

Sector Brief – July 2015

Current Scenario:

Uber offers free pick up and drop services to hospitals in Mumbai

Uber is soon to launch free ferrying of passengers for any journey related to medical services in Mumbai. The innovative service is launched in collaboration with healthcare network Oxy. The service is eligible for any passenger visiting hospital/clinic or pathological lab.

The first ever Centre for Control of Chronic condition in India is launched

India's first centre for chronic disorder including heart diseases, cancer, strokes, diabetes and hyper tension is launched by Minister of State for Science and Technology Y.S. Chowdary. It is an international collaboration between Delhi's AIIMS, US-based Emory University, the London School for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

Future Scenario:

Now, Get Health Information & Childcare Tips Online in India

The Union Health Minister is trying to devise a new web portal and mobile apps for most of its flagship programmes like immunization drives and other child and maternal health related information. The programme is conceived keeping tally with India's digital India mission. It will collect, verify and disseminate health and health care delivery services related information for all citizens of India. A dedicated centre for health informatics has already been set up by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) for managing the activities of the portal. Government also moots to begin a service to inform citizens about due vaccinations and pregnant women.

Sectoral Updates:

The World celebrated first ever World Yoga Day on 21st June

The first ever World Yoga Day was observed across countries on 21st of June, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The commemoration follows the suggestion made by Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi in his address at UN General Assembly on December 11, 2014 and the day has been recognized by United Nations. About 35985 people including Indian Prime Minister, dignitaries from as large as 84 nations and many important personalities from different fields performed 21 Yoga asanas for 35 minutes at Rajpath of New Delhi. The Ministry of Ayush has made two records in the Guinness Book of World under the categories of "largest yoga class" and "largest number of nations participating in one Yoga Session". This celebration has created the right buzz world-wide to accept and acknowledge the power of ancient practice of Yoga whose origin roots back to India. Ban-Ki-Moon, Secretary General, UN is quoted saying "by proclaiming 21 June as the International Day of Yoga, the General Assembly has recognized the holistic benefits of this timeless practice and its inherent compatibility with the principles and values of the United Nations".

Hon'ble Indian PM asks for sharing best practices in Healthcare

Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi stressed on sharing best practices in medical science and healthcare amongst the SAARC nations. The SAARC health ministers expressed their intent to make entire SAARC region polio-free. The initiative was appraised largely by SAARC health ministers of other countries and looked forward to meet the goal.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare meets state Ministers of North East

Hon'ble Union Health Minister Mr J.P. Nadda met the State Health Ministers and urged them to optimally utilize the Central resources. The State Health Ministers on the other hand discussed state level challenges they have to face and suggested measures to bring about necessary changes. Major reforms to improve the healthcare scenario that would be implemented in North East are developing Regional Resource Centre North East on community participation basis and once-a-month visit of Joint Secretary from Ministry of Health & Family welfare for monitoring and overall guidance required for any programme implementation.

India and USA sign agreements to strengthen cooperation in health sector

On 25th of June, India and the USA signed MOU on Cooperation on Cancer Research, Prevention, Control, Management and Collaboration in environmental and Occupational Health & Injury Prevention and Control. The MoU for cooperation on cancer research prevention, control and management was signed between the National Cancer Research Institute of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology and National Cancer Institute of the National Institute of Health and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), USA. The agreements aim to facilitate development of collaborative research, discovery of new anti-cancer drugs, E-health, M-health and telehealth approaches, among others.

Hon'ble Union Minister calls for innovation for better Healthcare Services

Union Health Minister appealed to states to give priority to innovative and adoptive technologies to attain "superior outcomes" in healthcare in India. He also released detailed guidelines prepared by the Union Health Ministry for the 'Rogi Kalyan Samitis' functioning in the states that aims disbursement of free drugs in the states.

The Centre is mooting to provide essential and life-saving drugs at 40-60% discounted rates through Jan-Aushadi medical stores. Govt is planning to increase the total number of such stores to 3,000. More than 300 life-saving drugs' prices are now falling under controlled price regime.