In a complete overhaul aimed at cleansing the medical education system in the country, a task force of the Union health ministry has decided to scrap all regulatory bodies, including the Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Pharmacy Council and the Nursing Council.

There will instead be a single regulatory body—National Council for Human Resources in Health—which will oversee seven departments related to medicine, nursing, dentistry, rehabilitation and physiotherapy, pharmacy, public health/hospital management and allied health sciences. The move now needs a formal government notification.

**WOCKHARDT SELLS TEN HOSPITALS TO FORTIS**

Wockhardt hospitals owner Habil Kherakiwala sold 10 of its hospitals to Fortis healthcare for rupees 909 Crores, biggest healthcare deal in the country. The acquisition narrows the gap between Fortis and largest Indian healthcare players, the Apollo group. This deal includes eight working hospitals and two under construction ones. This acquisition will help Wockhardt hospitals to clear 500 Crores it had borrowed earlier to expand its business. The deal gives Fortis an additional 1902 beds, increasing its bed base to 5180 beds in 38 hospitals.

**IIT-KHARGPUR LEADS THE WAY, SETS UP MEDICAL SCHOOL**

The oldest Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur will be the first IIT to start a medical school two years from now. The institute has signed a deal with university of California, San Diego in U.S., to set up a state of art 300 bed hospitals. It can be expanded in future to 750 beds.

**INDIAN HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY TO HIT $14.2 BILLION BY 2012**

The Indian healthcare industry is estimated to touch $14.2 billion by 2012, propelled by rising income levels, changing demographics and shift in illness patterns in the country, consultancy firm KPMG said. Rising incomes and a growing incidence of lifestyle-related ailments such as diabetes will see the value of domestic healthcare industry quadrupling by 2017, as per the report. Currently the healthcare sector is undergoing considerable reforms driven by rapid economic growth adding emerging sectors such as diagnostic chains and medical device manufacturings were attracting investments.
DELHI-NOW FOUR PRIVATE LABS TO CHOOSE FOR SWINE FLU TESTS

Private labs have now given Dellites an alternative to government-run screening centres for detecting the disease. These labs are Auroprobe, Dr. Dangs, Super religare laboratories (SRL) and Dr. Lal’s path labs. These labs have unanimously decided to charge Rs 9000 flat for the test. But SRL announced it would do the same test for 4500Rs.

INDIA CHINA UNITES TO LINK TRADE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

India and China have agreed to jointly fight any attempt by western nations to link trade with climate change and impose trade related penalties on developing countries that fail to meet environment standard. Union minister of the state for environment and forest, Jairam Ramesh bluntly asked Chinese officials here whether they will stick to New Delhi’s line during climate change talks in Copenhagen in December.

CHINA ADMITS COS ROLE IN MADE IN INDIA FAKE DRUGS

Chinese authorities have accepted that its firms were involved in shipping fake drugs labeled “made in India” to Nigeria. In June, Nigeria’s drug regulatory authority national agency for food and drug administration and control(NAFDAC) had report about the detention of a large consignment of fake anti malarial general pharmaceutical labeled made in India which were actually produced in china.

DONOR RACKET BUSTED IN 2 BLOOD BANKS

Delhi police claimed to have busted an illegal blood donation racket at AIIMS and Safdarjung hospital with the arrest of six people. The accused allegedly procured blood at a price of patients by roping in rickshaw pullers, migrant laborers & addict as donors. No tests are conducted before the blood is deposited at the blood bank, exposing the receiver to danger. Police is thinking of booking them under the National Blood Transfusion Act and Medical Negligence rules. The Supreme Court had in 1998 banned professional blood donors.

LAYING THE TABLE AT GAMES VILLAGE

During the commonwealth games 2010, the main dining hall in the games village will dish out a whopping 26,000 meals a day to feed a family of 10,000 players. The menu will be drawn from across every continent and put through rigorous checks to ensure more of the guests suffers any adverse consequences. all venues will be divided into food clusters as every discipline will have its own unique food requirement for participants. Each game menu will offer specific athlete menu meals based on nutritional requirement of the athlete the menu will be put through a safety checklist based on the guidelines which are still being prepared.

H1N1 VACCINE READY, INDIA NAPPING

The first batches of swine flu vaccine rolled out from Baxter inc. labs but there is little cheer for India. Because of the huge quantities-195 million and 90 million doses are going respectively to US and UK. INDIA is still miles from getting vaccines because government has not entered into pre booking contracts with Novartis, GSK or any others. India also may not have its indigenous vaccine ready before May 2010.

CALL FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN AIDS AND TB CONTROL PROGRAMME

West Bengal is one of the five states which have managed to control TB well, but in the past five years the programme has stagnated. This trend can be changed with participation of civil society. Dr. Anuradha Kar highlighted 3 important issues in the government programme – tackling the growing incidence of multidrug resistant tuberculosis (MDRTB), better coordination between the National AIDS Control Programme and the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) and creating awareness among various communities of the disease.
A DRUG-DISPENSING CONTACT LENS.

Researchers led by Daniel Kohane MD, PhD, director of the laboratory for biomaterials and drug delivery at children’s hospital Boston, has developed special contact lenses that can gradually dispense a constant amount of medication to the eye, at adjustable rates. Kohane and his collaborators are the Massachusetts eye and ear infirmary, and the department of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), created a two-layer contact lens with an inner drug-bearing biodegradable polymer film known as PLGA. Both PLGA and pHEMA (used for the coating) have been well studied and already approved for ocular use by Food and Drug Administration.

DAILY ASPIRIN COULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD: HEART STUDY

Healthy people taking a daily dose of aspirin to prevent heart attacks may be doing themselves more harm than good, according to a new study by British scientist. Researchers found that the risk of bleeding from taking aspirin were such that its use in healthy people “cannot be supported”—although they did not dispute its use in patients with a history of clots. The study was led by professor Gerry fowkes from the wolfson unit for prevention of peripheral vascular diseases in Edinburg, Scotland and presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in Barcelona.

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