



G20 Task Force of Finance and Health Begins Work on India's Global Health Priorities for 2023 01 December–31 December, 2022

The joint finance and health task force under India's G20 Presidency began working on the draft plan designed around New Delhi's global health priorities for the year ahead. The first meeting of the task force, held in virtual mode was co-chaired by Italy and Indonesia and attended by finance and health representatives from G20 and invited countries as well as international organizations.

India had listed health emergencies, prevention and preparedness, and response; strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector with a focus on availability and access to safe, effective, and affordable medical countermeasures; and digital health innovation and solutions to aid universal health coverage as its priorities for the G20 Presidency.

On a related note, addressing the 'Preparedness for Future Epidemics: Is India Ready to Meet the CEPI 100 Days' vaccine challenge?' international meet, India's health minister said that while efforts are still on to uncover findings about Covid-19 and the epidemiological models, India is ready to invest in future challenges. He added that the Department of Biotechnology was at the centre of the pandemic response and took unprecedented steps to curb the threat posed by Covid-19.

In the midst of all these, after China suddenly opened its doors widely to the SARS-COV-2 virus, a flood of cases and deaths are being reported by global media, there have been wide discussions among health fraternity regarding as to how to cop up with the situation this time.

On the other side, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the world tried various treatment styles and is returning to the ancient treatment methods of Ayurveda. The Prime Minister virtually inaugurated the Goa-based All India Institute of Ayurveda, Ghaziabad-based National Institute of Unani Medicine and Delhi-based National Institute.

In this background, the start of the new series of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) through this fourth volume on the issue captures various dimensions of health regulations expressed by way of selective write-ups, op-eds, articles, news, etc. in the month of December, 2022.

	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1.	<p>India to invest in R&D to develop roadmap for vaccines for future pandemic</p> <p><i>By Swati Luthra</i> <i>Mint</i> <i>December 07, 2022</i></p>	<p>Addressing the 'Preparedness for Future Epidemics: Is India ready to meet the CEPI 100 days' vaccine challenge?' international meet, the India's minister for science and technology said that while efforts are still on to uncover findings about Covid-19 and the epidemiological models, India is ready to invest in future challenges. Minister added that the Department of Biotechnology was at the centre of the pandemic response and took unprecedented steps to curb the threat posed by Covid-19.</p>
2.	<p>Front-of-the-pack labelling will discredit Indian ethnic foods, says Indian Sellers Collective</p> <p><i>By Meenakshi Verma Ambwani</i> <i>businessline</i> <i>December 09, 2022</i></p>	<p>The Indian Sellers Collective raised concerns over the proposed front-of-the-pack labelling regulations stating that it will discredit Indian ethnic foods and take over by the reformulated western packaged products. The umbrella industry body, said that its study revealed a large section of Indian ethnic foods will get lower health star ratings making them look unhealthy compared to western packaged food products.</p>
3.	<p>World returning to Ayurveda after trying various treatments: PM Modi</p> <p><i>The Indian Express</i> <i>PTI</i> <i>December 11, 2022</i></p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the world tried various treatment styles and is returning to the ancient treatment methods of Ayurveda. The Prime Minister virtually inaugurated the Goa-based All India Institute of Ayurveda, Ghaziabad-based National Institute of Unani Medicine, and Delhi-based National Institute.</p>
4.	<p>NHA Building Health Exchange Platform</p> <p><i>LiveMint</i> <i>By Priyanka Sharma</i> <i>December 11, 2022</i></p>	<p>The National Health Authority (NHA) is setting up a Health Exchange Platform that will digitize and simplify the process of filing health insurance claims, NHA CEO said in an interview. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) will be the first insurance scheme in the world to implement this digital solution, with the platform to be rolled out in Haryana, followed by a pan-India launch.</p>
5.	<p>India needs to change course to curb air pollution: World Bank study</p> <p><i>LFIXITE</i> <i>December 19, 2022</i></p>	<p>The study titled, "Striving for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia," says that the subcontinent is home to "9 of the world's 10 cities with the worst air pollution, which causes an estimated 2 million premature deaths across the region each year and incurs significant economic costs.</p>

6.	<p>G20 task force of finance and health begins work on India's global health priorities for 2023</p> <p><i>The Economics Times/PTI Healthworld.com December 21, 2022</i></p>	<p>The members expressed commitment to the task force's mandate of contributing to strengthening global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and working with the secretariat and the co-chairs on achieving the deliverables for 2023.</p>
7.	<p>The need to make cancer drugs affordable</p> <p><i>TH By Biswajit Dhar/Chetali Rao December 21, 2022</i></p>	<p>With the Rajya Sabha Standing Committee on Health expressing concern over the high cost of cancer treatment, the Government invoking Section 100 of the Patents Act is a way forward. Alluding to the implications of the high cost of cancer care, the Committee noted that "about 40% of cancer hospitalization cases are financed mainly through borrowings, sale of assets and contributions from friends and relatives".</p>
8.	<p>Covid: How to prepare this time</p> <p><i>Times of India By K Srinath Reddy December 21, 2022</i></p>	<p>After China suddenly opened its doors widely to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a flood of Covid cases and deaths are being reported by global media, even though official counts from that country are low. While all reports need verification, there is little doubt that China has many vulnerable people, who were unexposed to the virus earlier or had not been fully vaccinated.</p>
9.	<p>Food regulator specifies dimensions for new logo for vegan food packaging</p> <p><i>Money Control News December 23, 2022</i></p>	<p>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that every package of vegan food should carry the logo as specified in the notification. The logo carrying a green-coloured V representing vegan food should be 10mm long and 7mm wide. The logo with a green border should carry an image of a leaf that is 3.25mm long and should be placed in the center of the V in the logo. The word vegan should be mentioned in the logo which should be 7mm in length and 2mm in height. The overall size of the logo should be 15mm in length and breadth.</p>
10.	<p>Misleading Ads Fuelled Rapid Growth of Online Mental Health Companies</p> <p><i>By CNX December 28, 2022</i></p>	<p>Online advertising has drawn thousands of people to telehealth companies for treatment of ADHD, anxiety and other conditions. Some employees and patients say these marketing practices have contributed to the abuse of controlled substances. If we blame each other, we're looking the wrong way.</p>

11.	<p>Despite significant achievements, more needs to be done for complete eradication of faecal-pollution</p> <p><i>By Girija Bharat/S K Sarkar Businessline December 29, 2022</i></p>	<p>Poor sanitation impacts human well-being and quality of life, and results in lost opportunities for education and employment. <u>Poor sanitation</u> systems, inadequate faecal sludge and septage management leads to the spread of human waste into waterbodies (rivers and lakes), hence polluting underground water resources, and adversely affecting human health.</p>
12.	<p>6% Of Medicine Samples of Substandard Quality in India</p> <p><i>Times of India By Durgesh Nandan Jha December 31, 2022</i></p>	<p>In the wake of deaths of some children in Gambia and Uzbekistan, allegedly linked <u>cough syrup</u> manufactured by two companies in India, the government has directed drug regulatory authorities, both at the centre and in the states to take proactive action to prevent mal practices and production of spurious medicines.</p>