

# HEALTH DIGEST

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EXCLUSIVE NEWS

## INDIA REPORTS SHARP DECLINE IN TUBERCULOSIS REGISTRATION AFTER COVID-19 LOCKDOWN - BY

Extra 0.2-0.4 million global TB deaths could push world eight years back, says WHO report

– Banjot Kaur, dated 1-15 October 2020, Down to Earth, p.no. 38-39

This article stated that India and few other countries like Indonesia, South Africa and Philippines registered a decline in the notification of Tuberculosis (TB) cases during the COVID-19 lockdown. Some of the plausible reasons identified for this decline have been elucidated by the author. The author concludes that the current economic contraction in the country has forced the government to divert resources meant for TB mitigation to COVID-19 response which will hamper meeting the targets of 2020 milestones of “End TB strategy”. [>>Read Article](#)



A Tuberculosis patient in Delhi. Photo: Samrat Mukherjee / CSE



## DELHI'S MOHALLA CLINICS HOLD THE POTENTIAL TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

- Arnav Sethi, Pooja Sharma, Tanisha Agrawal, Shubhro Bhattacharya, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 55, Issue No. 40, 03 Oct, 2020

This paper evaluates the effectiveness of Delhi's Mohalla clinics introduced by the Aam Aadmi led Delhi government in 2015. A survey of 493 respondents was conducted to evaluate the programme's effectiveness in meeting the needs of beneficiaries on parameters including perceptions about quality of healthcare and services provided and waiting time. As per the authors, two key factors impacted the accessibility of clinics: the distance between clinics and households, and the availability of information about the location, functioning and operating time of clinics. The authors also discuss the way ahead to address the lacunae in the program identified in this study. [>>Read Article](#)

This issue of **Health Round-Up** brings together latest articles that all seem to focus on the bane of an over-medicalised health care system, model and approach and seeks to urge readers to question such a model while considering the healthier alternative. This issue of Health Digest collates a few of the current health affairs taking place across our nation this month (July). These relate to health system management and accountability, ethical considerations in human-first vaccine trials, awareness of the scale of drug usage and addiction in youth, health impact of city traffic on public transport service providers, and the importance of considering 'social determinants' that influence and connect population size, availability of natural resources and sustainability.

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### COVID-19 Progression- Waiting for the Eureka



*Countries across the world are relying on trial-and-error interventions to arrest the COVID-19 pandemic. But, even as health systems are close to breaking down and economies are flailing while underprivileged citizens are battling unprecedented social and financial catastrophes, most governments are failing to provide appropriate social security and relief.*

- Ravi Duggal, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 55, Issue No. 39, 26 Sep, 2020

In this commentary the author laments that most governments are failing to provide appropriate social security and relief to underprivileged citizens who are battling unprecedented social and financial catastrophes due to COVID-19 pandemic. As per the author the end

of this pandemic seems to be still far away, and our governments have failed to respond adequately on both health and economic front. They are waiting for the elusive vaccine which they hope will be their magic bullet and we have no option but to wait for that eureka moment. [>>Read Article](#)

### Ethics before profits: What it will take to have global access to COVID-19 vaccine



- Nicole Hassoun, Down to Earth, 16th July 2020

Access to medicine should be primarily identified as an ethical problem. Author argues that global access to Covid-19 vaccine should be implemented in creative ways, to prevent the capitalist economy from marketing the lifesaving vaccine a high-priced drug vaccine and, as a result, be unequally distributed according to countries' purchasing power, not need. Author draws inspiration from the mass protests that took place in South Africa as a result of the global AIDS campaign and the project by the organization

'Partners in Health' which kickstarted the global funding for TB treatment and production of generic medicines. Medicines Patent Pool – a United Nations-backed organization that encourages companies to share their patents in order to speed up innovation – is pushing this method for advancing the research and development of COVID-19 drugs. The author suggests that, if at odds with the pharmaceutical companies, the governments could let other companies produce generic versions of patented medicines, to protect the common good. [>>Read Article](#)

## The People's Health Movement

- Ravi Narayan, Claudio Schuftan, and Brendan Doneg

This article published in Oxford Research Encyclopedia, Global Public Health summarizes the most significant features and milestones of The People's Health Movement (PHM) over nearly two decades since its inception in 2000. This article makes use of an analytical distinction between social movements and social movement organizations and argues that this movement belongs to an in-between category of "intermediary" social movement organizations as it has a more specialized mission and an orientation. PHM draws on the ideas of the movement for health which represents a vision for what is making the world sick currently and what a "social vaccine" might look like. PHM is a social movement project from below and represents people against globalization, privatization, and commercialization of health by dominant social groups.

The article covers five main areas, a) The context in which PHM was created b) The first global People's Health Assembly which set the tone for PHM c) What the PHM is and how it has developed since the year 2000 d) Impact of PHM e) The continuing need for the PHM in the world today.

[>>Read Article](#)

### COVID-19 disrupts vaccine delivery

- Roxanne Nelson, The Lancet, April 17, 2020

This article elaborates on COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the delivery of important health services, including immunization and cited the interplay of multiple factors that lead to immunization disruptions across the population. Some of the factors included supply chain disruptions due to trade restrictions and closed borders, prioritization of health care services towards COVID-19 activities and existing social distancing norms. The author emphasizes on catch-up immunization campaigns considering the consequences of the missed vaccination schedules and concludes that it will be very challenging to re-establish the momentum in the immunization services. [>>Read article](#)

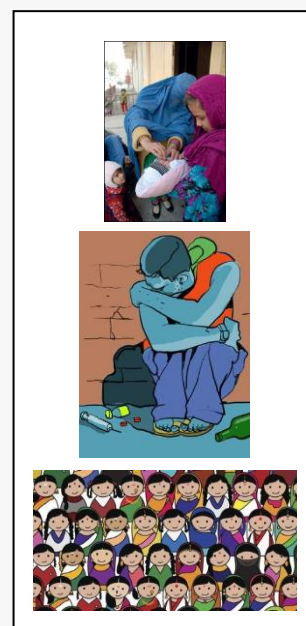
### Book Review Nutrient Requirements For Indians - Recommended Dietary Allowances and Estimated Average Requirements– 2020

-Report by ICMR – National Institute of Nutrition

Over the past decade, dietary patterns have changed with economic and nutrition transition at the community level. These rapid changes are relevant to the dual burden of malnutrition in India. Nutrient requirements have to be reviewed with respect to these changes in food intake, access, and lifestyle.

And this latest version of the report by ICMR-NIN does exactly the same.

Until now, a single value, the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) was used for all nutrients. Over the years the nutrient requirements have evolved so that they can be specifically used for individuals or populations. The present recommendations in this book propose the use of the Estimated Average Requirements (EAR) for evaluating population nutrient intake and the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for setting the safe nutrient intake for an individual. Several foods are now being fortified with nutrients, making it essential to define the Tolerable Upper Limit (TUL) of intake for nutrients and it has been done in this book making it relevant to the current times. [>>Read Book](#)



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