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HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DEAFNESS LAUNCHED IN MAHARASHTRA

Honorable Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare, Environment, protocol and additional charges of Sports and youth Welfare, Shri Suresh H. Shetty launched the National Program for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) in Maharashtra on 6th September 2010. Primary Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, District Hospitals and Medical Colleges in the state of Maharashtra would be equipped to initiate National Program for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD). Audiologists and Speech Pathologists would be appointed on contract basis in the district hospitals to provide secondary and tertiary care for the identified deaf in the community. A series of training programs for the medical professionals and health workers, involved in the program would be organized in this month.

HIGH COURT DIRECTS UNION GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER FOUR FACTORS BEFORE INTRODUCING NEW VACCINES

The Delhi High Court directed the union government to take four factors- cost, efficacy, side effects and incidence – into consideration before including any new vaccine in its Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). The direction has come by experts in the health field. Earlier counsel for the Government submitted that it was testing the efficacy of the pentavalent vaccines- DPT,HIV and HepatitisB- in two states before implementing it in the whole country. The petitioners submitted that the vaccines on trial were earlier included in the UIP without requisite studies by an independent body. The policy should prescribe mandatory analysis and epidemiological studies to be carried out before introduction of a vaccine in the public health system.

IN A FIRST, PACEMAKER FITTED IN BRAIN HELPS CURE OCD

A team from VIMHANS in Delhi has successfully implanted a pacemaker in the brain of an OCD patient thus significantly reducing the symptoms associated with this psychiatric disorder. OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) results in repetitive behavior such as hand washing, checking in cleaning etc. The technique called Deep Brain Simulation (DBS) uses the pacemaker to send electrical impulses and precisely stimulate specific parts of the brain to alter its function.
POST-MBBS, AN EXIT TEST BEFORE DOCTORS CAN PRACTICE

In accordance with the recommendation that the Medical Council of India (MCI) has made to the Health Ministry regarding conducting a mandatory common exit test for MBBS pass outs to become doctors and treat patients, the Supreme Court was informed for the same. The MCI is mulling for a common exit test that would ensure the standardization of doctors graduating from different medical colleges all over the country. It was also informed that from next year onwards there would only be a single window test for filling the post graduate seats all over the world. But the MCI recommendation for having a common test for admission to MBBS seats both in government and private seats all over the country has not been approved by the apex court on account of the non-receiving of the response from the state government in this regard.

INDIA IMPROVED ITS PERFORMANCE IN REDUCTION OF UNDER-5 MORTALITY RATE: UNICEF REPORT

According to a report released by the UNICEF, it has been found that India has fared sufficiently well in bringing down the Under-5 Mortality rate to 66 per 1000 live births in 2009 from the figure of 118 per 1000 in 1990. However India still holds the record of being the nation that accounts for the highest number of children dying before attaining the age of five years. The average annual rate of reduction of Under 5 Mortality rate is less than 3.1% at present, which however is insufficient to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

NACO’S NEW AIDS STRATEGY TO FOCUS ON WOULD BE MIGRANTS

National Aids Control Organization (NACO) is on its way of introducing one of its most ambitious interventions to combat HIV in India. According to a study conducted by NACO on the relation between migration and HIV spread, it has found that the highest burden of HIV was found among the migrating population after the high risk groups like sex workers and MSM (Men having Sex with Men). These migrants are those who ply to bigger cities from small towns mainly in search of work. NACO will be conducting a crash course on safe sex and dangers of risky sexual behavior for these migrants just before they board their train to large towns and cities for which it has identified railway stations in districts across different states of the country.

GLOBAL NEWS

DEMOCRATS UNVEIL GLOBAL DRUG SAFETY BILL

Under proposals unveiled by Democrats in the House of Representative, U.S. inspections of overseas pharmaceutical plants would increase and regulators would gain new power. It will lead to better quality and safety of certain drug products. The draft legislation is a response in part to tainted heparin from China blamed for dozens of deaths in 2008. It will also help to open discussion on ways to help the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) better police the increasingly global marketplace for prescription drugs. It also would require that manufacturers “ensure the safety of their supply chain” and would give the FDA power to mandate recalls of unsafe medicines.
A SUMMIT OF WORLD ADDRESSED BY UN SECRETARY BAN KI MOON TO HELP THE WORLD’S POOREST BY 2015

United Nation has set goal to help world’s poorest nation by 2015 through Millennium Development Goal which was started in beginning of the century. The world leaders vowed to reduce poverty by half and basic amenities like clean water and sanitation to all by 2015. The goals were also set for equality of women, environment, global trading etc. Mr Moon stated that the mission has started yielding results and there is increase in school enrolment, better control of disease and spread of technology.

RESEARCH SAYS MALARIA MOSQUITO USES MANY KIND OF SENSORS TO SNIFF OUT ITS HUMAN PREY

A team at Vanderbilt University has found that the mosquitoes possess a second set of olfactory sensors that they use to sniff out their human prey. It was reported in the latest edition of Public Library of Science Biology Journal. For years it was known that Anopheles gambiae, a species of mosquito that spreads malaria use one family of odour sensors to track its human prey. Now, scientists have preliminary evidence that the mosquito’s olfactory system may include additional family of sensors as well. This research will help to develop more effective repellents.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CAN REDUCE GENETIC OBESITY BY 40 PER CENT

According to a study published in PLoS Medicine, genetic predisposition to obesity can reduce through physical activity by 40 percent. Authors used a cohort study of 20,430 people and examined 12 different genetic variants which are known to increase the risk of obesity. It was found that although whole population can benefit from a physically active lifestyle but individual with genetic predisposition to obesity can benefit even more.

SMOKING: FERTILITY AFFECTED AT FOETAL STAGE

According to a study published in journal ‘Human Reproduction’, researchers have found that maternal smoking in early pregnancy can reduce the number of germ cells and somatic cells in the developing foetus. The study was done by researchers from University Hospital of Copenhagen (Denmark) who looked at 24 embryonic tests obtained after women had undergone legal termination. Researchers found that overall germ cells in ovaries and testes of embryos exposed to smoking were reduced significantly by 41% compared with number of germ cells in non-exposed embryos.
MISSION STATEMENT:

The National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project seeks to minimize vulnerability in the cyclone hazard prone States and Union Territories of India and make people and infrastructure disaster resilient, in harmony with conservation of the coastal ecosystem.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- To strengthen cyclone warning systems by improving the last mile connectivity to disseminate early warnings and advisories from authorities to communities and to receive feedback from communities by the authorities.
- To construct and sustainably maintain multi-purpose cyclone shelters.
- To construct connecting roads and bridges.
- To construct coastal embankments in selected places to stop saline ingress to protect crops, vital property and population.
- Shelterbelt plantation and mangrove plantation/regeneration.
- Detailed Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment studies of coastal districts, provide technical assistance to prepare high priority risk mitigation investments, long term training and capacity building strategy, and to strengthen institutional capacity for damage and loss assessment.
- To strengthen community level preparedness and build the capacity of communities to manage disasters as the first responders. Identify support and other stakeholders and build their capacities for coordinated and systematic response and mitigation measures. Awareness generation regarding preparedness and mitigation measures.

The following Components will form part of the Project:

- **Component A**: Last Mile Connectivity (LMC).
- **Component B**: Cyclone Risk Mitigation Investment.
- **Component C**: Technical Assistance for Hazard Risk Analysis, Capacity Building, and Damage & Loss assessment.
- **Component D**: Project Management and Monitoring.

BUDGET & TIMELINE

The project will be implemented over a period of 5 years starting from 2009-10. The total cost of the current phase of the project is 1496.71 crores.