SYNAPSE

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT RESEARCH, NEW DELHI

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH

TELEMEDICINE PROJECT WITH LINKS TO 53 REMOTE AFRICAN HOSPITALS

The pan Africa e-networks project for telemedicine was launched at Sri Ramachandra University (SRU). SRU will connect 53 remote hospitals in Africa to provide telehealth care, CME and training programs for nurses and paramedical staff in these nations. India could also learn from Africa on addressing challenges of mass deprivation.

AID FOR CHILD ILLNESSES STALLS AMID FOCUS ON AIDS FIGHT

According to Chief of Health, UNICEF more glamorous diseases like diarrhoea are forgotten diseases. Current debate over spending on disease comes out with the fact that diarrhoea kills 1.5 million young children, more than AIDS, malaria and measles combined. Experts agree there is tremendous potential to lower child deaths from diarrhoea and pneumonia substantially.

ROGI KALYAN SAMITIS FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE IN DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet has approved the setting up of Rogi Kalyan Samitis, which would replace the existing hospital advisory communities, for improving availability and access to quality healthcare for all citizens, in particular the poor and vulnerable sections of society. Chief Minister Sheila Dixit said these Samitis would try to increase responsiveness and ensure optimum utilization of health institutions through active participation of communities.

MAX HEALTH CARE SELECTS PEROT SYSTEMS FOR IT

Max Health care (MHC) and Perot System Corporation recently announced a 10-year agreement in which Perot Systems will provide IT outsourcing (ITO) and electronic health record (EHR) implementation for MHC. This agreement marks Perot System’s full ITO in the Indian Healthcare industry as well as the company’s first India-based healthcare client said Mr. Anurag Jain, President, Application & Process Solutions Group and managing Director for Asia pacific for Perot System. “We expect that this new EHR system will enable Max Health care to improve the quality of care at the point of care by not only reducing administrative delays, but improving the availability and delivery of the right information for clinicians including nursing care.”
**BY 2010, INDIA WILL HAVE MOST NO. OF DIABETICS**

The global projections by International Diabetes Federation’s (IDF’s) latest Diabetes Atlas show that the next year, the country will be home to 50.8 million diabetics, making it the world diabetes capital. And the number is expected to grow up to 87 million – 8.4% of the country’s adult population – by 2030. In India it will kill around 10.07 lakh people in the age group of 20-79 years every year – the majority being women (5.81 lakh) from 2010. Though India will spend 1% of total diabetes spending worldwide, the amount itself is staggering $2.8 billion.

**MORE THAN 5M HIV+ PATIENTS HAVE NO ACCESS TO TREATMENT**

A report released jointly by WHO, UNICEF & UNAIDS, more than 5mm of the 9.5mm people requiring Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) have no access to it. Other figures included in the report are no of HIV testing facilities in India increased to 4817 in 2008 from 4269 in 2007. Of the 80,000 infected pregnant women only 10,673 received treatment. Only 22.1% of infected children received treatment. Only 56.1% of targeted sex workers in India have been reached with HIV prevention program.

**INDIA 65th ON GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX FOR 2009**

A report released by international Food Policy Research Institute has marked India a poor 65th in battling hunger according to Global Hunger Index for 2009. The index rank countries on under-nourishment, prevalence of child malnutrition & rates of child mortality.

**FREE MEDICAL COVER FOR ACCIDENT VICTIMS**

The centre is working on the plan where the government will bear all the medical expenses during the 1st 48 hours of hospitalization of the victims of road accidents. The government could create an escrow account for this purpose so that the hospitals treating such patients get the payment as soon as possible. A few public sector insurance companies and agencies like NHAI (National Highway authority of India) could be stakeholders and center could contribute to fund.

**INDIA 134th ON UN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

Australia and Iceland are this year’s top three ranked countries. The bottom three ranked countries are Niger, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. Published annually by United Nations Development program (UNPD), this year’s HDR is based on the data till 2007, before the current global downturn. It provides comparison between rankings since 1980.

**IT MAJORS EYE ON RS 5K- CRORE GOVT HOSPITAL CONTRACTS**

The Indian Defence sector along with the government has started invited bids for the modernization of its hospitals. The Indian Railways, IAF, Indian Navy and Army are also in the process of upgrading their e-systems. There is more scope for e-health projects, which will give Indian IT companies opportunities to provide applications, implement them and maintain the services in the networking in health sector.

**SOON, DIABETES TEST FOR RURAL MASSES**

The Union Health Ministry is considering indigenous cheap testing tests to ensure compulsory blood tests for India’s rural masses. The project to be launched under NRHM will cover the entire rural population above 40 yrs. WHO research has shown that diabetes will affect almost 70 million people by 2015.
**INDIA BETTERS WORLD IN MEETING HIV TARGET**

Although late to start but India has succeeded in leaving the rest of the world in providing treatment to people with HIV. On one side, where it took the world 5 years to register a tenfold increase, in India in less than four years the number of people on free anti-retro viral therapy (ART) to treat HIV rose from twenty thousand adults in 2006 to two lakh seventy thousand in August 2009.

**HOPE IN SIGHT: STRAINS OF VIRUS BEHIND CERVICAL CANCER FOUND**

The researchers at AIIMS have found two strains of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) namely HPV-16 and HPV-18 that are the main cause of cervical cancer found in women in India. This is an important discovery as India share ¼th of the global burden of cancer death.

**THREE IN FIVE ABORTIONS IN INDIA ARE UNSAFE**

According to U.S. based Guttmacher Institute in a report called “Abortions worldwide: A decade of uneven progress” – three in five abortions in India are unsafe. The number of abortions fell from 45.5 in 1995 to 41.6 in 2003 but the number of unsafe abortions performed remained relatively unchanged from 19.9 million to 19.7 million during 1997 to 2003. Such unsafe procedures are also killing 70,000 women per year mostly in developed countries.

**IN INDIA A CHILD DIES EVERY 15 SECONDS**

According to Save the Children in their latest report “every one” – one child dies every 15 seconds due to neonatal diseases. Two lakh children die before reaching their fifth birthday. Over 20% of world’s child deaths occur in India – the largest number anywhere in the world. One in three malnourished children lives in India. Around 28% of the child deaths are linked to the poor sanitation and unsafe drinking water.

**INDIA SITTING ON A CANCER BOMB**

According to a report of Indian council of medical research, the number of cancer cases in India among men would increase to 5.34 lakh by 2020 as compared to 4.47 lakh in 2008. The highest number of cases would be in lung and mouth cancer attributed to increases of tobacco products. Other reason is attributed due to the India’s aging population. To combat this government officials are ready with a national cancer fund which will cover all cost incurred by the BPL patients.