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**SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE**  
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Dear Friends,

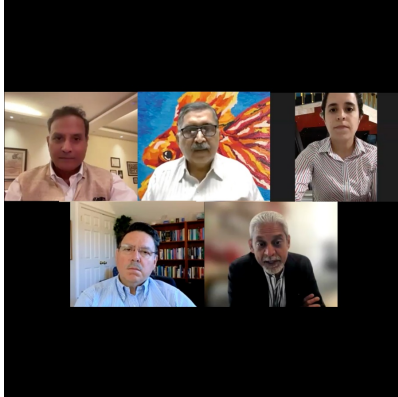
We are delighted to present to you the November edition of the monthly newsletter by the [Lancet Citizens' Commission on Reimagining India's Health System](#). This month's newsletter explores the global alliance launched by IMA to combat antimicrobial resistance, as well as the newly developed antibiotic by India for drug-resistant pneumonia. It also examines Delhi's air crisis, termed a public health emergency at COP29, and reviews progress in comprehensive primary healthcare under the AB-HWC program. Other highlights include insights into the overlooked significance of diarrhoea research, need for contraceptive investments, healthcare challenges in populous nations, and evolving mental health post-COVID. We also explore Genome to Om, a thought-provoking exploration of modern science. Also, do check out the webinar on the private sector's role in primary health, hosted on Oct 23!

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## Lancet Webinar Series

### Private Sector in Primary Health: Catalyst for Progress or Cause for Concern?

The Lancet Citizens' Commission on Reimagining India's Health System and the Mittal Institute hosted a webinar, on October 23, to discuss strategies to bring the private primary care sector in India into alignment with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) principles. Panelists



included **Cristian Baeza**, International Center for Health Systems Strengthening; **Dileep Mavalankar**, Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar; and **Josefa Henriquez**, Newcastle Business School, moderated by **Indu Bhushan**, Partnership for Impact (P4i).

[Watch the webinar](#)

## Views & Opinions



### [India indigenously develops new antibiotic for drug-resistant pneumonia](#)

The novel antibiotic is discovered and developed for the treatment of community-acquired bacterial pneumonia (CABP) in adults. In an event organised by the Department of Biotechnology, India and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) on November 20 in New Delhi, the drug was 'soft launched' in the presence of Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for science and technology, *writes Gauri Arora.*



### [IMA launches global alliance to combat antimicrobial resistance](#)

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has launched the Commonwealth Alliance of Medical Professionals on Antimicrobial Resistance (CAMP-AMR). This initiative aims to address the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Commonwealth countries, particularly India, which is considered a hotspot for antibiotic-resistant infections.



### [Delhi air crisis discussed at COP29: Experts term it a public health emergency](#)

Engulfed in smog, Delhi's air pollution crisis has become a central topic at the COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. With the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) surpassing 500 and touching hazardous levels, the issue has drawn global attention to the public health emergency unfolding in India's capital. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has activated Stage-IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), enforcing strict measures, including a ban on truck entry and halting construction at public projects, *writes Ashutosh Mishra.*

### [Keeping the AB-HWC programme on track to deliver on Comprehensive Primary Health Care](#)

The Ayushman Bharat- Health and Wellness Centre (HWC) scheme, now called Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) was launched in 2018 by



the Central Ministry, and its main objectives was to expand the scope of primary care services, from selective healthcare delivery to comprehensive primary healthcare services. This called for upgrading the Health Sub-Centres (HSCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to provide an essential package of 12 services which were defined in the national guidelines. A conversation between Ms Harsha Joshi, Dr Yogesh Jain, and Prof T Sundararaman.



### [Trachoma eliminated as a public health problem in India: what next?](#)

Public health work faces the paradox where the nature of their work makes failures highly tangible and visible, leading to headlines, while their successes remain intangible, often going unnoticed despite their significant impact. Acknowledging these achievements is essential, as they reflect the dedication and perseverance of countless individuals working behind the scenes to prevent blindness and improve lives, *writes C. Aravind.*



### [Lessons from researching an 'unglamorous' disease](#)

Diarrhoea, as Dr Gagandeep Kang often says, tends to be considered a “solved problem”. Modern science knows why it happens, knows how to fix it, and has ways of preventing it from becoming a genuine medical threat. And yet it continues to be a major cause of death or serious illness for hundreds of thousands of children around the world, every year, *writes Rohan Venkataramakrishnan.*



### [Govt-funded healthcare can't work in countries with large populations](#)

With its flagship Aditi, Narayana Health is entering the health insurance business, becoming the first hospital chain to do so. NH founder-chairman Dr Devi Prasad Shetty shares his insights on insurance and healthcare in a chat with ET's *KR Balasubramanyam.*



### [India needs immediate investment in contraceptive spacing methods](#)

More than 65 percent of India's population falls in the reproductive age group, which requires urgent investment in contraceptive choices, especially birth spacing methods, said experts on World Contraceptive Day. World Contraception Day is observed every year on September 26 to raise awareness about the importance of family planning and reproductive health. The theme this year was: A choice for all. Freedom to plan, power to choose.”

## Resources

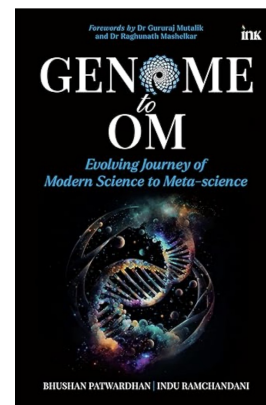
### [The changing association between pandemic-related stressors and child and adolescent mental health during the waning phase of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

This study examined the relation between pandemic-related stressors and mental health among young people (YP) in India during two time points in the waning phase of the pandemic. We use data from two cross-sectional waves of over 20,000 YP aged 5–19 in February 2022, during the peak of the Omicron wave, and October 2022, during a reduction in infections and easing of restrictions, write *Joanna Maselko, Kaitlin Shartle, Jennifer E. Lansford, Amanda Collins, Arnab Mukherji, Marcos Vera-Hernández & Manoj Mohanan*



### [Genome to Om: Evolving Journey of Modern Science to Meta-science](#)

Genome to Om explores the desired transition from modern science to meta-science, blending ethical, moral, and spiritual insights while recognizing the interconnectedness of all aspects of life. It emphasizes a holistic scientific approach, talking of the marvels of science and technology, and the consequent perils that have engulfed all living beings and the planet itself. *The authors, Bhushan Patwardhan and Indu Ramchandani, pose intriguing questions about the wonders of the cosmos, life's origin, and most of all, the goal and purpose of life's journey.*



## Featured Partner



[The Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action \(SOCHARA\)](#) is an interdisciplinary resource group of community health professionals utilizing multiple pathways to facilitate and promote the goal of Health for All.



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