

Newspaper Clips

December 16, 2010

Times of India ND 16-Dec-10 P-1

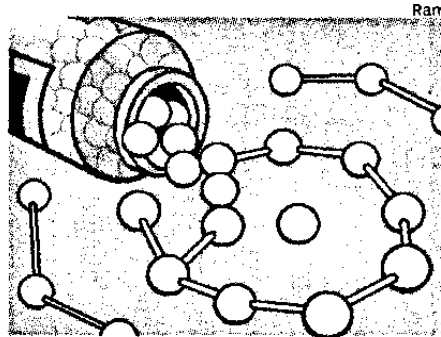
IIT-B team shows how homeopathy works

Malathy Iyer | TNN

Mumbai: Six months after the British Medical Association rubbished homeopathy as witchcraft with no scientific basis, IIT scientists have said the sweet white pills work on the principle of nanotechnology.

Homeopathic pills containing naturally occurring metals such as gold, copper and iron retain their potency even when diluted to a nanometre or one-billionth of a metre, states the IIT-Bombay research published in the latest issue of 'Homeopathy', a peer-reviewed journal from reputed medical publishing firm Elsevier.

IIT-B's chemical engineering department bought homeopathic pills from neighbourhood shops, prepared highly diluted solutions and checked these under powerful electron microscopes to find nanoparticles of the original metal.



"Certain highly diluted homeopathic remedies made from metals still contain measurable amounts of the starting material, even at extreme dilutions of 1 part in 10 raised to 400 parts (200C)," said Dr Jayesh Bellare from the scientific team.

► 'Medicines potent on dilution', P 15

'Homeo pills get potent on dilution'

► Continued from P 1

His student, Prashant Chikramane, presented the homeopathy paper titled, 'Extreme homeopathic dilutions retain starting materials: A nanoparticulate perspective', as part of his doctoral thesis.

"Homeopathy has been a conundrum for modern medicine. Its practitioners maintained that homeopathic pills got more potent on dilution, but they could never explain the mechanism scientifically enough for the modern scientists," said Bellare.

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'IISc not doing enough'

Tata Wants Institute To Focus on Research, Not Patents

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

Bangalore: Ratan Tata is not happy with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). At a special meeting on Wednesday, Tata, who is also the president of the IISc Court, said that the 101-year-old centre was not living up to the vision behind its creation. Tata said the IISc was busy filing patents when it should be contributing more towards a new way of life in India.

Tata wanted the institute to do more research and make itself globally relevant.

"This institute has perhaps not changed as much as one would like to see. It should perhaps be looking at greater change, do research of greater global relevance," Tata said. His message will be emailed to the IISc Council headed by Planning Commission member K Kasturirangan.

"I urge all of us to work together to make this possible. The



WHAT'S WORRYING HIM

► IISc has not changed as much as one would like to see. **It should be looking at greater change, do research of greater global relevance**

► IISc was busy filing patents when it should be contributing more towards a new way of life. **The institute should behave like a corporate**

institute should contribute to a new way of life both in India and

elsewhere. It should take bigger strides."

Asking IISc's students and faculty to introspect, Tata said: "We should question ourselves every day as any good institute or corporate. Are we doing enough? Are we relevant enough? Can we do better? The greatest danger in any congregation is to say that we are at the pinnacle and we can do no better."

Tata's promise of a centenary gift to IISc in the form of a "substantial grant" is likely to come soon. Although Tata hasn't yet signed the cheque, Tata Trust is in talks with the institute to finalise the plan. "We're in discussion with the Tata Trust on creating a centre for inter-disciplinary activities at IISc. The focus is around a Centre for Biomedical Research. I hope such centre, when it is created, will lead to an integration of science, engineering and clinical research," said IISc director, Prof P Balaram.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Dec 16, 2010;Section: Times City;Page: 5;

HC notice on Jamia gold

medals: The Delhi high court on Wednesday issued notice to central government and Jamia Milia Islamia University on a PIL alleging irregularities in the gold medal distribution policy of JMI. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Manmohan sought response on a petition that was sent to it by a single judge who said it was fit to be taken up as a PIL. TNN



Pics: Samik Sen

A model of Delhi Metro

No rocket science, this!

An exhibition on Alfred Nobel saw students from schools of Delhi gaining lot of knowledge and information about science

Piyali Dasgupta | TNN

The purpose of the exhibition was not to blind these inquisitive students with science but to open up before them a world of revelation and wonder. Understandably, the exhibition whetted their appetite for scientific knowledge which was its primary objective. The Nobel Museum travelling exhibition titled 'Alfred Nobel-Networks of Innovation', presented by the Nobel Museum was recently inaugurated at the National Science Centre. More than 3,000 children from various schools in Delhi participated at the exhibition. Prominent among these were Kendriya Vidyalaya, Palwal, Sachdeva Public School, Rohini, Ryan International School, Rohini and Amity School, Vasundhara Enclave. The students also got a fairly good idea about Alfred Nobel and the society in which he lived and prospered.

"Unfortunately the Swedish ambassador couldn't make it to the event, as he had to leave for Sweden immediately," informed Sara Aulin, first secretary, commercial & cultural affairs. Instead, the lighting of the lamp was done by Matthias Lentz, deputy head,

embassy of Sweden in the presence of other dignitaries like GS Rautela, DG, National Council of Science Museums, R Zutshi, deputy managing director, Samsung India, Shivaprasad Khened, director of National Science Centre and Olov Amelin, director of Nobel Museum. Matthias Lentz who has recently joined the high commission and

been staying here in Delhi since August, said, "It has been a wonderful experience coming to India. This is my first visit to India and I have yet to travel to other parts of India."

"This is the second exhibition from the Nobel Museum, Sweden. The exhibition showcased the works of Alfred Nobel's life, his network of co-workers, how he built his industrial empire and finally how he got the idea to donate money for an international prize. The exhibition will be here in India for two months and will then travel to Malaysia, Japan and Dubai," informed Olov Amelin, director of Nobel Museum who was present at the inaugural function.

Speaking at the function, R Zutshi, deputy managing director, Samsung India, said, "We are indeed very proud to be associated with the Nobel Museum and National Science Centre to bring this exhibition in India which will serve as an inspiration for the young generation and reinforce the power of creativity and innovation, which constitutes the kernel of this exhibition."

The curator of the show, Ulf Larsson explained to us, "It took me almost a year to conceptualize the show. We had to do lot of research and gather all material to put together the show."

Shivaprasad Khened, director of National Science Centre also added, "It is a great opportunity for all students to get to know Alfred Nobel in a new way. The lecture series will definitely inspire a lot of young minds. We are soon planning to get six to seven scientists from India for an interaction with the students. This will inspire a lot of students who are studying Social Science, Science and Humanities. We are soon planning for another exhibition called 'greatest benefits of mankind'."

At the exhibition area one could see huge hoardings of noble laureates like Rudyard Kipling, Ronald Ross, Rabindranath Tagore, Mother Teresa, Amartya Sen among others.



Students trying out some new devices

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In a first, X-ray images of lightning captured

Researchers for the first time have captured X-ray images of lightning, a feat they hope will help them better predict how lightning behaves. A team from the Florida Institute of Technology and University of Florida launched small rockets into thunderclouds during the summer to trigger lightning. Using a special camera the size of a refrigerator, they recorded X-rays coming from the resulting light flashes before they hit the ground. Though the images are low-resolution, lead researcher Joseph Dwyer of Florida Tech said they give scientists a brand new way of looking at lightning — sort of what Superman would see.

Flu early on can keep asthma at bay:

A new study says that catching viruses, such as flu, at a young age could protect you from developing allergies like asthma later in life. The study by Harvard Medical School backs up the theory that modern children are too 'clean' for their own good as the immune system can over-react if it doesn't have enough viruses to fight, the Daily Mail reported. Early infections may 'prime' the immune system to prevent it over-reacting to allergy triggers later in life.

Brain picks a word in under 15 min:

Finding it hard to learn a foreign language? Fret not, for scientists claim that the human brain can pick up a new word in less than 15 minutes — all you need to do is listen to it 160 times over that period. And, after that the brain will have formed a whole new network of neurons specifically tasked with remembering that word. In fact, the process happens far quicker than previously thought, say the British scientists.

Ice volcano on giant Saturn moon?

Scientists said they have found the best evidence yet of ice volcanoes on Saturn's giant moon Titan. Unlike volcanoes on Earth, such a volcano on Titan may spew ice and hydrocarbons instead of molten lava. "We finally have some proof that Titan is an active world," said geophysicist Randolph Kirk of the US Geological Survey. The evidence comes from the international Cassini spacecraft, which spied two peaks over 3,000 feet tall.

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AIDS cure? Cancer treatment works miracle

Mix Of Chemotherapy, Radiation And Stem-Cell Transplants Helps Man Get Rid Of HIV Infection

Berlin: German researchers are reporting that they may have cured a man of HIV infection, using a mix of high-dose chemotherapy, radiation and stem-cell transplant.

If true, that would represent a scientific advance, but not necessarily a treatment advance, said researchers familiar with the work.

In the study, published last week online in the journal *Blood*, researchers at Charite-University Medicine here treated an HIV-infected man who also had acute myeloid leukemia—a can-

cer of the immune system—by wiping out his own immune system with high-dose chemotherapy and radiation and giving him a stem-cell transplant. Stem cells are immature cells that can mature into blood cells.

At the time of the transplant, which occurred in February 2007, the patient, in his 40s stopped taking anti-HIV drugs. Thirteen months later, after a relapse of the leukemia, he underwent a second round of treatment followed by another stem-cell transplant from the same donor, CNN reported.

The donor's stem cells contained a rare, inherited gene mutation that made them naturally resistant to infection with HIV, according to German experts, who treated a leukemia patient. They hypothesized that HIV would nevertheless rebound over time. But that has not happened, say reports

The donor's stem cells contained a rare, inherited gene mutation that made them naturally resistant to infection with HIV, according to the authors, led by Kristina Allers, who hypothesized that HIV would nevertheless rebound over time. But that

has not happened, the report said. After three-and-a-half years off of anti-HIV drugs, the patient shows no sign of either leukemia or HIV replication and his immune system has been restored to normal health, the researchers reported, concluding,

"our results strongly suggest that cure of HIV has been achieved in this patient."

But AIDS researchers predicted the report will have little impact on practice. "This probably is a cure, but it comes at a bit of a price," said Michael Saag, professor of medicine and director of the University of Alabama at Birmingham AIDS Centre.

"For him to receive the donor cells, his body had to have all of his immune system wiped out" and then receive a bone marrow transplant, Saag noted.

The treatment associated

with wiping out the immune system "is very hazardous," he said.

"Even if somebody doesn't die from a transplant, there are complications that make it very unpleasant for people to live with," he said, citing graft-versus-host disease, where the infused donor cells attack the body.

Further limiting the treatment's potential is the fact that it could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars for each patient, he said. "It's not going to be applicable unless they develop leukemia or lymphoma and need a bone-marrow transplant," Saag said. PH

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Univ goes to dogs to help students beat exam stress

Medford (Massachusetts): Tufts University is throwing stressed-out students a bone: therapy dogs to play with during their final exams.

Colleges have long extended library hours and offered extra counseling around test time. Now they're adopting quirky stress-fighting events for students, who face a tough job market in addition to finishing up the semester. From dog visits to free midnight massages to laser

tag, students are getting help navigating those last days before turning in final papers and taking finals.

"I hope these puppies make me happy and give me a nice break between studying ... just cut the studying a little bit," 19-year-old Tufts freshman Chloe Wong said on Tuesday, petting an Australian shepherd brought in by her resident director.

She called her first semester "challenging." But on Tuesday,



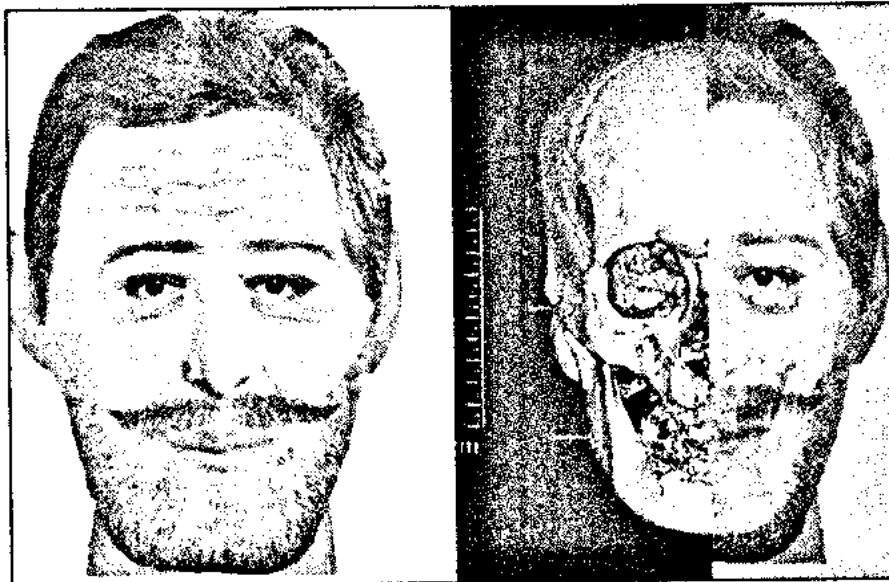
FRIEND IN NEED

the community health major got to relax and play with a set of dogs that resident director Michael Bliss brought in. They set down their books, laptops and e-readers for a chance to pet, feed and even chase the therapy animals. "Every college student has stress around finals," said Bliss, who came up with the idea of dog visits after participating in a similar program as an undergraduate at New York University. AP

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Identified: 400-yr-old mummy head belongs to French king Henry IV



AP

ROYAL MATCH: A reconstruction of the face of France's king Henry IV (L) and his skull with the reconstruction overlaid. After 9 months of tests, researchers in France identified his embalmed head, which disappeared during the French Revolution in 1793

Washington: A 400-year-old mummified head has been identified as that of French king Henry IV, whose body was mutilated by revolutionaries during a symbolic desecration of the tombs of the country's monarchs in 1793.

A team of multidisciplinary researchers, who carried out an extensive forensic examination of the mummified head and its inner parts, concluded that the head actually is of the beloved king as thought earlier.

The team, led by osteo-archaeologist Philipp Charlier of University Hospital R Poincare in Garches, compared the head with sculptures and portraits of

Henry, and digitally reconstructed the face.

The result was a dead ringer for the beloved king, the researchers said, adding that the same techniques could be used on the other mutilated remains of French royalty, LiveScience reported. The story of how Henry IV's head became the subject of a forensic investigation can be traced to 1589, when his predecessor, Henry III, was assassinated by a fanatical monk.

The head stayed in the hands of private collectors until recently. The mummified head was well-preserved, and the royal brain lay undisturbed inside the skull. PTI

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PVT VARSITIES MEET SIBAL TO MOOT NEED FOR ONE-YEAR MBA

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Indian students may soon have the option of pursuing government recognised one-year MBAs in their own country, if the human resource development ministry accepts a proposal mooted by an informal group of the country's top private universities.

The group of 17 private universities and deemed universities have requested HRD minister Kapil Sibal to allow one-year MBAs, currently not recognised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), government sources said. Most top B-schools globally have one-year MBA programmes.

The group, which includes many of the country's top B-schools other than the Indian Institutes of Management, met Sibal recently, and also requested that the government assist them financially, sources said.

Birla Institute of Technology (BITS) Pilani, BITS Messra, Xaviers Labour Research Institute Jamshedpur, Manipal University, TERI University, International Institutes of Information Technology in Hyderabad and Bangalore, Thapar University, Amrita University, Institute of Management Technology Ghaziabad Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Sciences (JBIMS) and SP Jain are in the group among other institutes.

XLRI, SP Jain and JBIMS are three of the most popular private universities for MBAs.

The AICTE, India's apex technical education regulator, at present recognizes only two-year MBA programmes.

However, the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, which offers a one-year programme, is increasingly becoming popular with Indian students and mid-career professionals seeking an MBA education. The ISB programme is not recognized by the government of India but is rated among the best globally. The Kellogg and Wharton schools of business support the ISB.

ILLEGAL APPOINTMENTS

MPs want health minister to step in to stop AIIMS assistant profs' promotion

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: As many as 18 Lok Sabha MPs across political parties have demanded health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad's intervention to bar the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) from promoting 150 assistant professors.

According to an AIIMS panel, these incumbents were appointed illegally. The premier medical institute was scheduled to hold the promotions on Wednesday, but the process has now been slated for Thursday.

Slamming the institute administration, Congress MP Jyoti Mirdha, who is a doctor by profession, has accused the

These appointments are arbitrary. No standard selection criteria followed.

JYOTI MIRDHA, Congress MP

AIIMS of flouting rules and contradicting its own stand in awarding promotions to faculty it accepted were appointed illegally.

Mirdha's views are particularly significant as she is a Parliament representative on the AIIMS Institute Body, the highest decision-making body of the medical school.

In her letters to Azad and to law minister M Veerappa Moily, Mirdha has also accused the

Merit was ignored. Also, constitutional provision of SC/ST reservation ignored.

AIIMS of violating the rights of Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and other backward classes (OBC) candidates.

"These appointments were totally arbitrary. No standard selection criteria was followed, merit was ignored and the constitutional provision of reservation for SC, ST and OBC candidates was completely bypassed," Mirdha said.

Moily has also written to

Azad, expressing concern over the proposed promotions.

In a separate representation to Azad, 17 MPs, including former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, have sought the minister's intervention.

AIIMS officials said they did not wish to speak because the case is being heard in the high court. The adhoc appointments were made between 1995 and 2003. Despite the Delhi HC rejecting the appeal of these teachers for regularisation, AIIMS awarded them permanent posts through a process Mirdha termed a "sham".

A panel set up under former Lok Sabha MP Karan Singh Yadav held the appointments illegal.

Kerala invites EoIs for education and healthcare city

Shubhra Tandon
Mumbai, Dec. 15

INKEL-KSIDC Projects Ltd (INKID), a company promoted by Infrastructures Kerala Ltd (INKEL) and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (KSIDC), plans to develop an education and a healthcare city on 182 acres of land close to Kozhikode (Calicut) International Airport.

INKID has invited expression of interest from national and international education and healthcare providers for the project in Malappuram district. Industry sources told *Business Line* that the State body has appointed consulting firm Ernst and Young as transaction advisor for the project. E&Y has already prepared an information memorandum for the project.

The official responsible for the project in Ernst and Young refused to speak to the media. Despite repeated attempts, investment details could not be obtained from the officials in the State body either.

SCOPE FOR HEALTHCARE

According to the memorandum on INKEL's Web site, with Malappuram district having the highest rate of morbidity and hospitalisation rate in Kerala, makes it an attractive destination for healthcare investment.

"Foreign remittances have played a key role in the con-

sumption behaviour of Malappuram as a district. Major diseases prevalent in the district are generally those associated with life-style and not with deprivation," says the document.

Relatively affluent lifestyle and increased affordability of healthcare services in Malappuram compared with other districts, create a demand-supply gap with "high potential for a super speciality hospital in the district," it said. The nearest such hospital is in Kochi.

Also, Kerala attracts about 23 per cent of foreign tourists visiting India for medical tourism. On an average, 15,000 medical tourists visit Kerala each year, primarily from West Asia, Maldives and some European nations. The State is expected to attract significant number of medical tourists from South Africa, the UK, Canada and Malaysia.

EDUCATION CITY

Regarding education city, the document states that Malappuram has limited higher education institutions creating wide mismatch between school education and higher education. However, it has the "best literacy rate in the State and the highest propensity to spend on higher education due to foreign remittance."

>>**More on the Web:**
www.businessline.in/webextras

Mail Today, ND

16-Dec-10

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Education rejig plan

THE task force on the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) made a presentation to the PM on Monday. Of the provisions in the NCHER report, the one for V-C selection for all universities, including state, through a national registry of eligible people has now been made optional. This was done following objections by states that they did not want the Centre encroaching upon their territory. The task force has also suggested including medical and legal education under the authority of NCHER.

Mail Today

Business Standard ND p-6 16/12/2010

Par panel favours more R&D academies

A parliamentary panel has asked the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to integrate as many laboratories as possible covering various departments and disciplines into the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) it plans to set up. The Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology has asked CSIR to ensure that the academy is "sufficiently broad-based" so as to include and utilise all national facilities and laboratories even if they fall within the jurisdiction of other scientific departments.

PTI

Asian Age, ND16-Dec-10 p-11

At Google Ventures' Startup Labs, search giant seeds future champs

ALEXEI ORESKOVIC

SAN FRANCISCO

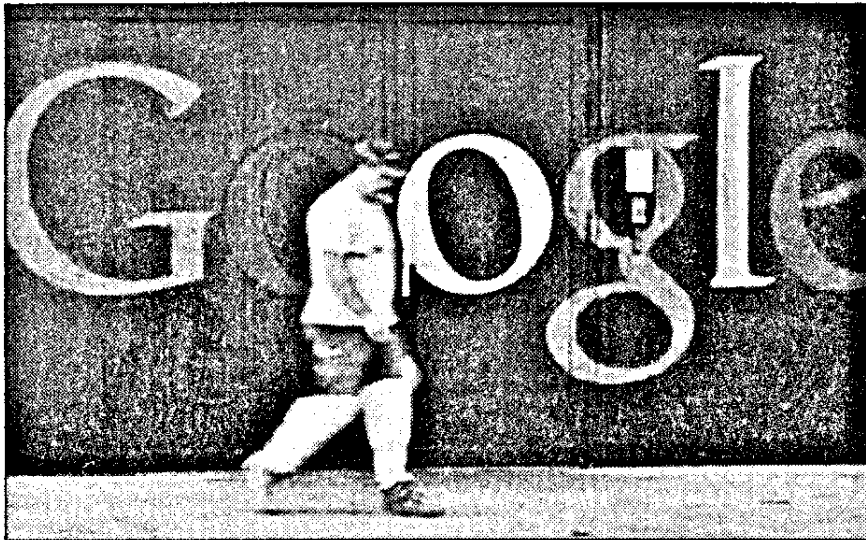
Dec. 15: A small team has toiled away since early October in a quiet corner of Google Inc's sprawling campus in Mountain View, CA on a project related to the discovery of human antibodies.

The group is not part of Google, and has nothing to do with Google's flagship Internet search business. But Google has provided the team — part of the secretive New Hampshire-based biotech company Adimab — with a workspace fitted with top-notch amenities, including high-speed Internet access, conference rooms, even a ping-pong table.

Adimab and four other companies are among the first tenants of the new Startup Lab managed by Google's venture capital arm.

The lab represents the latest expansion of Google Ventures, the search engine's \$100-million-a-year fund which launched in March 2009, providing Google with an opportunity to chase the big financial payoffs that can come with venture investing while helping it build ties to the fast-paced world of startups.

The on-campus lab is designed to let young companies funded by Google Ventures draw from the deep well of resources within the world's No. 1 Internet search company. Google staffers offer tips on anything from product design to recruiting, while also providing the startups with an instant Silicon Valley presence, said Bill Maris, managing partner of Google



A construction worker walks past a logo next to the main entrance of the Google building in Zurich

Ventures, in an interview at Google's headquarters earlier this month.

And with growing competition to fund the youngest, early-stage start-up companies, Google Ventures wants to set itself apart from other venture firms and angel investors.

"We plan to be very active in 2011 in the seed space," said Maris, referring to the funding of early-stage companies. "Startup Lab is an expression of that interest."

The 15,000-square foot facility can accommodate 100 to 120 people, and is composed of equipment that Maris and Google Ventures Partner David Krane pulled together over the summer. The pair found a vacant building owned by Google and furnished it with desks inherited from Google's acquisition of mobile ad firm AdMob.

The lab's 1-gigabyte broadband network is separate from Google's corporate

network so it can provide a layer of separation and privacy for the labs' tenants.

In addition to the five startups that use the lab, Google entrepreneur-in-residence Craig Walker, the former group product manager of Google Voice, has also set up shop with a small team as he develops a new company.

"We wanted to have a place where someone like Craig, or other talented entrepreneurs... maybe they don't even have a company yet; they just want a place to work," said Maris. At this point, Google Ventures does not plan to bring on further EIRs into the Startup Lab.

The lab's opening comes as Google's domination of the Web faces challenges from smaller rivals, like social networking companies Facebook and Twitter. Over the past year, several of Google's top engineers and executives have defected to Facebook. One such defector, Google Maps co-

creator Lars Rasmussen, said in a newspaper interview that it can be "very challenging" to work at a company the size of Google.

The Startup Lab underscores how Google, which has more than 23,000 employees worldwide, is seeking to wield its size as an asset to help it forge ties with entrepreneurs and startups.

"The Google calling card in Silicon Valley, it's the equivalent of a golden ticket at Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," said Tom Hale, the chief product officer of Austin-based HomeAway, which operates vacation rental sites like VRBO.com and is funded by Google Ventures.

HomeAway has one engineer working in the Google Ventures Startup Lab two to three weeks a month, and plans to station a small product development group at the site in the coming months.

Since moving in to the lab, HomeAway has worked

with Google on technical issues involving scaling the architecture of its Web properties. HomeAway is also seeking guidance from Google on how to manage a program that allows engineers to devote a portion of their work time to personal projects, similar to a well known Google policy that lets employees devote 20 percent of their time on other pursuits.

Google Ventures, which has grown from two partners in March 2009 to roughly 20 staffers today, has a small team of experts whose job is to help portfolio companies design their products. Google Ventures is also about to bring on its first full-time recruiter to help startups hire engineers.

The Startup Lab is different from other programs that combine mentoring and early-stage funding, like Y Combinator, he said. The plan, he said, is not to bring in a new batch of entrepreneurs every year and give them a set curriculum, but to provide an easy way for startups to take advantage of Google's resources.

Nor is Google Ventures turned off by the competition to fund early-stage companies, which has led some venture investors, like Marc Andreessen to declare that seed investing has become less attractive than it was a few years ago.

"Everyone kind of talks about this seed bubble and whatnot, but it doesn't enter our calculus when we're making our investment decision," said Maris. "A price isn't high or low, it's either fair or not. So maybe for a seed round or series A, the price seems high, but maybe it's deserved." — NYT

Mid Day ND 15.12.2010 P-5

VENUGOPAL'S LEGACY STILL HAUNTS AIIMS

16 MPs have raised objections to ad hoc appointments made by the former director of the institution



FM BACK: Dr P Venugopal taking charge after Supreme Court verdict ruled out the law that would have enabled premature retirement of the noted cardiologist as director of the prestigious institute. FILE PIC

ASTHA SAXENA

astha.saxena@mid-day.com

THE doctor may have left the building, but the side-effects are still being felt. Round 164 ad hoc appointments made by former director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Dr P Venugopal in his tenure are once again raising eyebrows. Sixteen members of parliament have written a complaint to Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad; one has also approached Law Minister M Veerappa Moily regarding the issue.

The institute is on the verge of recruiting those 164 assistant professors as associate professors. As per some AIIMS doctors, all the appointments are illegal.

"All of them have reached to this level by violating laws. The institute itself is violating the rules by recruiting these doctors," said a senior doctor on the condition of anonymity.

The appointments were made in 2003 when Venugopal was the dean of the institute. Then Union Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss and Venugopal were locked in battle since the anti-reservation agitation in 2006 at the Institute, which reportedly had the director's backing.

A five-member committee that was headed by Member of Parliament Karan Singh Yadav came to the conclusion that reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was also not properly implemented by the institute.

The letter to the health minister, a copy of which is with MiD

SOMETHING AMISS

The Centre has admitted in the Supreme Court that rules were "blatantly breached" by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the recruitment of 164 assistant professors in 2003 of whom about 84 have been promoted to associate professors.

Even the time spent by the assistant professors in other institutes, including outside the country, were counted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in promoting the faculty members, the Centre said in an affidavit filed before the apex court.

DAY, clearly mentions the flaws in the administration of the institute while making the appointments. It also mentions how the institute has been violating the rules for these appointees.

"The AIIMS administration appointed about 150 Assistant professors on ad hoc basis between 1995 and 2003 without following rules and regulations. These appointments were totally arbitrary. No standard selection criterion was followed, merit was ignored and the constitutional provisions of reservation for Scheduled caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) candidates were completely bypassed," the letter said.

Director of the institute, Dr RC Deka, was not available for comments.

मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय ने यूजीसी अध्यक्ष से स्पष्टीकरण मांगा

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) के अध्यक्ष सुखदेव थोरट से सेवानिवृत्ति से तीन महीने के भीतर सचिव की नियुक्ति करने के लिए उनसे स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने बताया कि थोरट को यह पत्र छह दिसंबर, 2010 को भेजा गया है। थोरट ने कहा, "वह इस पत्र को देखने के बाद ही कोई प्रतिक्रिया दे सकते हैं।" बाद में वह प्रतिक्रिया के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं हुए। पत्र में यूजीसी के अध्यक्ष

थोरट ने रिटायरमेंट से तीन महीने के भीतर सचिव की नियुक्ति की थी

को 2004 के उस नीतिगत निर्णय का हवाला दिया गया है जिसमें सेवानिवृत्ति से तीन महीने की अवधि में किसी स्वायत्त संस्थान के प्रमुख को नियुक्ति या पदोन्नति करने की मनाही की गई है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को कई सांसदों और शिक्षाविदों से थोरट के खिलाफ शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई थीं। इन शिकायतों में

कहा गया था कि थोरट ने आयोग में कथित तौर पर उपसचिव स्तर के अधिकारी को संयुक्त सचिव के रूप में पदोन्नत करने का प्रयास किया था जबकि वह फरवरी 2011 में सेवानिवृत्त हो रहे हैं। इसी तरह से उन्होंने सेवानिवृत्त होने से कुछ ही समय पहले आयोग में सचिव की नियुक्ति की जबकि पिछले कई वर्षों से यूजीसी में स्थायी सचिव कार्यरत नहीं था। सूत्रों ने बताया कि मंत्रालय ने अपने पत्र में थोरट से पूछा है कि इन वर्षों में आयोग में सचिव की नियुक्ति क्यों नहीं की गई। इसी संदर्भ में कुछ समय पहले थोरट की सिम्बायोसिस संस्थान को नोएडा में केंद्र खोलने की अनुमति देने के फैसले की भी काफी आलोचना हुई थी।

16/12/2010

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एमबीबीएस में एडमिशन के लिए खत्म होगा डोनेशन

मदन जैड़ा

नई दिल्ली

अगले सत्र से नए मेडिकल कालेजों के खुलने, सीटों में इजाफे और प्रवेश के लिए कॉमन एंट्रेस टेस्ट (सीईटी) आयोजित किए जाने से डाक्टरी में एडमिशन के लिए डोनेशन का सिलसिला खत्म हो जाएगा। मेडिकल कालेज मैनेजमेंट कोटे में एडमिशन के लिए छात्रों से डोनेशन नहीं ले पाएंगे क्योंकि मैनेजमेंट कोटा भी सीईटी की मेरिट से भरा जाएगा। दूसरे, पुराने कालेजों में सीटें बढ़ रही हैं। करीब 78 नए कालेज खुलने की कतार में हैं। इन सभी कालेजों में एडमिशन के लिए सिर्फ एक टेस्ट सीईटी होगा। इस बीच सुप्रीम कोर्ट से टेस्ट को हरी झंडी मिलने के बाद केंद्र सरकार ने राज्यों को सोच-विचार के लिए डेढ़ महीने का समय देते हुए अगले महीने 30 जनवरी को टेस्ट को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए राज्यों की बैठक बुलाई है।

एमसीआई के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के सदस्य डा. आर एन सलहन ने कहा चूंकि सीईटी में सभी कालेजों के एडमिशन को रेगुलेट किया जाएगा इसलिए कोई भी कालेज मैनेजमेंट कोटे में सीधे डोनेशन लेकर एडमिशन नहीं कर पाएगा।

मैनेजमेंट कोटे पर भी सीईटी की मेरिट पर सीट मिलेगी। इसलिए जो छात्र मेरिट में होगा वह निजी कालेजों को डोनेशन देने की गलती कभी नहीं करेगा। इसलिए सीईटी लागू होने से एमबीबीएस में डोनेशन की प्रवृत्ति रुकेगी। वैसे भी एमबीबीएस सीटों में इजाफे आदि से भी डोनेशन देकर एडमिशन का कारोबार अब ज्यादा नहीं चलने वाला है। निजी कालेजों में 15 फीसदी मैनेजमेंट कोटा होता है जिसमें एडमिशन के लिए 10-15 लाख रुपये वसूले जाते हैं।