CENTRE TO FUND LOCAL BODIES TO CHECK DRUG, ALCOHOL ABUSE

Financial assistance will be provided by Central Government to urban and rural local bodies to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse. Central government will provide 90 percent of financial assistance to 400 rehabilitation centers under the scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse for the ‘Whole Person Recovery’. This scheme includes awareness, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation to ensure reintegration of addicts into social mainstream.

RSBY LAUNCHES PILOT PROJECT COVERING BOTH OPD AND IPD CARE

The labour ministry has launched the first Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) pilot project covering both outpatient and inpatient care for the beneficiaries of the flagship scheme. The health insurance scheme may soon be extended to cover seven more unorganized sectors like rag pickers, rickshaw pullers, taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers, miners, sanitation workers and toddy workers. The pilot will focus on the viability of the proposal which has a higher risk profile and need closer monitoring. The pilot scheme entitles empanelled doctors and hospitals to insurance claim of Rs. 50 for every visit by RSBY beneficiaries. It will also cover the cost of medicines up to a limit that would be decided depending on bids put in by insurance companies.

GOA UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FROM SEPTEMBER

The ambitious universal health insurance scheme of Goa “Swarnajayanti Arogya Bima Yojana (SABY)” is set to be launched in September this year. Under this scheme every household would be eligible for preliminary and secondary health care up to Rs 60,000 annually. Goa will be the first state to implement such scheme. The State has already covered super specialty treatments under its medi-claim scheme. Cashless cards would be provided to the beneficiaries who can enter in any empanelled hospitals and get the treatment including admission absolutely free.

MORE ADULTS IN INDIA CHEW TOBACCO THAN SMOKE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) latest figures on the “Global Tobacco Epidemic” states 33 percent adult Indian males and 18.4 percent adult Indian females use smokeless tobacco. Tobacco is the biggest contributor of non-communicable diseases and also responsible for 63 percent of deaths. Although many anti smoking measures have already been taken around the world but India took about two years to finally notify the new set of warnings. Civil society representatives and public
health activists feel that the stronger pictures will only appear on smokeless tobacco products, whereas smoking forms like bidi and cigarette packets will carry milder pictures.

SPREAD OF CANCER MAY THREATEN PUNJAB ECONOMY

The spread of cancer in Punjab is not only alarming but may adversely impact the economy of the state. According to survey, out of 64,715 people’s surveyed, 136 were affected by cancer in the past five years of which 92 died. The age group of 41 - 60 years was most vulnerable as it accounted for 52 percent of the cases, which forms the backbone of the state’s economy. The survey was conducted by of Baba Farid University for Medical Science and Internationalist Democratic Party.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) RENEWS PUSH TO CUT HEPATITIS INFECTIONS IN BABIES IN ASIA

Nine Asia Pacific countries will not meet a 2012 target to reduce hepatitis B infections among children, according to the World Health Organization which plans to intensify its fight against the disease. Nine out of ten remain chronically infected for the rest of their lives because their immune systems are undeveloped, which can lead to liver cirrhosis and then liver cancer later on. But a WHO expert said the goal of reducing infection rates among children to below 2 percent by 2012 will not be met in Cambodia, Kiribati, Laos, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARES FAMINE IN SOMALIA

The UN has officially declared two parts of Somalia to be in famine amid the worst drought in east Africa for 60 years. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled Somalia due to the drought and conflict, and refugees are dying of causes related to malnutrition either during the journey or very shortly after arrival at aid camps. The UN says nearly half of the population in Somalia is facing a humanitarian crisis and in urgent need of aid. The number of people in crisis has increased by more than 1 million in the last six months. More than 166,000 Somalis have fled the country since the start of the year, with more than 100,000 of those leaving since May.

WHO URGES MORE COUNTRIES TO REQUIRE LARGE, GRAPHIC HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGING

More than one billion people in 19 countries are now covered by laws requiring large, graphic health warnings on packages of tobacco. The numbers have nearly doubled that of two years ago, when only about 547 million people were covered in 16 countries. Mexico, Peru and the United States of America become the latest countries to require the large, graphic warnings. The WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2011 also examines anti-tobacco mass-media campaigns, finding that more than 1.9 billion people live in the 23 countries that have implemented at least one strong campaign within the last two years.
WHO SAYS TUBERCULOSIS BLOOD TESTS FAULTY, MUST BE STOPPED

The World Health Organisation (WHO) called for an immediate halt to the use of blood tests to detect active tuberculosis, saying they were faulty and leave millions of people at risk. The United Nations Agency stated that the blood tests produced an unacceptable level of wrong result which led to misdiagnosis and mistreatment. Studies showed that at least half the tests find the disease in patients when it is absent or give the all-clear when TB is present. The WHO is urging countries to ban the inaccurate and unproved blood tests and instead rely on accurate microbiological or molecular tests.

RECENT RESEARCHES

PHYSICAL AILMENTS CAN INCREASE THE RISK FOR DEMENTIA

Staying in shape can be as beneficial for the brain as the body, a large scale study release suggests. According to the research led by Kenneth Rockwood of Dalhousie University, physical ailments can greatly increase the risk for dementia in older adults. The project involved 7239 Canadians over 65 years of age who didn’t have dementia. Over a span of first five and ten years, they were re-evaluated for Alzheimer’s disease and all types of dementia. It was found that as the brain worked to repair each condition, a person’s risk for dementia increased by 3.2 percent. Also the effect was cumulative. The study is published in the journal “Neurology”.

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY ANGIOGRAPHY IMPROVES DETECTION OF HEART DISEASE

Researchers have discovered that African Americans are at increased risk for heart attacks and other cardiovascular events. According to a new study published online in the journal “Radiology”, African Americans have increased levels of non-calcified plaque, which consists of buildups of soft deposits deep in the walls of the arteries. Non-calcified plaque is more vulnerable to rupturing and causing a blood clot. For the study, researchers compared 301 patients who underwent both calcium scoring with CT and contrast enhanced Coronary CT Angiography (CCTA).

BIRTH CONTROL PILLS MAY REDUCE A WOMAN’S BONE DENSITY

A study by Group Health Research Institute (GHI) showed the impact of oral contraceptives on the bone density of women. The research studied 301 teen women aged 14 - 18 years and 305 young adult women aged 19 - 30 years. Bone density of spine, hip and whole body was measured. Two years after stopping of oral contraceptives it was found that their consumption has a small negative effect on the bone densities of teen women. However for young adult women user and non user of oral contraceptives showed no significant differences. The study now published in Journal of Clinical endocrinology and metabolism can help the women make informed decisions.
In view of the developments across different industries across the world for setting up of best benchmarks in service delivery, the healthcare industry has also begun embracing the concepts of Green, Safe and Smart practices (GSS). To provide the efficient and effective healthcare services to the society, following these practices has become the most important part for the healthcare providers across the globe and especially for the country like India. The one day conference on “Green, Safe and Smart practices in healthcare ” organized by the International Institute of Health Management Research, New Delhi on 16th July 2011 aimed to deliberate on these three pertinent areas of healthcare practice.

Objectives:

**Green:** The Track for the green practices was divided into Green Practices in Healthcare - Sustainable Infrastructure & Green Practices - Waste and Water. Adverse climatic changes and its consequences has lead healthcare providers to adopt green design and architecture which focuses on adopting energy efficient processes leading to provide eco-friendly environment and achieve operational efficiency.

**Safe:** The Safe practices included structural and patient safety in healthcare industry. Patient safety is an integral part of any healthcare service facility. The threat to safety increases disproportionately during a crisis. In such situations the ability to respond to the challenges of the situation becomes critical. Safe health facilities, irrespective of their scale or location, are those that remain functional at peak capacity and accessible during a disaster.

**Smart:** Technology advancements are now the key to success for any industry and Information Technology is been categorized under smart practices in any industry. The track of Smart practices was subdivided into Smart Practices in Health and Hospital IT. The focus of Smart Health Care is to make meaningful use of information technology in healthcare for managing prevention, assessment, treatment, research and analytics.

References:

http://gsshealth2011.net/index.html

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