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**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

1. **ICONS-HST International Conference on Stress: Health, Society and Technology**
   - Date: 20th - 21st April 2011
   - Venue: New Delhi, India
   - Website: [http://iismaas.blogspot.com](http://iismaas.blogspot.com)

2. **2nd International Conference on Transforming Healthcare with IT 2011**
   - Date: 22nd - 23rd April 2011
   - Venue: Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
   - Website: [http://www.transformhealthit.org/](http://www.transformhealthit.org/)

3. **LAW 2011 (Hospital LAW & Medico Legal Issues)**
   - Date: 29th - 30th April, 2011
   - Venue: Bangalore, India

4. **Medi-Health Congress 2011**
   - Date: 5th - 6th May, 2011
   - Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
   - Website: [http://www.medihealthcongress.com/](http://www.medihealthcongress.com/)

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**HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH**

**HEALTH COVER FOR KIDS UPTO FOURTEEN YEARS IN DELHI GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS**

A free health cover for children up to fourteen years of age will be provided under ‘Chacha Nehru Sehat Yojana’ in Delhi region. This scheme will provide free treatment and compulsory check - up for children (below 14 years) studying in government run, government aided, MCD/NDMC and cantonment board schools in Delhi by the Delhi government. Amount of Rs. 100 crore has been proposed for this scheme, which will cover 27 lakh school going children.

**NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH BILL HELD**

National consultation on mental health bill held with the objective to discuss the issues related to relation between illness and disability. The bill piloted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is expected to replace the Mental Health Act 1987, which has lacking in complaints of abuse of law and rights of person with mental illness. Disabilities Act 1999 is also being discussed with view to making major change. The ministry decided to amend the Mental Health Act and draft amendments was put in the public for discussion.

**HARYANA STRIVES TO IMPROVE INFANT MORTALITY RATE**

According to the State Health Minister a neonatal care unit is planned by Haryana government in all district hospitals. The first 72 hours of a new born are very critical in which proper medical care is needed. This survey shows that IMR has reduced from 67 per thousand live births in 2000 to 51 in 2009. It focuses on complete immunization of children and now the state government is taking initiatives for providing effective health services at affordable cost.

**CAPITAL SETS OCTOBER AS DEADLINE FOR UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION**

Under the project Adhar, Unique Identification Number would be allotted to all the persons above five years of age. It will be issued based on the impressions of fingerprints and iris images. Details like name, address, age, parents name would be collected. It will provide a definite identification of an individual and also access to many financial benefits and other social schemes. National Identification Authority of India (NUA) would do campaign for awareness and October has been set as deadline for the completion of this project.

**OVER RUPEES 500 CRORE BOOST TO CAPITAL’S HEALTH SECTOR**

The Delhi government has allocated rupees 1801 crore to upgrade city’s health infrastructure. This money will be used to build new hospitals, medical colleges, and
health centers and also add more ambulances. To cater the needs of economically weaker section, new 15 health centers will be added to the existing list of 30 government health centers across the city.

**SUPREME COURT ALLOWS 'PASSIVE EUTHANASIA'**

In a landmark judgment, Supreme Court has legalized passive euthanasia. This has given relief to thousands of patients. Supreme Court laid down the guidelines to be followed in case a patient or his or her family opted for passive euthanasia. These guidelines include seeking a declaration from the high court after clearance from a medical board and the state government. However, the bench ruled out active euthanasia as it is unconstitutional.

**WHO LISTS PRIORITY MEDICINES FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN**

The World Health Organization recently released its first list of drugs called “the top 30 medicines to save mothers and children,” a formulary of drugs that every hospital and clinic in every poor country should have. More than eight million children under age 5 die each year, and 1,000 women die each day from complications of pregnancy or birth. Many could be saved with affordable drugs or simple interventions like antibacterial soap and Epsom salts. The list includes no expensive brand-name drugs and emphasizes ones that come as dry pills or powders, which can be shipped cheaply and mixed into liquids for children on site.

**SAVING LIVES AT BIRTH: A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development, has been launched to seek innovative prevention and treatment approaches for pregnant women and newborns in rural, low-resource settings. This partnership leverages the collective resources of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Government of Norway, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, and The World Bank. Partners expect to provide nearly $14 million for this grant program's first round of funding. Over 5 years, the partners aim to invest at least $50 million in groundbreaking and sustainable projects with the potential to have a transformative effect on the lives of pregnant women and their babies in the hardest to reach corners of the world. They believe that there is a critical need for innovations that go beyond conventional approaches and have the potential to save the lives of millions of women and babies in the hardest to reach communities of the world.

**WHO FLU CENTER TO BE SET IN CHINA**

The National Influenza Center of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention has been designated as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, making China the first developing country to house such an institution. Under the coordination of the World Health Organization, the center in China is now to join four others - those in Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States - in monitoring, researching and responding to outbreaks of influenza, as well as making plans to combat pandemics. “This designation reflects the country's exceptional contribution to the global fight against influenza,” said Dr Shin Young-soo, World Health Organization regional director for the Western Pacific, speaking in Beijing at a ceremony to celebrate the designation.

**GLOBAL NEWS**

1. **Online Courses in Healthcare IT** launched by IIHMR, New Delhi in collaboration with OTECH –
   - Health Imaging and IT standards.
   - Introduction to Medical Digital Imaging.
   - Introduction to PACS.
   - PACS workflow.
   For details visit [http://www.iihmrdelhi.org/HealthcareIT/index.htm](http://www.iihmrdelhi.org/HealthcareIT/index.htm)

2. **CIPM**
   IIHMR, New Delhi launches Online Web based Course of Certificate in Project Management (CIPM) – specialization in Healthcare.
   For details visit [http://www.cipm-iihmr.org](http://www.cipm-iihmr.org)

3. **GSS Practices in Healthcare 2011**
   Date: 16th July 2011
   Venue: United Services Institution of India (USI), Rao Tula Marg, New Delhi.
   For details visit [http://iihmrdelhi.org/mdp%20calendar/Conference%20on.pdf](http://iihmrdelhi.org/mdp%20calendar/Conference%20on.pdf)

**MDP@IIHMR**

**Forthcoming MDPs at IIHMR**

- **Integrated Open Source District Hospital Information System**
  25th April - 6th May 2011

- **Workshop on Business Development Strategies and Skills for Healthcare Executives**
  23rd June 2011

For MDP details contact:
Training Officer, IIHMR
E-mail: shikha@iihmr.org
Mobile: 98112896282
GENE DO PREDICT THE RISK OF DIABETES

According to a study published in American Medical Association, a gene variant present in Europeans is found to treat type II diabetes patient. This survey shows that about 92.5 percent of people with diabetes don’t have this gene. After investigating Italian, French and US patients population, the study shows that about seven to eight percent of people in each group had the variant of HMGA1 gene which involved in insulin resistance.

FREEDOM FOR KIDNEY FAILURE PATIENTS

A light weight ultra-filtration device has been developed by a group of international experts. It can be worn around the waist and the dialysis would be carried out while driving or watching movie. The machine has already been tested on animals and after large scale trials in the next three years it would be available commercially; the human trial results have been published in several journals including the Lancet and Kidney international. The cost of the machine would be a little problem initially. Since in haemo-dialysis, patient has to get admitted, so the new system would prove to be beneficial.

HEALTH RECORDS CAN IMPROVE CARE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A new study published in the Journal of American Medical Informatics Association reveals that computer-generated reminders in Electronic Health Record (HER) system can help in improving care in developing countries. This study focused on an open source HER system called Open-MRS. The HER system’s computer generated reminders improved adherence to clinical guidelines for CD4 blood test, which are key to monitoring the health and treatment of patients with HIV. Thus according to this study HER reminders about overdue tests resulted in a nearly 50 percent increase in appropriate use of CD4 blood tests.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. World Kidney Day was observed on 10th March
2. World TB Day was observed on 24th March
3. Tele rehabilitation beneficial for knee surgery patients
4. At 50, diabetes can cut life by 8.5 years
5. MBBS, BDS courses to include tobacco control
6. Hi-Tech lab in Gurgaon to design vaccine for HIV
7. More women embrace centre’s health cover plan in second year
8. ‘Speak up to stop TB’ media campaign launched on 22nd March 2011
9. Wheat allergy an ‘impending epidemic’ in India
10. 70 percent TB patients in India are under 50
11. Ministry reissues notice on drug ban, 2 more added to the list
12. India aims to have a doctor for every 1000 people by 2031
13. 600 more MBBS seats in AIIMS-like institutes
HEALTH BUDGET 2011-12

Union Budget FY 2011/12: Expenditure and Estimates of Selected Ministries/Departments (Billion. Rupees)

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<th>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</th>
<th>Actuals FY 2009/10</th>
<th>Revised FY 2010/11</th>
<th>Budget FY 2011/12</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Family Welfare</td>
<td>176.47</td>
<td>215.18</td>
<td>267.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of (AYUSH)</td>
<td>6.79</td>
<td>8.88</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health Research</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>5.30</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of AIDS Control</td>
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Source: Ministry of Finance.

The budget of Indian Union government for the healthcare industry continues to promote rural and public health projects, research and development, health insurance, and medical device industries. Health sector saw about 20% hikes in budget allocation for the year 2011/12, indicating a continued commitment from the Indian government to push growth across this sector. In this budget, the Union government has transferred some of the burden onto healthcare industries in the form of service tax at a time it was looking for incentives to promote its growth.

The current budget comes as no surprise given that it has largely followed the ruling government’s pro agenda. The National Rural Healthcare Mission continues to take centre stage in terms of allocations, while public hospitals and health-service providers are exempt from tax. Meanwhile, government ambitions for healthcare expenditure to make up 2-3% of GDP are still yet to materialize.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana was proposed to be being extended to Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries, Bidi workers and others to provide basic health cover to poor and marginal workers. The scheme will further be extended to cover unorganized sector in hazardous mining and associated industries.

The life and health insurance industry received a boost as the budget has proposed an increase in FDI from 26% to 49%, which will act as an incentive to bring in foreign investments and capital required to boost the sector’s growth and development. This incentive comes at a time when the Indian government is looking to increase health insurance coverage in the country.

The budget, meanwhile, underpins government efforts to boost the medical device and healthcare service industry. Both industries have been receiving a great deal of attention from the government since 2008, with plans to increase regulations and pricing rules around these growing industries.

References:

http://indiabudget.nic.in/index.asp
http://budgetlive.nic.in
http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2009-10/ubmain.htm

NOTE: The newsletter is open for inclusion of any information or advertisement; however selection of information will be governed by the SYNAPSE Team, IIHMR, New Delhi

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