



Health Ministers of the G20 Countries Urged to Preserve Health Innovation Enablers

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In this period of ONW, linking of Central Govt. Health Scheme IDs with Ayushman Bharat Health Account IDs have been made mandatory from April 1, 2024, which is a step to enhance health ecosystem of the country.

Besides, the launch of DART (Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test Book) by the food regulator is a new initiative taken with a purpose to curb and detect the pervasive issue of food adulteration. In the midst of it, former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said that there is a quantum leap by India towards ensuring a bright and greatly accessible future of medical education for the country with doubling of numbers of medical colleges in the country and the National Medical Commission now green-lighting 112 new medical colleges.

But on one side government trying to increase medical institutes in order to enhance health safety and security in the country but on another side, AIIMS and the Indian Council of Medical Research in its joint survey, revealing that about 45 percent of doctors are writing incomplete prescriptions, which is directly playing with the health of the patients. The institutes say that the doctors giving initial medical advice to the patients in OPD are being very negligent in their haste. All this is horrifying.

Health Ministers of the G20 countries have been urged by representatives of the international pharmaceutical industry to enable technology transfers and voluntary collaborations, among other things and preserve health innovation enablers like the intellectual property framework, for example, in their policies and programs worldwide.

In its role as regulator, FSSAI directed all food business operators (FBOs) to remove any claim of '100% fruit juices' from the labels and advertisements of reconstituted fruit juices with immediate effect

In this fifteenth volume of Occasional News Wrap, various dimensions of health regulation issues have been captured, which appeared by way of op-eds, articles, news etc. during the month of April-June, 2024.

S.N.	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1.	<p>Linking CGHS IDs with Ayushman Bharat Health Account IDs Now Mandatory from April 1, 2024 <i>ET Online</i> <i>April 2, 2024</i></p>	<p>Compulsory link Central Govt. Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiary ID with ABHA ID announced by Ministry of Health. CGHS offers healthcare, PMJAY provides Rs. 5 lakhs coverage. Beneficiaries must link IDs within 30 days for enhanced digital health ecosystem. ABHA is Unique Health Identifier as a random 14-digit number and may be issued digitally or in the form of a hardcopy. As on 24.01.2024, a total of 52,50,15,110 ABHA numbers have been created.</p>
2.	<p>FSSAI Launches Initiatives to Curb Food Adulteration <i>ANI/The Print</i> <i>April 4, 2024</i></p>	<p>To tackle food adulteration, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has launched an innovative method to curb and detect the pervasive issue of food adulteration. According to FSSAI website, it has launched a “Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test (DART) Book”, which serves as a guide</p>
3.	<p>Medical Education in India Transformed in The Last Decade: Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant <i>The Free Press Journal</i> <i>April 10, 2024</i></p>	<p>In the years between 2013-14 to 2023-24, medical colleges have “doubled” to more than 800, with “the National Medical Commission (NMC) now green-lighting 112 new medical colleges”. A quantum leap by India towards ensuring a bright and greatly accessible future of medical education for the country,” Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said.</p>
4.	<p>Open Letter to G20 Health Ministers Calls to Preserve IP Enablers <i>By PT Jyothi Datta</i> <i>Business Line,,</i> <i>Mumbai</i> <i>April 11, 2024</i></p>	<p>Health Ministers of the G20 countries have been urged by representatives of the international pharmaceutical industry to protect Intellectual Property (IP), to enable technology transfers and voluntary collaborations, among other things. In a joint open letter, three organisations including the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) have called on Health Ministers of these countries to “preserve health innovation enablers” like the intellectual property framework, for example, in their policies and programs worldwide. The submission comes against the backdrop of the Second G20 Health Working Group meeting in Brasilia.</p>
5.	<p>45% Of Doctors in India are Writing Incomplete Prescriptions: AIIMS-ICMR Survey Report <i>The News Agency</i> <i>April 12, 2024</i></p>	<p>AIIMS and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in its joint survey has revealed that about 45 percent of doctors are writing incomplete prescriptions, which is directly playing with the health of the patients. The institutes say that the doctors giving initial medical advice to the patients in OPD are being very negligent in their haste.</p>

6.	<p>How Data Protection Law Impacts the Health Sector</p> <p><i>By Gautam KM and Ridhi Kalra Businnes Line April 18, 2024</i></p>	<p>The Supreme Court of India, in a landmark decision in the Justice KS Puttaswamy (Retd.) & Anr. vs Union of India case, recognised the right to privacy as a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution. Following this judgment, the government proposed a few versions of the Personal Data Protection Bill in Parliament before passing the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the Act was finally published in the official Gazette of India on the August 11, 2023, making it the official legislation of India for personal data protection and privacy.</p>
7	<p>Regulating Food Standards: Food Safety Laws in India are Sufficient but Lacking in Enforcement</p> <p><i>By Renu Sud Sinha The Tribune April 28, 2024</i></p>	<p>The Indian food industry, particularly the packaged food sector, has seen many controversies during the past period. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs recently asked FSSAI to take appropriate action against multinational conglomerate Nestle after a report was published by Swiss organisation Public Eye, known for its investigative work and public advocacy, in collaboration with the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)</p>
8.	<p>India Needs to Expand Universal Health Coverage for Rapidly Ageing Population, Maintain Growth: ADB Report</p> <p><i>By PTI/The Hindu May 02, 2024</i></p>	<p>India is one of the lowest among the Asia Pacific nations, when it comes to health insurance for older people and needs to expand universal health coverage to meet the needs of rapidly ageing population and sustain growth momentum, a report by ADB said. While the South Korea and Thailand have achieved universal health coverage, others lag behind with India having the lowest health insurance coverage among older people at 21 per cent, a report titled 'Aging Well in Asia' prepared by ADB said</p>
9.	<p>Govt Plans New Pricing Norms for Medical Device Industry</p> <p><i>By Somrita Ghosh Livemint May 03, 2024</i></p>	<p>The government is exploring new pricing strategies for the medical device industry and also looking at specific regulations to streamline the licensing, trading, and exporting processes for manufacturers, according to officials familiar with the situation. Specific regulations for the medical device industry will streamline the approval process, enabling manufacturers to secure clinical trial approvals and sales licences in a short period.</p>
10.	<p>FSSAI to Review the Points of Entry for Food Imports as it Tightens the Screws on Shipments</p> <p><i>By Priyanka Sharma Livemint May 09, 2024</i></p>	<p>FSSAI has cracked down on food imports, saying it has authorized officers at only 155 points to clear shipments “until further orders”. “To put in place robust food regulatory framework at the points of entry to ensure the mandate of safe food imports in India, FSSAI has decided to review the points of entry notified for food imports taking into account the trend/volume of food imports, testing facilities and logistics infrastructure etc.</p>

11.	<p>Greenwashing Storm: FSSAI Under Fire for Consumer Safety Concerns</p> <p><i>Dr. Sakshi Arora and Poonam Gulati</i> <i>Wire</i> <i>May 28, 2024</i></p>	<p>In the bustling aisles of supermarkets and online shopping carts, consumers are captivated by products adorned with labels promising “organic,” “natural,” or “eco-friendly” attributes. However, amidst this shimmering facade lies a shadowy deception known as greenwashing. Like a mirage in the desert, it entices promises of purity and wholesomeness, only to vanish upon closer scrutiny, leaving behind disillusioned consumers and a veneer of sustainability.</p>
12.	<p>Regulator Mulls Norms for Non-carbonated, Non-alcoholic Beverages, Drinking water</p> <p><i>CNBC TV</i> <i>Abhimanyu Sharma</i> <i>May 29, 2024</i></p>	<p>Food regulator has noted a grey area in the non-carbonated and non-alcoholic beverages' space, in terms of legally non-compliant products, especially where salts and many other prohibited minerals are being added. This move may impact all big fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies in the non-carbonated and non-alcoholic beverages' space. FSSAI's Executive Director urged companies in non-carbonated and non-alcoholic beverages sector to think of innovative ways to use treated wastewater.</p>
13.	<p>Road Map for a Healthier India</p> <p><i>Financial Express</i> <i>May 31, 2024</i></p>	<p>India is today on the cusp of tremendous all-round development. While its stellar economic performance is clearly visible, it is very encouraging to note that the trends in the area of health also look quite promising. The government's people-centric policies such as Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Fit India are giving a tremendous thrust to its overall vision of a healthier country.</p>
14.	<p>Remove Claim of '100% Fruit Juice' from Labels, Ads: FSSAI Directs FBOs</p> <p><i>By Akshara Srivastava</i> <i>Business Standard</i> <i>June 04, 2024</i></p>	<p>The FSSAI directed all food business operators (FBOs) to remove any claim of '100% fruit juices' from the labels and advertisements of reconstituted fruit juices with immediate effect. The regulation states that the word "reconstituted" must be mentioned against the name of the juice that is reconstituted from the concentrate.</p>
15.	<p>Health Regulations Need a Base to Top Approach</p> <p><i>By Chandrakant and Vinay</i> <i>The Hindu</i> <i>June 07, 2024</i></p>	<p>In the last week of May, an incident of a devastating fire in a private neonatal care nursing home in New Delhi shook all. Political parties began a blame game and the media coverage was intense, going overboard and reporting incorrectly that a number of nursing homes in Delhi function without a licence. In this case, the failure of health-care regulations was observed. Health regulations are essential but their implementation in India needs to be nuanced and calibrated.</p>

16.	<p>WHO Recognises 3rd Indian Institute for Traditional Medicine Research</p> <p><i>NDTV</i> <i>June 14, 2024</i></p>	<p>he WHO has designated National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad, under the Ministry of Ayush, as a WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for traditional medicine research, it was announced on Friday. NIIMH, Hyderabad is a unit under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) which will now work as a WHO centre for 'Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine'.</p>
17.	<p>Govt May Amend Standards for Baby Food</p> <p><i>Priyanka Sharma</i> <i>Livemint</i> <i>June 27, 2024</i></p>	<p>The Union government may soon amend the standards for baby food, according to two people aware of the matter. This comes in the backdrop of the recent controversy regarding Nestlé's baby food Cerelac, which allegedly contains added sugar.</p>