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HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH

SERUM INSTITUTE, PUNE TO PRODUCE PANDEMIC FLU VACCINES

India could soon be part of the global hunt to create the world’s first pandemic vaccine against the deadly H1N1 influenza virus. WHO had given $2.2 million to develop technology to produce H1N1 influenza to Serum Institute of India, Pune. WHO is also providing strains of the virus and reagents for manufacturing and testing of vaccine. In another 3 months, a few thousand doses of preliminary vaccine would be ready.

GRIM PICTURES OF DISEASED LUNGS ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Grim images of diseased lungs will appear on cigarette, bidi and gutka packets from Sunday, May 31. Every pack will have the pictures of damaged lungs with the messages: Smoking kills: smoking causes cancer; and a picture of a scorpion saying Tobacco kills: Tobacco causes cancer. “Everything that comes from a tobacco-manufacturing unit — making cigarettes, bids and/or chewing tobacco — is passed by the Excise department will need to carry the labels and conform to the new rules,” said Union Health Secretary Naresh Dayal.

INDIA SENDS MEDICAL AID TO SRILANKAN TAMILS

Indian Govt sent a medical team along with a large consignment of medicines for setting up a hospital in the Tamil-dominated northern part Sri Lanka. India has already established a 110-bed hospital in Pulmoddai town and is going to shift it to Menik farms area in Vavuniya district, which was liberated from the LTTE. The relief material is a part of Rs 500-crore package prepared by India for rehabilitation of the Tamils displaced by the war. Since November 2008, India has provided over 1.7 lakh family relief packs to the war affected population in Sri Lanka.

INDIA’S FIRST POSITIVE H1N1 FLU PATIENT AT HYDERABAD

The first ever positive swine flu case was reported from Hyderabad when a young man who travelled from New York was found to be infected by the H1N1 virus and has been quarantined at the Chest Hospital in Hyderabad. The patient was being treated with anti-viral drugs Tamiflu (Oseltamivir) and was considerably stable.
**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

1. Mr. Indrajit Bhattacharya, Professor, IIHMR, New Delhi has been selected for a Poster presentation entitled 'Need for 'ITisation' of healthcare delivery system in India", during the 137th APHA Annual Meeting (November 7-11, 2009) in Philadelphia, PA.

2. Online Course on Certificate in Project Management http://www.iihmrdelhi.edu.in


6. MDPE – Database Programme Management & Evaluation Program 15th to 19th June http://www.iihmrdelhi.edu.in

7. TOT of Block Health Activist at Lucknow 23rd to 28th June http://www.iihmrdelhi.edu.in

8. [http://www.iihmrdelhi.edu.in](http://www.iihmrdelhi.edu.in)

**INDIAN HEALTHCARE MARKET TO GROW DESPITE SLOWDOWN: McKinsey**

Notwithstanding the current global economic crisis, India's pharmaceutical industry and its health care market are expected to grow rapidly in the next few years, a global management consulting firm has said. Indian health care market is expected to continue growing close to previously projected rates of 10 to 12 per cent, McKinsey said in its report 'New Opportunities for US-India Biopharma and Healthcare Collaboration'. This slowdown has also speeded up medical tourism.

**HEALTH OF URBAN POOR SHOULD BE TOP PRIORITY**

Designed on the lines of UPA’s flagship National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which aims to provide healthcare to the vast rural population, National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) aims to provide accessible and affordable primary healthcare to the poor and homeless urban population — a number that is steadily rocketing. NUHM aims to improve the health of 22 crore people living in urban slums in 429 cities.

**RANBAXY CALLS ANTIBIOTIC IN US**

India's biggest drug maker Ranbaxy announced Saturday the recall of an antibiotic, on sale in the United States, because of manufacturing problems, marking a new setback for the company. The Japanese pharmaceutical company Daiichi Sankyo said it was voluntarily recalling all lots of Nitrofurantoin capsules, an antibiotic commonly used in the treatment of urinary tract infections, and being sold in US. The FDA last September banned imports of more than 30 generic drugs produced by Ranbaxy including antibiotics and AIDS drugs because of problems in their manufacture at two of the company's Indian plants.

**ESI TO OPEN MODEL HOSPITAL IN NOIDA**

ESI has decided to open their model hospital in Noida. ESI card holders can avail all medical facilities in India. The medical director of ESI told that the total budget of this hospital is 66 Crores and it will be equipped with all latest facilities. This hospital will have 500 beds.

**RECENT RESEARCHES**

**DIPHTHERIA RESURGENCE IN INDIA**

There is a quiet resurgence of the once dreaded disease diphtheria in the last three years (an acute respiratory disease) primarily affecting children. According to the WHO’s World Health Stastical Report 2009 cases in India far outnumber those of any other country in the world.

**BIG WAISTLINE A BOON FOR HEART PATIENTS**

Researchers found that obese heart patients respond better to strokes and heart attacks compared to normal or underweight patients. The study has been published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. The obesity paradox in patients with cardiovascular disease, which was first noticed earlier this decade, is complex. It is likely due to a combination of obesity's impact on fat cells and other metabolic processes, as well as other consequences of being obese.

**CIRCUMCISION REDUCES THE RISK OF HPV BY 35% AND HSV-2 BY 25%**

New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) reported that circumcision protects men against HPV-Human Papilloma Virus and Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV-2). The risk of HPV is reduced by 35% and HSV-2 by 25%, which can be good for both men and women because HPV causes cervical cancer and HSV-2 causes herpes. The findings are based on trials conducted on 5,534 HIV-negative, uncircumcised males aged between 15 and 49.

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**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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