HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT RESEARCH
More gender inequality in India than Pakistan, Bangladesh

Pakistan and Bangladesh have a lower Human Development Index (HDI) than India and yet perform better on gender equality as measured by GII. India is placed 130 out of 188 on the Human Development Index (HDI) with Bangladesh at 142 and Pakistan at 147. The only parameter where India fares slightly better is the adolescent birth rate, which is the number of births per 1000 women aged 15 to 19 years. A lower adolescent birth rate indicates a female population that is more in control of its choices when it comes to marrying and conceiving late. Read more

Delhi Hospitals low on life support

At a time when India's healthcare sector is using state-of-the-art equipment like ECMO — a device for lung and heart support, which was recently used in former Tamil Nadu CM J Jayalalithaa's case — lives of many critically-ill patients at public hospitals in Delhi are dependent on the "obsolete" ambu-bags due to an acute shortage of ventilators. Read more

Delhi’s Mohalla Clinics proving popular with residents: Lancet

The Delhi government's 'mohalla clinics' scheme which aims to provide better primary care coverage in the national capital is proving "popular" with residents, offering "key advantage" to the beneficiaries, according to a report published in The Lancet journal. Read more

Despite Digital Push, Government Hospitals still in cash mode

Despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's big push for digital payments and cashless transactions post-demonetisation, government hospitals across the country remain woefully unequipped to translate his lofty visions into reality.
Despite various state governments issuing directives to state and municipality-run hospitals to promote digital payments, an overwhelming majority of these are yet to install card swipe machines. Read more

**Prices of HIV, diabetes, angina drugs slashed**

Prices of over 50 essential drugs, including those used for treatment of HIV infection, diabetes, anxiety disorders, bacterial infections, angina and acid reflux, have been capped by the government, leading to a price cut in the range of 5 to 44 per cent. Read more

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**WORLD AT GLANCE**

**Wake-up call on superbugs**

It is estimated that the world loses a trillion dollars due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). While in the United States, 23,000 people die of resistant infections each year, the number in India is likely to be much higher; 50,000 newborns alone are estimated to die of drug-resistant bacterial infections, probably acquired in hospitals. Surveillance by government agencies such as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) shows that many tertiary hospitals have very high rates of antibiotic resistance. There is some good news, however. Data from monitoring of resistance in typhoid bacteria, for example, shows that the bacteria can regain susceptibility to antibiotics that are no longer widely used. Read more

**Scientists use stem cells to restore testosterone**

Chinese researchers have developed an approach for treating male hypogonadism, popularly known as male andropause, by directly converting adult skin cells into testosterone-producing cells. Read more

**New York: First detection of bird flu spread from cat to human**

Since last week, more than 100 cats have tested positive for H7N2 across all NYC shelters. Read more
Sing them a song: Docs study potential of music on fetuses

With ultrasound studies proving that fetus in the womb indeed respond to music, a group of specialists are exploring the scope of music in enhancing radiology and imaging technology. Babies respond to sound, especially during the last four months of pregnancy. The team, in consultation with musicians, compiled a CD with music for the fetus. “Most of it is instrumental and we've infused western harmony too,” said music director Alphons Joseph. Researchers claimed that in some ultrasounds, they saw the fetuses move their head and hands in response to the stimuli. Read more

‘E-cigarettes may cause cancer too'

Electronic cigarettes, often marketed as a safer alternative to conventional cigarettes, may damage cells in ways that could lead to cancer, a new study has warned. The team created an extract from the vapour of e-cigarettes and used it to treat human cells in petri dishes.

Compared with untreated cells, the treated cells were more likely to show DNA damage and die. The exposed cells showed several forms of damage, including DNA strand breaks. The familiar double helix that makes up DNA has two long strands of molecules that intertwine. When one or both of these strands break apart and the cellular repair process does not work right, the stage is set for cancer. Read more

New Ebola vaccine provides 100 per cent protection: Study

In a scientific triumph that will change the way the world fights a terrifying killer, an experimental Ebola vaccine tested on humans in the waning days of the West African epidemic has been shown to provide 100 per cent protection against the lethal disease. The vaccine opens up new, faster, more efficient ways to encircle and strangle the virus. Read more

Indian researchers show how brain responds to trauma

A single stressful incident can lead to increased electrical activity in a brain region known as the amygdala, a small, almond-shaped group of nerve cells that is located deep within the temporal lobe of the brain, the findings showed. Read more
IIHMR University signed a MoU on with Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences (KGUMS) of Bhutan

IIHMR University signed a MoU on Nov 29, 2016 with Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences (KGUMS) of Bhutan to collaborate on Academic, Research Consultancy and Training in Health Sciences atIIHMR, Delhi. This marks the start of an era of mutually beneficial collaboration to support the newly formed Health University in Bhutan. Dr K P Tshering, President KGUMS, Bhutan and Dr S D Gupta, Chairman,IIHMR University and Trustee Secretary IIHMR Group were the signatories to this historic collaboration. Immediately, two Key Trainers training programs of two week duration each are being organised by IIHMR at Bhutan in next two months.

IIHMR has a long history of successful international collaboration with neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Myanmar. KGUMS, Bhutan is the only Medical University of Bhutan and aspires to become a centre of excellence in human resources development in medical and paramedical sciences.

IIHMR is a pioneer health management institute in India which started three decades earlier and has progressed to become a WHO Collaborating Centre on Districts Health System based on Primary Health Care and Centre of Excellence in Health Management Research. It has collaborations with Johns Hopkins School of
Tata Trusts launches “Swastha Kutumbam” to provide universal health care to the rural population of Vijayawada

Tata Trusts launches a first-of-its-kind health insurance scheme, Swastha Kutumbam, for the marginalised communities in Vijayawada. Following the concept of universal health coverage, the scheme is open to 1 million residents living in 2.5 lakh households across 265 villages in the parliamentary constituency of Vijayawada all irrespective of caste, creed, religion, or income levels. While 60 percent target beneficiaries are below the age of 35, 75 percent of these are daily wagers. This scheme was announced in the presence of Shri Kesineni Srinivas, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from the parliamentary constituency Vijayawada and Shri Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation, Command Area Development & Water Resources Management and R Pavithrakumar, Head – Operations, Andhra Pradesh, Tata Trusts. partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh is a progressive step towards addressing growing concerns of inaccessible and unaffordable healthcare which affects rural livelihoods and overall community development.

The main objective behind this scheme is to provide universal health care to the rural population of Vijayawada and replicating the same model across states. This area was chosen as a pilot to demonstrate that sustainable universal health coverage across a network of private hospitals is viable at minimal costs. The scheme is part of a comprehensive initiative which began when Tata Trusts signed a MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh last August.

Tata Trusts, has designed Swastha Kutumbam by controlling costs and ensuring that premium paid is lower than any other existing schemes in the state. In this family floater scheme, beneficiaries will pay a premium of rupee 1/day per person
to get a cover of Rs 1 lakh per family. Costs related to medicines, diagnostics, and post-surgery care will be covered. Besides, transportation cost incurred by the beneficiary is also taken care of by the scheme. With rehabilitation being a key to recovery, post-surgery costs are covered up to 60 days after the discharge. Tata Trusts has roped in Star Health Insurance as the insurance partner for Swastha Kutumbam.

**NEWS IN PIPELINE**

**Clinical guidelines to reduce risk of peanut allergy**

Peanut allergy is a growing health problem for which no treatment or cure exists. People living with peanut allergy, and their caregivers, must be vigilant about the foods they eat and the environments they enter to avoid allergic reactions, which can be severe and even life-threatening. The allergy tends to develop in childhood and persist through adulthood. However, recent scientific research has demonstrated that introducing peanut-containing foods into the diet during infancy can prevent the development of peanut allergy. [Read more](#)

**HEALTH TIP**

**Health tips for winters…..**

1. Stay hydrated - 8-10 glasses of water/day
2. Season's best - Eat plenty of seasonal fruits and vegetables (use different combinations)
3. Omega 3's – Eat a handful of nuts and include flaxseeds, fish, olive oil.
4. Boost up your immunity with Antioxidants - green tea, citrus fruits (amla, lemons, sweet lime, oranges, guava), pomegranate etc.
5. Watch your intake of tea/coffee and readymade soups. Substitute them with green tea, fresh homemade soups.
6. Take a sunbath – 15- 20 minutes everyday for your dose of Vitamin D.

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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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