

Beyond surrogacy: The stigma of infertility drives an assisted reproduction industry rife with risk
 It has been almost 40 years since the first IVF baby was born in a private hospital in Kolkata in 1978. Over these decades, clinics have been established all over the country using IVF and other assisted reproductive technologies or ARTs as they are called. ARTs – as well as other infertility treatments – cash in on the tremendous pressure that Indian women of all economic backgrounds face, to conceive and give birth to a biologically related child.
<http://scroll.in/pulse/815240/beyond-surrogacy-the-stigma-of-infertility-drives-an-assisted-reproduction-industry-rife-with-risk>

What works to improve young people’s sexual and reproductive health
 New research published today shows that there are number of interventions which can help to improve health outcomes in young people (ages 10-24), but there is no single action or intervention which can work for all young people, to address all of their needs. While several high-quality interventions were found, they may only be applicable in specific settings for specific outcomes.
<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/adolescence/what-works-ASRHR/en/>

Rajasthan varsity seeks details of students’ menstrual cycle, pregnancy status
 A women’s university in Rajasthan has asked students details of their menstrual cycle and reproductive status in a health-profile form that comes with the admission application, a practice described as disgusting and intrusive by activists.
<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/rajasthan-varsity-seeks-details-of-students-menstrual-cycle-pregnancy-status/story-DHnP1eiq5hOFJPiunVpiYN.html>

O Mother, Where Art Thou?
 A September 2016 study demonstrated a higher than expected maternal mortality rate in Texas, but researchers couldn't determine whether reproductive health funding cuts were responsible for that uptick.
<http://www.snopes.com/texas-maternal-mortality-rate-doubles-after-reproductive-health-restrictions/>

Maternal deaths in India are caused mainly by poverty and economic disparity, not malnutrition
 Recent research on maternal deaths in the US shows an unexpected trend: between 1990 and 2013, the ratio of maternal deaths to every 1,00,000 live births went from 10.5 to 15.9. In 2015, this was. The leading cause? Not post-partum bleeding or hypertension, the biggest killers of would-be mothers across the globe, but pre-existing chronic conditions like heart disease or diabetes. Are these just first world problems? Maybe not.
<http://www.firstpost.com/india/maternal-deaths-in-india-are-caused-mainly-by-poverty-and-economic-disparity->

Report spotlights new findings on reproductive health needs of HIV-infected teens
 High-quality, individualized reproductive health care is especially important for adolescents and young adults with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and secondary transmission of HIV to partners and children.
<http://www.aappublications.org/news/2016/08/29/HIV082916>

not-malnutrition-2963578.html	
<p>Focused approach helped bring down maternal, child mortality rate: JP Nadda Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Monday said that the persistent focus on maternal and child health has resulted in India successfully validating the Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination in May 2015, besides sustaining the country's polio-free status. http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/focussed-approach-helped-bring-down-maternal-child-mortality-rate-jp-nadda/article9047746.ece</p>	<p>Common Denominator in Spending Bills: Attacking Reproductive Health The financial services spending bill passed by House Republicans on July 7 would bar funds for the District of Columbia to enforce its 2014 Reproductive Health Nondiscrimination Amendment Act, which prevents employers from discriminating against employees — male or female — based on their reproductive health choices. D.C. residents should not have to worry that their choice to terminate a pregnancy, to use in vitro fertilization to conceive a child, or even to use contraception, will result in their being fired or denied a job. http://www.rollcall.com/news/opinion/common-denominator-spending-bills-attacking-reproductive-health</p>
<p>Are women returning to natural delivery? A small but growing number of young women are opting for natural birth, a risky but rewarding choice that helps them reconnect with the deepest parts of their feminine selves. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/Are-women-returning-to-natural-delivery/articleshow/53884203.cms</p>	<p>The WHO is improving data on stillbirths, maternal and neonatal deaths The World Health Organization (WHO) is bolstering efforts to help countries improve their data on stillbirths and maternal and neonatal deaths, the majority of which are preventable with quality health care during pregnancy and childbirth. http://www.humanosphere.org/global-health/2016/08/improving-data-stillbirths-maternal-neonatal-deaths/</p>
	<p>Collecting honest data on maternal deaths gives us the information we need to save women's lives. Maternal death is one of the thorny problems of global health. Many different factors can cause a mother to lose her life – cultural attitudes about childbirth, geographical isolation, access to healthcare and the skill level of her healthcare providers. It's difficult to save the lives of mother when you cannot identify what needs fixing. http://www.undispatch.com/collecting-honest-data-maternal-deaths-gives-us-information-need-save-womens-lives/</p>
	<p>School-based reproductive health services linked to higher birth weight for teen mothers Availability of reproductive health care services at high schools may prevent adverse birth outcomes among adolescent mothers, including low birth weight, according to study findings. http://www.healio.com/pediatrics/neonatal-medicine/news/online/%7B5ff95643-4fd3-446a-ad66-0e840625bcfe%7D/school-based-reproductive-health-services-linked-to-higher-birth-weight-for-teen-mothers</p>

	<p>Maternal care not meeting demand Faced with a shortage of obstetricians and gynecologists and nurse midwives, several states are considering proposals that advocates say would improve health care for women. http://www.gosanangelo.com/lifestyle/health/maternal-care-not-meeting-demand-3a3296f6-264e-5454-e053-0100007f02b9-391070651.html</p>
Family Planning International & India News	
<p>Contraception Use Declines in India Despite Increased Awareness India has a growing population of 1.2 billion, but fewer Indians are using contraceptives than they were a decade ago, according to an IndiaSpend analysis of government health data. https://www.thequint.com/india/2016/08/29/contraception-use-declines-in-india-despite-increased-awareness</p>	
<p>Money matters, as do lives Back in 2012 at the landmark London summit on family planning, 69 countries pledged to facilitate access to family planning services for an additional 120 million women globally by 2020. India committed to spending more than two billion dollars towards this end for 48 million women by 2020, in addition to sustaining its existing coverage of approximately 100 million users. http://www.thestatesman.com/news/supplements/money-matters-as-do-lives/162039.html</p>	
<p>The empty crib Urban India played a starring role in “The Population Bomb”, Paul Ehrlich’s bestseller of 1968. “The streets seemed alive with people,” Mr Ehrlich wrote, of a sweltering taxi ride through Delhi that convinced him the world was heading for a Malthusian catastrophe. “People, people, people, people.” Yet India’s birth rate has contracted astonishingly quickly, and with it Indians’ notions of the ideal family. On average, city-dwelling Indians now believe that 1.9 children is perfect (see chart 1). http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21705678-our-poll-19-countries-reveals-neglected-global-scourge-number-would-be-parents-who</p>	
<p>Has 'family planning' worked too well? We have known for some time that the world needs more children—more young people to work and pay for the care of a growing population of elderly people who are living longer than ever. But the world also <i>wants</i> more children. That is, most people across the globe would like to have more children than they expect to have. That's the main conclusion of a recent survey commissioned by The Economist magazine. http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/has-family-planning-worked-too-well/article/2600580</p>	
Abortion	
National	International
<p>Why Do Women Need a Medical Board to Sign-Off on Abortion? In India, legal engagement with women’s reproductive capacities has been challenged by both the women’s movement and the health rights movement. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP Act) itself was actually envisaged as a part of the Indian state’s efforts at enacting a policy of ‘population control’ which has since given way to a discourse on ‘population stabilisation’. The MTP tacitly incentivises having only two children by counting contraceptive failure as legitimate grounds for abortion stating it is “for the purpose of limiting the number of children”. http://thewire.in/59330/why-do-women-need-a-medical-board-to-sign-off-on-abortion/</p>	<p>Abortion Restrictions in Ohio Hurt Women’s Health, Study Finds The 2011 Ohio law makes sense on paper: it requires abortion providers to prescribe the abortion medication mifepristone (also known as RU-486) in compliance with federally approved guidelines. But those FDA guidelines had been last updated in 2000, which meant that providers were legally required to prescribe abortion medication according to protocols that were more than a decade old, even though evidence-based medical consensus suggested that a slightly different regimen might be safer, easier and more effective. http://time.com/4472497/abortion-restrictions-in-ohio-hurt-womens-health-study-finds/</p>
<p>India Holding Women Hostage to Unwanted Pregnancies By forcing women who wish to end their pregnancies after 20 weeks to either go to court or risk an illegal procedure,</p>	<p>Woman sues Stroger Reproductive Health clinic over abortion complications A woman is suing Cook County's Reproductive Health</p>

<p>India's abortion law is a violation of human rights, says Melissa Upreti of the Center for Reproductive Rights. https://www.newsdeeply.com/womenandgirls/india-holding-women-hostage-to-unwanted-pregnancies/</p>	<p>Services clinic, operated by John H. Stroger Hospital, alleging she experienced complications from an improperly performed abortion. http://cookcountyrecord.com/stories/511001914-woman-sues-stroger-reproductive-health-clinic-over-abortion-complications</p>
<p>In rape-induced pregnancies, abortion should be seen as treatment: activists A resident doctor at a government hospital says he sees at least two cases of rape-induced pregnancies every month. A closer look at this pattern reveals a concern. "In most cases, they come when they are 10 to 20 weeks pregnant and in some cases, even beyond 20 weeks. In the case of minors, they often do not understand when they miss a period, and do not know they are pregnant until the parents notice weight gain and bring them to the hospital. And in many cases, the girls do not report the rape to their parents, leave alone to the police," he says. http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/in-rapeinduced-pregnancies-abortion-should-be-seen-as-treatment-activists/article9010484.ece</p>	<p>How Zika could spark a new abortion debate ZIKA, the mosquito-borne virus that can cause devastating birth defects in developing fetuses, continues its spread from Latin America to points north. The virus is prompting official warnings regarding foreign and, now, domestic travel. "Pregnant women and their partners who are concerned about being exposed to Zika", the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cautions, "may want to consider postponing nonessential travel to all parts of Miami-Dade County" in Florida. Of the 2,260 American women who have contracted Zika (nearly a quarter of whom while pregnant), all but a handful were bitten by a mosquito while travelling south of the border. The 14 domestic cases all originated in Florida. http://www.economist.com/blogs/democracyinamerica/2016/08/abortion-and-fetal-health</p>
<p>Female foeticide: Quack's women patients were first to defend her A row of 5 pregnant women, seated on a terrace and awaiting their turn for an abortion, were in for a shock. The women had come from neighboring districts, and as per their "doctor's" instructions, they were only from villages and not the main town. Four of them had already been given abortion pills, while the last one was waiting for her turn. http://www.thenewsminute.com/article/female-foeticide-quacks-women-patients-were-first-defend-her-48835</p>	<p>Doctors call for country GPs to be 'one-stop shop' abortion providers Ten years since the medical abortion drug RU486 was made available in Australia, and three years since it was listed with other taxpayer subsidised drugs, the legacy of the abortion taboo remains. http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/doctors-call-for-country-gps-to-be-abortion-providers/7792300</p>
Other Health Related News	
<p>Made-in-India leprosy vaccine to be launched A first-of-its-kind leprosy vaccine developed in India is to be launched on a pilot basis in five districts in Bihar and Gujarat. If it shows good results, the vaccine programme will be extended to other high-prevalence districts in the country, said Soumya Swaminathan, director general, Indian Council of Medical Research. http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/medicine-and-research/madeinindia-leprosy-vaccine-to-be-launched/article9013380.ece</p>	<p>The World Health Organization needs urgent reform if it is to survive In less than 12 months, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will elect a successor to Margaret Chan, the current Director-General, who was first appointed in 2006. Ten years ago Ms. Chan used her inaugural speech to underline her intent for the WHO to focus on "the people in greatest need", but when WHO board members held their annual meeting in Geneva in January this year, many expressed the need for urgent reform, with trust eroded after a series of missteps under Ms. Chan's watch. https://www.neweurope.eu/article/world-health-organization-needs-urgent-reform-survive/</p>
<p>Man carrying wife's body on shoulders reflects Odisha's healthcare The visuals that shocked the world, a man carrying his dead wife on his shoulders in Kalahandi district and two men carrying another woman's body packed in a sack and</p>	<p>Michael R. Bloomberg Becomes WHO Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases WHO has today named Mr Michael R. Bloomberg, philanthropist and former three-term Mayor of the City of New York, as Global Ambassador for</p>

<p>hung from a bamboo pole in Balasore, reflect the state of healthcare marred by acute shortage of doctors and poor health infrastructure in the state. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Man-carrying-wifes-body-on-shoulders-reflects-Odisha-healthcare/articleshow/53897339.cms</p>	<p>Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs). http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/bloomberg-WHO-Ambassador-Noncommunicable-Diseases/en/</p>
<p>Karnataka Public Health Policy on final stage as draft approved to boost hospital infrastructure Karnataka Public Health Policy draft has been approved by the dedicated Task Force. The various committees submitted the final draft to the Task Force, identifying 12 major issues of concern with an agenda for action to address each problem. These are upgrading patient care at primary health centres, improvement in infant-maternal healthcare, boost hospital infrastructure with information technology enabled environment and a Health Ombudsman to resolve complaints on healthcare providers. The final version is scheduled to be completed within the next two months. http://www.pharmabiz.com/ArticleDetails.aspx?aid=97012&sid=1</p>	<p>Partners Launch Framework to Accelerate Universal Health Coverage in Africa; World Bank and Global Fund Commit \$24 Billion Today at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-VI), African heads of state and partners vowed to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage (UHC) in Africa. To help countries implement their health reforms, the World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (Global Fund) committed to invest \$24 billion in Africa over the next three to five years. http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/08/26/partners-launch-framework-to-accelerate-universal-health-coverage-in-africa-world-bank-and-global-fund-commit-24-billion</p>
<p>The ill health of the nation The National Health Accounts data for 2013-14 present fresh evidence that India continues to have a non-serious approach to the provision of universal health coverage to all its citizens. India's health system is one of the most privatised in the world, poorly regulated and accessible only to those with income levels well above the average. All these attributes are, once again, strongly borne out by the NHA data, which lay bare the extremely low government spending on health which, at 1.15 per cent of GDP, compares poorly with even Sub-Saharan Africa. http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-ill-health-of-the-nation/article9051238.ece</p>	<p>Global Hepatitis C Drug (Hospitals, Private Labs, Physician Offices, Public Health Labs and Blood Banks) Market 2015-2021 - Research and Markets The report covers forecast and analysis for the market on a global and regional level. The study provides historic data of hepatitis C drug market 2015 along with a forecast from 2016 to 2021 based on revenue (USD billion). The study includes drivers and restraints for the hepatitis C drug market along with the impact they have on the demand over the forecast period. Additionally, the report includes the study of opportunities available in the hepatitis C drug market on a global level. http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160819005651/en/Global-Hepatitis-Drug-Hospitals-Private-Labs-Physician</p>

Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health
<p>Out of pocket expenditure to deliver at public health facilities in India: a cross sectional analysis To expand access to safe deliveries, some developing countries have initiated demand-side financing schemes promoting institutional delivery. In the context of conditional cash incentive scheme and free maternity care in public health facilities in India, studies have highlighted high out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) of Indian families for delivery and maternity care. In this context the study assesses the components of OOPE that women incurred while accessing maternity care in public health facilities in Uttar Pradesh, India. It also assesses the determinants of OOPE and the level of maternal satisfaction while accessing care from these facilities. http://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0221-1</p>

Incidence of intrapartum stillbirth and associated risk factors in tertiary care setting of Nepal: a case-control study

Each year, 1.2 million intrapartum stillbirths occur globally. In Nepal, about 50 % of the total number of stillbirths occur during the intrapartum period. An understanding of the risk factors associated with intrapartum stillbirth will facilitate the development of preventative strategies to reduce the associated burden of death. This study was conducted in a tertiary-care setting with the aim to identify risk factors associated with intrapartum stillbirth.

<https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0226-9>

Effects of Community-Based Newborn Care Intervention on Neonate Health Status in a District of Tehran (Iran)

The results of implementing community-based newborn care strategies witnessed at the first week postnatal visit included improvements in neonatal gestational growth, management of neonates with potentially serious illnesses, diagnosis of warning signs and neonatal care practices.

<http://jfrh.tums.ac.ir/index.php/jfrh/article/view/420/357>

Does maternal marital status indirectly influence use of medical interventions during delivery in American Samoa?

Results indicated that there is no difference in the rates of membrane rupturing or caesarean sections between marital statuses. However, unmarried women experienced significantly more episiotomies and operational vaginal deliveries than their married peers.

Conclusion: The results of this study suggest an important relationship between culture and medical care in American Samoa.

http://journals.sfu.ca/pjrh/index.php/pjrh/article/view/34/pdf_1