

HEALTH DIGEST

Fortnightly E-Publication

EXCLUSIVE NEWS

SOCHARA SILVER JUBILEE

The Chennai floods of 2015

urgent need for ethical disaster management guidelines

- Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, Vol. 1, No. 2, April – June 2016. Pp91-95. Suresh Mariasevam, Vijayaprasad Gopichandran

Further to the recent floods that inundated Chennai in 2015; this article published in the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics draws on lessons learnt from the lack of equity in relief and response and poor communication between the government and non-government rescue operations. The article also draws attention to the large focus to the neglect of rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts following the floods. It calls for an urgent need to develop ethical guidelines for disaster management and response.

Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu, was particularly hard hit by these floods. This flood, which is said to be the worst in about a century, resulted in a massive displacement of close to 18 lakh people in the city. The damages and losses have been estimated between Rs 50,000 and Rs100,000 crore.



This issue of Health Digest highlights disaster management and NCD, an important primary health issues for discussion on various media platforms, from discussion forums and blogs to newspaper articles and television shows. NCD is and as it should be, on everyone's mind as a growing public health issue in this century. It also talks about womens health, drugs/ medicine and mental health.

Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka

- pics4news.com/27th May 2016

Dr. US Vishal Rao with Dr. Riyaz Basha, Dr. Upendra Bhojani, SJ Chander and others seen releasing the Tobacco related posters during the discussion program on Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka at KAS Officers Association, organised by Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka , in Bengaluru on Friday 27th May 2016.



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No. 359, 1st Main, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034, Karnataka, India

Email : clc@sochara.org Phone : +91-80-25531518, 25525372



Standing up to patent bullying



- **The Hindu, March 21, 2016.**
Srividhya Ragavan

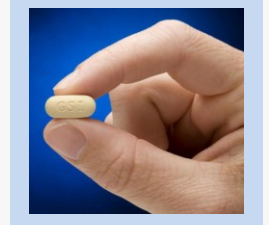
The article interestingly explains how India's relationship with the U.S. with regard to patent policies can be likened to

psychologist Lenore E. Walker's theory on patterns in abusive relationships. The article further emphasises the need for India's current government to consider showcasing the Indian patent statute for its balanced patent regime as is relevant to the context of the developing world.

While there is no pill for every ill, there is an ill following every pill

- **The Hindu, May 24, 2016. B M Hegde**

This article in The Hindu puts the negative effects of our overwhelming dependency on western medicine to 'cure' ever illness, into perspective. The article highlights the complexity of the human system and our ignorance of the fact that it forms a part of a larger complex natural system that has an innate ability and tendency to

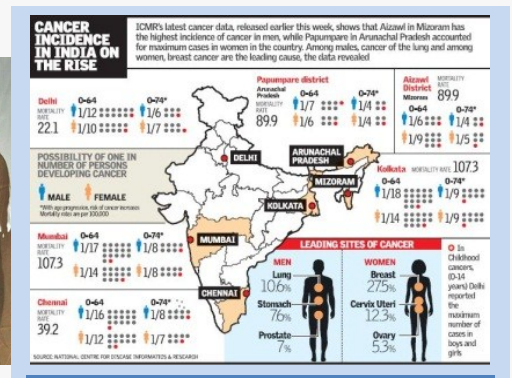


naturally evolve, adapt and even repair itself in response to harm from its environment. The author focuses on the limited perspectives that Western medical education is arming our medical students with; "a

The other diabetes

- **The Hindu, May 22, 2016. Jacob Koshy**

This article talks about ongoing research into Type 1 Diabetes that is known to be an autoimmune disorder that results in one's own immune system destroying pancreatic insulin-producing beta cells. The underlying cause of this condition is still largely unknown although recent research suspects bugs (infectious agents) to be the cause. The article brings back focus to Type 1 diabetes; the 'deadlier' form of diabetes and highlights the large proportion of individuals affected by the disorder. It also discusses the possibility of using lab-grown insulin-producing cells as an interim solution.



Poverty, superstition takes their toll on Sangola women's health

- **The Hindu, May 22, 2016. Roli Srivastava**

This article brings to light the impacts of social, cultural, economic and biomedical practices and beliefs in compelling young women in villages of Maharashtra to undergo hysterectomies. Performing hysterectomies has become widespread practice, with recipients of such surgeries becoming victims of social and economic pressure due to their lack of

awareness and dependence on superstitious belief. mother.



Huge gap between policy and practice

- **The Hindu, May 22, 2016. Interviewed by Vidya Krishnan**

In an interview with the Hindu, Dr. Vikram Patel, of Sangath speaks about the increasing contribution

of mental disorders to the burden of disease in India. He emphasises that the range of severity of these mental disorders is wide and that a significant proportion would benefit from psychosocial interventions. He emphasises the need for a focus of efforts on policy implementation at national, state and regional levels; and stresses on the important role community health workers like ASHAs need to play at the grassroots level in prevention and treatment.



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