HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT

GST fear: Drug-makers expect shortage of medicines

Though the All India Organization of Chemists and Druggists, which represents over 8 lakh chemists, has assured the government that supply of drugs will remain uninterrupted, pharmaceutical industry executives say over 20,000 traders across the country are yet to get systems in place to handle GST roll out.

Read more

Mobility revolution transforming the other end of the healthcare spectrum

Intelligent workflow enhances patient experience and adds revenue to hospitals and clinics. Technology innovation needs to ensure that the value of healthcare IT is felt across the system to enhance patient experience by transforming desk service to mobility service. How would it be if patients get all relevant details once inside the hospital or a clinic on their mobile devices? Read more
From next year, MRP of stents, valves must be declared

Medical devices which are declared as ‘drugs’ such as stents, valves, orthopedic implants, syringes and tools for operations will now have to declare their maximum retail price (MRP) and other details including that of manufacturer and importer. The new rules, which come to effect from January 1 also makes it mandatory for e-commerce firms to mention MRP of products. [Read more]

President calls for better healthcare in rural areas

President Pranab Mukherjee said quality healthcare was a necessity for every individual and underlined the need to ensure better infrastructure in rural areas so that doctors serve there. He pointed out that against the international norm of one doctor per thousand population, the country had one doctor for 1,700 people. He said the shortage of doctors requires immediate intervention, and laid emphasis on more focus and investments in the field of preventive healthcare. He called for ample infrastructure at the district and other rural areas and to encourage doctors and practitioners to serve there. [Read more]

E-cigarettes may be as harmful as smoking

Electronic cigarettes loaded with nicotine-based liquid are potentially as harmful as tobacco cigarettes when it comes to cancer causing DNA damage, new research has found. Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that heat up liquid and turn it into an aerosol vapor that can be inhaled. Using e-cigarettes is also called 'vaping'. Vapour from non-nicotine e-cigarettes caused as much DNA damage as filtered cigarettes, possibly due to the many chemical additives present in e-cigarette vapours, showed the findings published in the journal ACS Sensors. [Read more]

Putting Patients at the Centre of their Care

LetsMD a New Delhi-based healthcare fintech start-up. Through LetsMD online platform, a user can compare hospitals, look at doctor videos, compare pricing for their surgery and book an appointment at the hospital of their choice. It then gives the user an option of converting their surgery bill into an EMI at low interest,” shares Nivesh Khandelwal, Founder of LetsMD. [Read more]
Abuse of older people on the rise – 1 in 6 affected

"The abuse of older people is on the rise; for the 141 million older people worldwide this has serious individual and societal costs," says Alana Officer, Senior Health Adviser, Department of Ageing and Life Course at WHO. "We must do much more to prevent and respond to the increasing frequency of different forms of abuse." Read more

WHO updates Essential Medicines List with new advice on use of antibiotics, and adds medicines for hepatitis C, HIV, tuberculosis and cancer

In the biggest revision of the antibiotics section in the EML’s 40-year history, WHO experts have grouped antibiotics into three categories – ACCESS, WATCH and RESERVE – with recommendations on when each category should be used. Initially, the new categories apply only to antibiotics used to treat 21 of the most common general infections. Read more

US Senate Health care reform bill would leave 22 Million without coverage

The healthcare reform bill being discussed by the US Senate would leave 22 million people without medical insurance by 2026, of whom 15 million would drop off the roles in the first year after its implementation, the Congressional Budget Office calculates in a report. Read more

Food policies have potential to lower US cardiovascular disease rates

Efforts to improve dietary choices through economic incentives have been successful in the past, but the impact of such changes on cardiovascular disease (CVD) - the leading cause of mortality in the US - has not been clear. In the new work, researchers used the existing US IMPACT Food Policy Model, coupled with data on CVD mortality, to determine how different food policy scenarios might impact CVD deaths. An approach combining these policies, they calculated, could have an especially large impact, saving around 230,000 lives. Read more

QUICK FACTS

1. Cutting out animal products from diet may help in reducing risk of heart diseases

2. Chemicals in bug-repellent sprays can linger in the dust in our homes for a year

3. Large amounts of ‘good fats’ such as those found in avocados may be bad for health

4. Researchers are developing a rapid test device to test dengue, malaria, chikungunya in 30min

WORLD AT GLANCE

Abuse of older people on the rise – 1 in 6 affected

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Threadworm infection can lead to active TB

A new study reveals that worm infection might be one of the major risk factors for individuals with latent tuberculosis infection to develop the active disease. The study was carried out in individuals with latent TB co-infected with intestinal worms (Strongyloides stercoralis). The individuals with latent TB and worm co-infection are more susceptible to active TB, as their immunity is reduced. Read more

One third of heart surgery devices contaminated with bacteria: Study

Over a third of heater-cooler devices that are used in open heart surgery may be contaminated with life-threatening bacteria, putting patients at risk for deadly infections, a study has revealed. For the study, the team tested a total of 653 water samples from 89 units. Samples were received from 23 hospitals in 14 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Thirty-three of the units (37 percent) tested positive for M. chimaera, while four units were colonised with Legionella. Read more

Gene Switch That Can 'Turn Off' Cancer Identified

Scientists have identified genetic switches that can be 'turned off' to stop the growth of cancer cells, an advance that paves the way for new therapies against the deadly disease. The removal of a large regulatory region linked to different types of cancer caused a dramatic resistance to tumour formation, but did not affect normal cell growth in mice, researchers found. Read more

Visioning of IIHMR Delhi by 2025
A two-day workshop was organized for IIHMR Delhi faculty and staff by corporate office at IIHMR Jaipur campus. Dr. Ashok Agarwal, trustee IIHMR Society and Dr. S.D. Gupta, Trustee Secretary, IIHMR Society were the main architect of the course and the facilitators led by Dr. Vinod Arora. All the participants actively and whole heartedly participated in the whole workshop. The vision document includes quality, knowledge sharing, expansion activities, digitization, diversification of activities, collaborations, faculty and staff development, cutting edge research and International activities by IIHMR Delhi.

**REVIEW PAGE**

**Five states in race for Niti Aayog's health programme**

Five states have made it to the Niti Aayog's shortlist under a programme that aims to build three future 'role model' states for better health systems.

The government think tank had invited all states and UTs to participate in the programme named as Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH). Metrics such as MMR, IMR, incidence of malaria and others have been considered for determining potential impact while density of doctors and nurses, compliance to IPHS norms are some of the metrics used to determine likelihood of success. The programme will be launched in the three selected states after the signing of MoUs.

Niti Aayog said that the programme will be implemented by it along with McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium, who were selected through a competitive bidding process.

Under SATH, Niti will work in close collaboration with the state machinery to design a robust roadmap of intervention, develop a programme governance structure, set up monitoring and tracking mechanisms, hand-hold state institutions through the execution stage and provide support on a range of institutional measures to achieve the end objectives.
NEWS IN PIPELINE

Approaching a decades-old goal: Making blood stem cells from patients' own cells

Since human embryonic stem (ES) cells were isolated in 1998, scientists have been trying, with little success, to use them to make blood-forming stem cells. In 2007, three groups (including the Daley lab) generated the first induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells from human skin cells through genetic reprogramming. iPS cells were later used to generate multiple human cell types, such as neurons and heart cells -- yet blood-forming stem cells remained elusive. Read more

HEALTH TIP

Health Benefits of Mint

- Relieves indigestion
- Helps digestion
- Improves acne
- Prevents allergies
- Fights aches & pains
- Boosts immunity
- Helps with menstrual cramps & morning sickness

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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