

HEALTHCARE ROUNDUP FOR MAY 2023

76TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, IN GENEVA

The 76th World Health Assembly deliberations took place is taking place from May 21–30 in Geneva, Switzerland. The theme of this year's Health Assembly is: WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all. The Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, delivered the keynote address at a side event session on “Heal in India and Heal by India”. He was joined by Shri S Gopalakrishnan, Special Secretary, Health Ministry.

Dr. Mandaviya, the Union Health Minister of India, addressed a gathering and highlighted the country's initiatives in healthcare. The “Heal by India” initiative aims to increase the mobility of Indian health workers to serve the global community, while the “Heal in India” initiative focuses on providing integrated and holistic treatment to patients from around the world. India's traditional medical systems, such as Ayurveda, are also promoted globally. Under India's G20 Presidency philosophy, health emergencies, prevention, preparedness, and response are prioritized, along with strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector and promoting digital health innovations. Dr. Mandaviya mentioned the remarkable progress of COVID-19 vaccination in India and the country's contribution to global vaccination efforts through the “Vaccine Maitri” initiative. He emphasized the resilient healthcare ecosystem created through initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme, and various other programs focusing on healthcare infrastructure, technology, and research. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for a coordinated global response, and India has been supporting capacity building and leveraging digital technology in healthcare. Dr. Mandaviya concluded by emphasizing India's commitment to “Healthcare for All” and inclusive growth.



INDIA BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO RELEASE NEW RULES TO DISPLAY HEALTH WARNINGS AND DISCLAIMERS TO REGULATE DEPICTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON STREAMING PLATFORMS



Image source : dailypioneer

India became the first country on 31st May 2023 to make it mandatory for OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings and disclaimers as seen in movies screened in theatres and television programmes. The same day, Union Health Minister Mr Mansukh Mandaviya released guidelines for regulating the online depiction of tobacco products in online curated content. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also organized an event to observe the day, with the theme “We Need Food, Not Tobacco.”

The guidelines require publishers of online content displaying tobacco products or their use to comply with specific regulations. Dr. Mandaviya expressed concern about the increasing tobacco consumption among the young generation and urged people to break free from tobacco and adopt healthier lifestyles. He emphasized the need to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and proposed a Lok Bhagidari campaign through Jan Abhiyaan. Dr. Mandaviya also highlighted the measures taken by India to combat tobacco addiction and stated that the OTT guidelines will contribute to discouraging tobacco consumption.

According to the notification, the publishers of online curated content featuring tobacco products must show anti-tobacco health spots for at least 30 seconds at the beginning and middle of a program. Over-the-top (OTT) platforms must also display a prominent static message warning about the health risks of tobacco at the bottom of the screen when tobacco products are shown. Additionally, a 20-second audio-visual disclaimer about the negative effects of tobacco use should be shown at the beginning and middle of the program. A three-month timeline has been given to implement the same.

G7 HEALTH MINISTERIAL MEETING ON HEALTH INNOVATION IN JAPAN

The G7 Health Ministerial Meeting on Health Innovation in Japan was held on 14th May to discuss the priorities, implementation and utilisation of digital health towards ensuring Universal Health Coverage. The meeting was attended by health ministers from the G7 countries and the “Outreach 4” countries -India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand.

Mr Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers, addressed the meeting and highlighted the role of technology and digital health tools in strengthening health service delivery and achieving universal health coverage. He emphasized how the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the use of technology and the need to bridge the digital divide, especially in low-and-middle-income countries. India’s achievements in digital health were mentioned, including the Co-WIN vaccine delivery platform that monitored over 2.2 billion vaccine doses and eSanjeevani, a national telemedicine platform that facilitated over 115 million free consultations.

Mr Mandaviya also discussed the potential of artificial intelligence, smart wearables and big data analytics in precision medicine and personalized healthcare. He stressed the importance of making these tools available as digital public goods. India’s G20 Presidency has also proposed a Global Initiative on Digital Health housed at the World Health Organization HQ to converge digital initiatives worldwide and bridge the global digital divide, with support from G7 countries for this initiative.



UNIQUE ID MANDATORY FOR DOCTORS IN INDIA

In accordance with new regulations enacted by the National Medical Commission (NMC), doctors must now obtain a Unique Identification Number (UID). NMC's Ethics Board will generate the UID centrally and thereby grant the practitioner registration in NMR and eligibility to practice medicine in India.

According to NMC's new notification, all registered medical practitioners in the country will be able to register on the common national medical register. The same will be maintained by the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) under the NMC. The Register will contain all entries of registered medical practitioners maintained by the various State Medical Councils and will contain all relevant information about the practitioner.

Registered medical practitioners will be granted a license to practice medicine for a period of five years after which they will be required to renew it by applying to the State Medical Council, outlined in the new notification, "Registration of Medical Practitioners and License to Practice Medicine Regulations, 2023." The license can be renewed before three months of expiration of validity.



MTAI HOSTS A ROUNDTABLE TO DISCUSS INDIA'S MEDTECH PROSPECTS



Image source : Economic Times

With representatives from various embassies and industry leaders from MedTech companies, the Medical Technology Association of India (MTai) hosted a roundtable at the JW Marriott Aerocity in New Delhi. The Association represents medical technology companies, R&D, and healthcare worker training in India.

“Capitalizing opportunities for global MedTech companies in India” was the theme of the roundtable, attended by Dr Stephan Hesselmann, Minister Councillor, Embassy of Germany; Eric Fajole, Trade Commissioner, Embassy of France; Prashanth Nair, Managing Director, High Commission of Canada; and one representative of the British High Commission.

Highlighting the strong economic partnership between Germany and India, Dr. Stephan Hesselmann, mentioned that Germany is one of India’s major trading partners in the European Union, and India is one of Germany’s key economic partners in Asia. He noted that over 2,000 German companies have made significant investments in India across various sectors, including automotive, engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and MedTech. Dr. Hesselmann acknowledged India’s reputation as the “Pharmaceutical Capital” of the world and expressed his belief that with recent advancements in the MedTech sector, India has the potential to become a leading player in the global MedTech industry.

The day-long event also included sessions with members on various regulatory and policy matters, in addition to the roundtable discussion. According to MTai, the event was an invaluable platform for international diplomats and MedTech industry leaders to explore new avenues of collaboration and investment in India’s healthcare sector.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO PLACE 75 MILLION PEOPLE WITH HYPERTENSION ON STANDARD CARE BY 2025

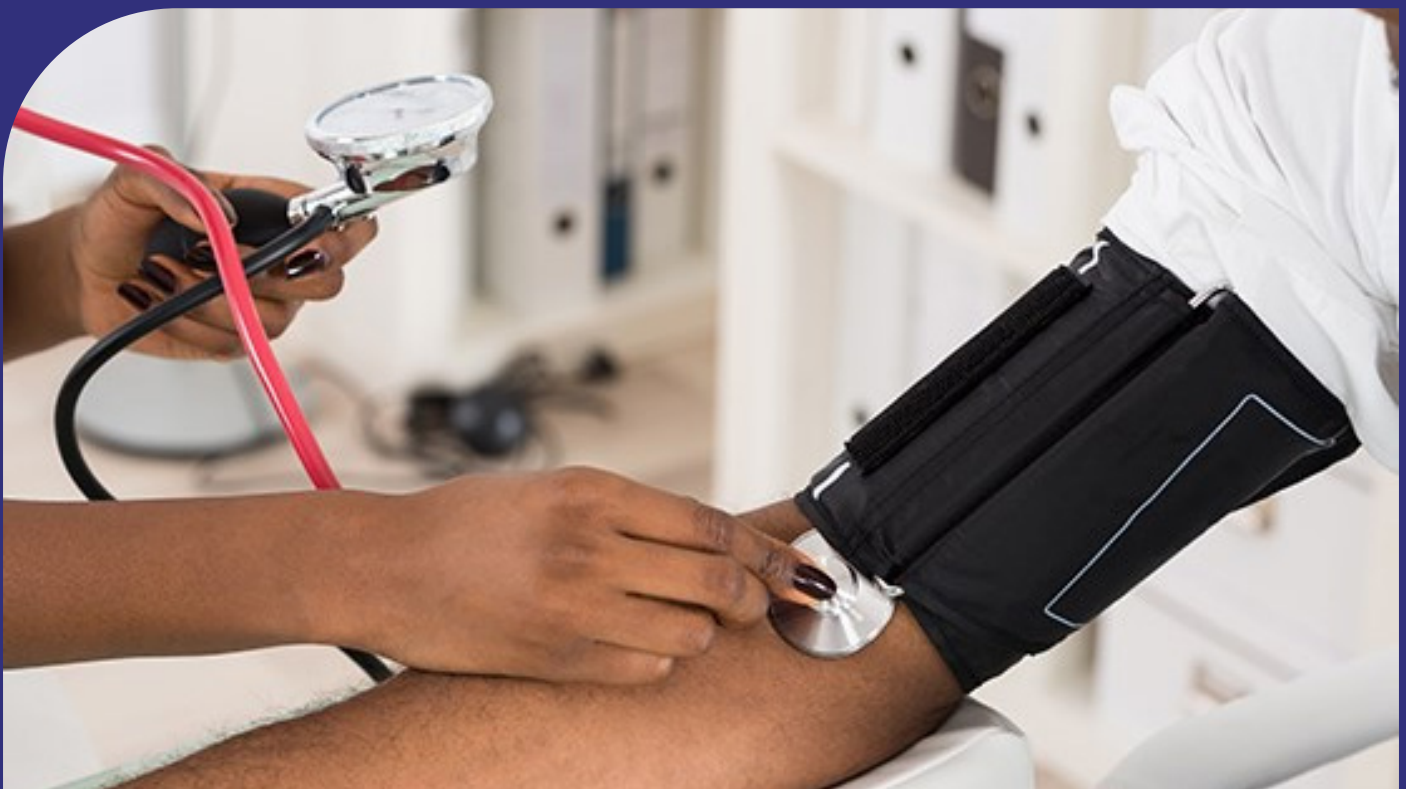
In a G20 co-branded event, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) announced an ambitious goal of putting 75 million people with hypertension and diabetes under standard care in primary healthcare by 2025, the largest coverage of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the world. The screening will be conducted at public health centers (PHCs).

With over 150,000 health and wellness centres and telemedicine and digital health services operationalized, India has created a unique platform to fight NCDs. According to Dr V K Paul, member (Health), NITI Aayog, along with screening, focus also needs to be on outcomes, so all stakeholders should work together to ensure that at least 80% of those diagnosed are receiving treatment. Health Ministry spokespersons also stated said 40,000 primary healthcare medical officers will be trained on standard treatment workflow for NCDs through the Shashakt portal.

Ayushman Ka Amrit Mahotsav

75 million
people with
hypertension or diabetes
on standard care by
2025

Roadmap to scale up hypertension and diabetes services in primary health care



KERALA APPROVES ORDINANCE AMENDING HOSPITAL PROTECTION ACT 2012, STRINGENT PROVISIONS ADDED

The State Government of Kerala has passed an ordinance imposing strict penalties for causing harm to healthcare providers, workers and other staff. The new amendment expands the scope of the definition of “healthcare service personnel” and brings paramedical students, staff employed and working in medical service institutions, security guards, managers, ambulance drivers and helpers within the ambit of the Act. The decision was made following the shocking incident where Dr. Vandana Das, a house surgeon, was stabbed to death by an inebriated patient at a hospital in Kollam district. The incident sparked protests and a two-day strike by medical professionals. The Kerala High Court was also criticized by the Government and police for their failure to protect the doctor, ordering the implementation of new safety guidelines for healthcare workers.

The ordinance includes fines of up to Rs 5 lakh and prison terms of up to seven years for those found guilty of serious bodily harm. It also sets punishments for acts of violence against healthcare workers, with imprisonment ranging from six months to five years and fines from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh.

Previously, the punishment was up to three years in prison and a fine of up to Rs 50,000. Now the ordinance mandates prompt trials and the establishment of special courts in each district. It extends protection to additional healthcare workers and requires investigations to be completed within 60 days. The Kerala Governor will review the ordinance for approval.



8TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'INDIA PHARMA AND INDIA MEDICAL DEVICE 2023

The Department of Pharmaceuticals in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organised the 8th edition of the international conference on 'India Pharma and India Medical Device 2023' from May 26–27 in New Delhi. The two-day event featured two tracks: one on May 26th, 2023, on the Indian medical device industry with the theme "Sustainable MedTech 5.0: Scaling and Innovating Indian MedTech," and the other on May 27th, 2023, focused on the Indian pharmaceutical industry with the theme "Indian pharma industry: Delivering Value through Innovation".

Mr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated the conference. Mr Bhagwanth Khuba, Minister of State for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, also participated in the event. The National Medical Devices Policy, 2023, and the Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices were both introduced at the conference by him. He also expressed confidence that the Indian Pharmaceutical Sector, which is aptly referred to as the Pharmacy of the World, will contribute more in the future years to both local and international demands. The conference featured a variety of sessions, workshops and CEO roundtables over two days.

The Union Cabinet has approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023, prepared after comprehensive consultation with the industries and other stakeholders, recognising the significance of the Medical Devices Sector, the Sector, with the potential to expand to 50 billion USD by 2030. A brand new programme, "Assistance for Medical Device Clusters for Common Facilities (AMD-CF)" was also announced with the goal of enhancing and establishing medical device testing facilities.



Image source : Health tek pak



Image source : orissadiary

About Avian WE's Healthcare E-Newsletter:

The content for this newsletter is sourced from news and information available in the public domain, in industry reports and as reported by mainline media.

Contact us: For any questions or feedback, please write to AvianWE-Healthcare@avianwe.com