OBAMA LIFTS TRAVEL BAN ON HIV + PEOPLE

President Obama announced the end of a 22 years ban on travel to the United States by people who had tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS. The president had promised to end the ban before the end of this year. The ban was enacted in 1987 at the time of widespread fear that HIV could be transferred by physical or respiratory contacts. Under the immigration law, most foreigners with such a disease cannot travel to United States. Once the ban is lifted, foreigners applying to become residents in the US will no longer be required to take a test for AIDS.

PANEL: PAP SMEAR AT 21, EVERY 2 YEARS

New guidelines for cervical cancer screening say women should delay their first Pap test until age 21, and be screened less often than recommended in the past. The advice from the American college of obstetricians and gynecologists is meant to decreases unnecessary Pap testing and potentially harmful treatment, particularly in teenagers and young women. The guideline says women below 30 should undergo test once every two years and those age 30 and older can be screened once every three years.

GOVT TO INTRODUCE Hib VACCINE FROM NEXT YEAR

The government will introduce haemophilus influenza type B pentavalent vaccine in routine immunization programme from next year. It will initially be introduced in 10 states and will replace the DPT and hepatitis B-vaccine the vaccine will be given at 6th, 10th and 14th weeks and each dose will cost Rs 150. Pneumonia is the largest killer of children in India, with 50 per cent of the deaths being caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae and Hib, both of which are vaccine preventable.

CITY GETS DRUG RESEARCH CENTRE

Dr Naresh Trehan’s MEDANTA-THE MEDICITY in collaboration with US [DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE] and INDIA’S JUBILANT ORGANOSYS- a leading drug research and Development Company launched a major drug research centre in India. THE MEDANTA DUKE RESEARCH INSTITUTE [MDRI] provides a 60 bedded unit for research purposes, will aim at translating initial research at Duke University into potent drugs at a comparatively low price. Gene pool mapping will be an important part of the research project. MEDANTA will also provide facility for phase 3 clinical trials.
AT 61 MILLION, INDIA HAS LARGEST NO. OF STUNTED CHILDREN: UNICEF

According to a UNICEF report, India has 61 million stunted children, the largest in any country followed by China that has 12 million children. In other words 3 out of 10 stunted children are from India.

GOODBYE MCI? BILL ON HEALTH EDUCATION WATCHDOG READY

The draft bill to set up National Council for Human Resource in Health (NCHRH) - the overarching regulatory body for health sector that would replace the existing medical, dental and pharmacy councils of India has been sent to the states for their comments following which it will be taken to the law ministry and the cabinet.

PCR COPS’ JOB PROFILE CHANGES TO NOW ALSO GIVE FIRST-AID

PCR van service turned to be ‘biggest ambulance provider’ in Delhi after having taken over 1700 people to various hospitals last year. The police have now tied up with two different Institutes in the city to train over 4000 of its officers in basic ‘first aid methods’ which will provide immediate relief to accident victims.

HEALTH MISSION FOR CITY SOON

Similar to the line of NRHM, the Delhi state will have its own health mission, the official Notification of which will be done shortly. The principal focus will be to revamp 215 PHCs in the city to reduce the load from government hospitals. 125 more PHCs are required by Delhi for its 1.7 crore population and this area would be controlled by state mission. One PHC would be designed to cater a population of 50000.

RS 9.2 BILLION TO PROMOTE INDIAN SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE

Health ministry will spend Rs 9.2 billion this financial year for promoting Ayurveda, yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy [AYUSH] - the Indian system of medicine in the Country, the MOS for health S. GANDHISELVAN told to parliament on Friday 20th November 2009. The minister said the Govt. of India has taken initiative to increase India’s share in the Global market of herbal medicines.

TPA'S TO CUT TAX ON HOSPITAL PAYMENTS

Third party administrators [TPA] facilitating cashless treatment in hospitals for individual holding health insurance will have to deduct tax up front while making payments to hospitals on behalf of patients, says a new rule of tax dept. The 10% tax to be deducted will affect working capital management of hospitals and, thereby erode profitability marginally. The central board of direct taxes has issued a circular making it mandatory for TPA to deduct tax at source on payment to hospitals.

SINGLE SHOT TO FIGHT 2 POLIO STRAINS?

From January onwards the two oral monovalent oral polio vaccines MOPV1 [for p1 strain] and MOPV3 [for p3 strain] will be replaced by a combined bivalent vaccine [BOPV] in the high risk States of UP and BIHAR. This would be available in every sub national polio round [SNID]. In Trial studies at INDORE, CHENNAI, PUNE 90% efficacy is shown and is just waiting to be recommended by DRUG CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INDIA.

BREAST CANCER SCAN: IS 40 THE RIGHT AGE OR 50?

The United States preventive services task force has recommended that regular breast cancer screening of women should start at the age of 50 as opposed to 40. But some experts in India say that the country should stick to 40 because early mammography has been shown to greatly reduce mortality among women.
According to a report by UNICEF before a 3 day international summit on the problem of world hunger, nearly 200 million children in poor countries have stunted growth. The head of UN food agency called on the world to join him a day of fasting ahead of the summit to highlight the plight of 16 billion hungry people.

MAXIMUM CITY, MINIMUM LIFE ‘MUMBAIKARS DIE 7 YEARS BEFORE REST OF THE COUNTRY’

A study has found that average Mumbaikar is likely to do i.e. at least 7 years before other Indians and 12 years before people living in rest of Maharashtra. Life expectancy of Mumbaikar is 52.6 years for men and 58.1 for women. The average life expectancy in India is 63.7 years. The figure came up in recently published Human Development report 2009 prepared by National Resource Center for Urban Poverty and All India Institute of Local Self Government, Mumbai. The report reveals that deaths in the city are caused by heart attacks followed by Tuberculosis, Cancer, Kidney Failure and HIV/AIDS and their number are increasing every year. Mental stress, lack of physical exercise and poor dietary habits are the reasons.

1 MILLION NEW BORN DIE EVERY YEAR IN INDIA

According to world’s children report of UNICEF, each year 1 million new borns die during the first month of life in India another million die before they reach 5 years. Almost 55 million children under 5 years are underweight.