

Health Care

Current Scenario:

Apollo plans to assist Lesotho in healthcare sector

India's leading healthcare chain Apollo Hospitals is looking to engage with the southern African country of Lesotho to assist it in capacity building in the healthcare sector. The hospital is directly engaged either with public sector or with private sector in several countries in the north, east and west of Africa, including Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Madagascar.

Pharma Industry demands higher allocation towards healthcare

Eying better access to healthcare facilities, the pharmaceutical industry asked for greater public spending in Indian healthcare system. As public spending on healthcare in India is among the lowest in the world, the increased public spending and sustainable financing mechanisms may improve access to healthcare in the country. Moreover, most of the healthcare costs are borne by patients as out-of-pocket expenses which reflects ultimate necessity of “healthcare financing”, as per Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI).

Philips Healthcare to provide proton cancer therapy with IBA in India

Philips Healthcare has entered into an agreement with South Africa based Ion Beam Applications to provide proton therapy solutions i.e. an advanced radiation therapy for cancer treatment in India. The agreement covers R&D, marketing and sales of imaging and therapy solutions in oncology and enables both companies to mutually leverage technologies and solutions.

Future Scenario:

Indian Healthcare sector will require 74 lakh employees by 2022, will face severe shortage of allopathic doctors

According to a recent prediction made by National Skill Development Corporation, human resource requirements in India's healthcare sector will almost double to 74 lakhs by 2022 from 35.9 lakhs in 2013. The size of healthcare sector is also expected to grow to Rs 9.64 lakh crore by 2017. The report points out to a significant gap existing between the demand and availability of allopathic doctors and it further suggests that the trend is likely to continue into the next five years.

Policy Level Announcements

Strengthening of drug regulatory system in the country

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for strengthening the drug regulatory system both at the Central and the State levels at a total cost of Rs.1750 crore. The strengthening / upgradation of the system will be spread over a period of three years. Out of the total amount of Rs 1750 crore, an amount of Rs.900 crore will be spent on strengthening central structures and Rs.850 crore will be made available to the State Governments, after signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Initiatives for Child Immunisation in North-East Region

The GoI has conducted four rounds of “Mission Indradhanush” in 33 high focus districts of North East states, which are basically areas with partial immunization and no immunization. During these rounds, 5.6 lakh children and 0.53 lakh pregnant women were vaccinated in North East states. The Government of India provides financial support to the States/UTs for strengthening/upgradation of healthcare infrastructure based on the proposals submitted by the states in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIP).

Strategy to meet demand of doctors by 2020

In India, the doctor-population ratio is 1:1674 against WHO norm of 1:1000. In order to address the acute shortage of allopathy doctors, GoI has taken a multi-pronged strategy which includes increased ratio of teacher to students, recognition of DNB qualification for appointment as faculty, enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level, enhancement of age limit for appointment or extension for academic positions in medical colleges, relaxation of procedural norms for setting up of medical colleges, strengthening of State Government Medical Colleges, establishment or strengthening of new/existing medical colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals preferably in underserved districts with fund sharing between the Central and State Governments in 90:10 or 75:25 ratio,