, director of the population division in the UN's department of economic and social affairs. "Some countries still have increasing numbers of births but for the world as a whole, we're not adding people to the population through births. We're mostly adding to the population because people are living longer."

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/datablog/2016/jun/28/over-populated-or-under-developed-real-story-population-growth>

### **Vasectomy is reversible, yet men fear a 'potent' backlash**

The incentive is double, compared to what is offered to women. Yet, hardly any men are man enough to undergo the simple process of sterilization, reveals data from the fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS). The situation is so dismal across the country that at least in five states, the figure for sterilised men is a big zero. Sikkim tops the list with the maximum number of sterilised men - an abysmal 3.4 per cent.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/Vasectomy-is-reversible-yet-men-fear-a-potent-backlash/2016/06/19/article3489219.ece>

### **Progress on family planning: Are we where we ought to be?**

To reach young people with reproductive health information, Ruth Nvumenta Kavuma, an educationist, women health rights advocate and former Woman MP Kalangala swears by social media. "You cannot beat it. It works," she says emphatically explaining that in a social context where young people face stigma when they seek this information and services, they treasure privacy.

[http://www.newvision.co.ug/new\\_vision/news/1428004/progress-family-planning-ought](http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1428004/progress-family-planning-ought)

Abortion	
National	International
<b>Lack of sexual health knowledge, and contraceptives result in maximum abortions, says study</b>  Failure to use contraceptives, or a lack of knowledge about them, among young women is the biggest cause for abortions in India, says a new study; with 80 per cent abortion stemming from contraceptive failure.  In a study of 1,381 married and unmarried women in India, Ipas, a global NGO that works for women's sexual and reproductive rights, pointed out the frequent lack of contraceptive usage among young women aged 15 to 24. <a href="http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-lack-of-sexual-health-knowledge-and-contraceptives-result-in-maximum-abortions-says-study-2224958">http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-lack-of-sexual-health-knowledge-and-contraceptives-result-in-maximum-abortions-says-study-2224958</a>	<b>It's finally official: limiting abortion in the guise of helping women is a sham</b>  In a major victory for American women, the US supreme court sent a powerful message on Monday in its Whole Woman's Health v Hellerstedt decision: that laws purporting to protect women's health while limiting access to abortion are an unconstitutional sham. <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/27/supreme-court-abortion-decision-help-womens-rights">https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/27/supreme-court-abortion-decision-help-womens-rights</a>
<b>Man booked for making wife undergo abortion</b>  A 25-year-old newly married woman has complained against her husband for allegedly assaulting her and making her undergo an abortion. The accused, Abhya Kumar, is absconding and an FIR was lodged at the Maloya police station. <a href="http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/crime/man-booked-for-making-wife-undergo-abortion/258099.html">http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/crime/man-booked-for-making-wife-undergo-abortion/258099.html</a>	<b>Abortion demand 'soars' amid Zika fear</b>  Fears over the Zika virus have contributed to a "huge" increase in the number of women in Latin America wanting abortions, researchers said.  <a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/Abortion-demand-soars-amid-Zika-fear/articleshow/52880592.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/Abortion-demand-soars-amid-Zika-fear/articleshow/52880592.cms</a>
<b>Contraceptive failure the leading cause for</b>	<b>Illegal abortions are killing women and aid</b>

<p><b>unwanted pregnancies among young women, Ipas India analysis</b></p> <p>Contraceptive failure is cited as the most common cause for unwanted pregnancies in India. Such unplanned pregnancies very often end up in abortions, according to an analysis done by Ipas Development Foundation.</p> <p><a href="http://theindiasaga.com/variety/health/385-contraceptive-failure-the-leading-cause-for-unwanted-pregnancies-among-young-women-ipas-india-analysis">http://theindiasaga.com/variety/health/385-contraceptive-failure-the-leading-cause-for-unwanted-pregnancies-among-young-women-ipas-india-analysis</a></p>	<p><b>restrictions are just making it worse</b></p> <p>Botswana has restrictive abortion laws, but compared with many other countries they are pretty liberal. In many parts of the world, abortions are only allowed in extreme circumstances, if at all, and practicalities – for example, needing two police reports as proof of rape – often prove insurmountable barriers at the very time a woman needs the most sympathy and practical help.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/jun/17/development-community-abortion-america">https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/jun/17/development-community-abortion-america</a></p>
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#### Other Health Related News

<p><b>Pilot launched for solar energy to power PHCs, for millions with no access to health centres with electricity</b></p> <p>In a bid to strengthen the primary health infrastructure in the country, the Indian Council of Medical Research has piloted a programme to power Primary Health Centres through solar energy. Partnering with the think tank Council for Energy, Environment and Water, the country's apex medical research body has signed an MoU to study if solar can be an effective solution for almost 33 million Indians who have to make do with primary health infrastructure with no electricity at all.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-pilot-launched-for-solar-energy-to-power-phcs-for-millions-with-no-access-to-health-centres-with-electricity-2229535">http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-pilot-launched-for-solar-energy-to-power-phcs-for-millions-with-no-access-to-health-centres-with-electricity-2229535</a></p>	<p><b>WHO, governments and health agencies commit to advancing global health security</b></p> <p>The World Health Organization (WHO), governments, financial institutions, development partners, and health agencies from across the world have committed to accelerate strengthening and implementation of capacities required to cope with disease outbreaks and other health emergencies.</p> <p><a href="http://www.searo.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2016/1628/en/">http://www.searo.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2016/1628/en/</a></p>
<p><b>NHRC notice to Tamil Nadu over botched eye surgeries</b></p> <p>The National Human Rights Commission(NHRC) on Tuesday issued notice to the Tamil Nadu government over reports that 16 patients, 12 of them women, lost their sight during a botched up cataract surgery at the Government Hospital in Salem district.</p> <p><a href="http://www.navhindtimes.in/nhrc-notice-to-tamil-nadu-over-botched-eye-surgeries/">http://www.navhindtimes.in/nhrc-notice-to-tamil-nadu-over-botched-eye-surgeries/</a></p>	<p><b>Why Married Sex Is Social Justice</b></p> <p>My wife and I recently found ourselves comparing notes with friends who have children moving into the teenage years. We are anxious voyagers readying ourselves for stormy seas. Some of these discussions have pondered the best approach for “the talk”—on sex, dating, and marriage. And this has raised a fundamental issue for us: What is the basis for the Christian teaching on sex and marriage?</p> <p><a href="http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/julaug/why-married-sex-is-social-justice.html">http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/julaug/why-married-sex-is-social-justice.html</a></p>
<p><b>Health care needs Skill India too</b></p> <p>‘Bengal doctor beaten up’, ‘Hospital ransacked by angry relatives’, ‘AIIMS doctor assaulted by patient’s relative, FIR filed’... over the last many</p>	<p><b>New study argues household emissions are the key to reducing Beijing air pollution</b></p> <p>According to a new study part-funded by the EU, China’s plans to curb health-damaging emissions</p>

<p>years such events continue to make frequent headlines. The quality of care in health remains among the promises yet to be achieved.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/health-care-needs-skill-india-too/article8780381.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/health-care-needs-skill-india-too/article8780381.ece</a></p>	<p>from power plants and vehicles may have less impact unless household use of coal and other dirty fuels is also curtailed.</p> <p><a href="http://cordis.europa.eu/news/rcn/125660_en.html">http://cordis.europa.eu/news/rcn/125660_en.html</a></p>
<p><b>The new pharma FDI policy undermines Indian generics, which may make drugs more expensive</b></p> <p>The Union government's decision to allow up to 74% foreign direct investment in pharmaceutical companies through the automatic route could threaten competition in the pharmaceutical sector and India's role as a supplier of low cost, life-saving drugs across the developing world.</p> <p><a href="http://scroll.in/article/810499/the-new-pharma-fdi-policy-undermines-indian-generics-which-may-make-drugs-more-expensive">http://scroll.in/article/810499/the-new-pharma-fdi-policy-undermines-indian-generics-which-may-make-drugs-more-expensive</a></p>	<p><b>New China-Harvard-Africa Network enhances global health collaboration</b></p> <p>Public health leaders from China and across Africa recently gathered in Boston, joining their counterparts from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health for the inaugural meeting of the newly established China-Harvard-Africa Network.</p> <p><a href="https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/china-harvard-africa-network-global-health/">https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/china-harvard-africa-network-global-health/</a></p>

Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health
<p><b>Relationship of family formation characteristics with unsafe abortion: is it confounded by women's socio-economic status? - A case-control study from Sri Lanka</b></p> <p>Literature shows that choice for unsafe abortion is often driven by poverty. However, factors related to the family formation behaviour of women are also implied as determinants of this decision. This study assessed which family formation characteristics of women are associated with the risk of unsafe abortion, without being confounded by their low socio-economic status among Sri Lankan women admitted to hospital following post-abortion complications.</p> <p><a href="https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0173-5">https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0173-5</a></p>
<p><b>Inequalities in the coverage of place of delivery and skilled birth attendance: analyses of cross-sectional surveys in 80 low and middle-income countries</b></p> <p>Having a health worker with midwifery skills present at delivery is one of the key interventions to reduce maternal and newborn mortality. We sought to estimate the frequencies of (a) skilled birth attendant coverage, (b) institutional delivery, and (c) the combination of place of delivery and type of attendant, in LMICs.</p> <p><a href="https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0192-2">https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0192-2</a></p>
<p><b>Global, regional and national levels and trends of preterm birth rates for 1990 to 2014: protocol for development of World Health Organization estimates</b></p> <p>The official WHO estimates of preterm birth are an essential global resource for assessing the burden of preterm birth and developing public health programmes and policies. This protocol describes the methods that will be used to identify, critically appraise and analyse all eligible preterm birth data, in order to develop global, regional and national level estimates of levels and trends in preterm birth rates for the period 1990 – 2014.</p> <p><a href="https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0193-1">https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0193-1</a></p>