

# Newspaper Clips

## December 5, 2010

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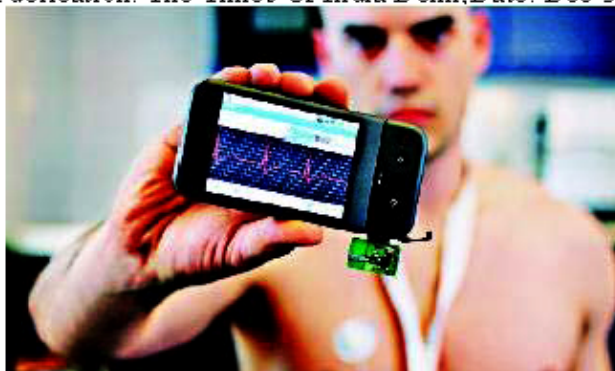
### 90% of Delhi's population not vaccinated against hepatitis B

New Delhi: Ninety per cent of Delhi's population is not yet vaccinated against hepatitis B, which kills more people than HIV/AIDS, Delhi health minister Kiran Walia said on Saturday. "Hepatitis, despite being as perilous as HIV, receives inadequate attention in India. It is a man-made disease and infection rate of hepatitis is higher in adults and is more likely to be chronic in infants and young children," Walia said.

According to estimates from the UNAIDS 2009 AIDS Epidemic Update, around 31.3 million adults and 2.1 million children were living with HIV at the end of 2008. Hepatitis is five times more prevalent than HIV. The health minister was speaking at the inauguration of Hepatitis B Awareness Camp at Institute of

Liver and Biliary Sciences, Vasant Kunj. Hepatitis should be given as much importance as HIV and more awareness should be created about Yellow Ribbon Campaign, which aims to disseminate information about hepatitis among the masses, Walia said. To achieve this goal, she said, "Children should be inspired to spread awareness about hepatitis." Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver wherein this organ gets inflamed caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). Acute infection with hepatitis B usually does not require treatment. In rare cases, however, the infection may cause life-threatening liver failure and such patients are evaluated for liver transplantation. Vaccination against this disease is effective and safe. **PTI**

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Now you can view your ECG on your Android phone

## Health by hi-tech

Kavita Kukday-Deb

**P**icture this. A microchip inside your diabetes pill wirelessly tells the doctor exactly when you last had your medication and what your blood sugar level is. Sounds far-fetched? On the contrary. Wireless technology is increasingly helping to keep people healthier. Here are some technological advances that might just revolutionize health care...

**Smart pills and sensors** | On October 6, Proteus Biomedical ([www.proteusbiomed.com](http://www.proteusbiomed.com)) launched ingestible sensors to help doctors monitor the effect of a pill on a patient's body. When the silicon and metal sensor inside the tablet comes in contact with fluids in the stomach, it turns itself 'on' and transmits a faint radio signal. This is picked up by a small receiver patch attached to the skin and records the date and time the pill was ingested, the type of drug in it and dosage. This data can be sent to your doctor on a regular basis.

**Smart bottles** | GlowCap Connect ([www.vitalitynet](http://www.vitalitynet)) is ideal for the forgetful patient because it ensures you take your pills on time. It has a smart screw-on cover, with sensors and a wireless transmitter, for medicine bottles.

The cap can be programmed in order that it flashes automatically when it's time for a dose. If the patient ignores that, the bottle emits a sound alert half-an-hour later – and un-

like the flashing light, this won't stop until the cap is unscrewed. The smartest medicine bottle in the world can also be programmed to make automated calls to a home telephone number as a dosage reminder.

**Modem band aid** | Gone are the days when medicated adhesive tape was about tending to cuts and bruises and nothing more. Nowadays, many companies such as Sotera Wireless ([www.soterawireless.com](http://www.soterawireless.com)) are developing 'smart tape' technology that collates data and sends it to doctors. These include heart rate, perspiration, body position and even blood pressure. The tape communicates with a gateway, just like a smartphone does, using Bluetooth and 3G networks.

**Matters of the heart** | Remote ECG's have been around for a while, but Corventis PiiX ([www.corventis.com](http://www.corventis.com)) has made the first wireless remote monitoring sensor that will ping your doctor as soon as it detects a heart problem. It's the size of a pack of gum and can be worn under the clothes. There's also a low-power mobile heart-monitoring system developed by the Imec and Holst Centre ([www.holstcentre.com](http://www.holstcentre.com)) which lets the patient view an ECG on an Android phone.

**And the others** | Then there are companies which have specialized smartphone apps such as AirStrip OB that enable obstetricians to view foetal and maternal heart rates. Intel is studying wireless devices for the elderly. 'Magic carpet', for example, has embedded sensors and records the weight, angle and pressure of the patient's steps and prevents falls.





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# RAGGING HORRORS don't end with India

The 'traditional' practice is just as bad in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines

Shobha John | TNN

**O**n November 30, eight students of Pune's College of Agriculture were arrested for ragging four freshers over a six-week period. The arrests came just days after four medical students were sentenced to four years of rigorous imprisonment for ragging Aman Kachroo, which led to his death, in 2009. Ragging has become every Indian parent's nightmare — the lurking fear of serious injury and/or a wounded psyche. In the name of bonding, students are baited or bullied. But it's not unique to India.

It exists elsewhere under different names — hazing or bullying. American Hank Nuwer has written several books on hazing. In an email exchange with TOI, he describes it as "often the wish for a rite of passage (which) can manifest itself in paddling, sexual assaults and deaths from alcohol." Nuwer says the first hazing death in a US college was in 1873.

Where does India stand on the pan-Asian ragging index?

Pretty high, says Harsh Agarwal, co-founder of Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education, a Delhi-based NGO. The worst offenders in Asia are Sri Lanka, Japan, India and Indonesia. Nuwer agrees, adding that the Philippines has recently suffered especially violent ragging. "Deaths in the Philippines in the last few years have been especially brutal with corpses lumped to avoid detection," he says.

In Sri Lanka, there is a clear link between politics and ragging. "Almost all student unions are run by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a political party," says Dr Anoma Abayaratne, dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya, which is notorious for ragging.

One of Peradeniya's worst cases had a fresher jumping off the second floor of the university hostel to avoid ragging. She became paralysed, and later committed suicide. Abhayaratne admits ragging has been a part of university life for at least 30 years, but has become a harassment only recently. "Students aren't allowed to dress, eat or think as they want. Last year, for the first time, a student who was severely ragged, logged a police complaint. But



he was ostracized by fellow students. The government has passed a powerful anti-ragging Act but it wasn't implemented till recently," she says. Abhayaratne says an anti-ragging website, started by students, has had some impact.

**ASIA MINOR:** Mary Cherian, a child development consultant in Jakarta, told STOI that bullying starts from kindergarten. "Recently, a five-year-old girl bullied her schoolmates into sitting on certain seats in the bus. In international schools, Indians and Koreans are the bullies. Often, fathers of bullies admire the trait in their children," says Cherian.

Dr Valson Thampu, principal of Delhi's St Stephen's College, says ragging takes place "when human dignity is not valued and children are not seen as incomparable assets. Any kind

## REPORT CARD

Calls received by the national anti-ragging helpline from August to October this year

Andhra Pradesh	7
Bihar	10
Delhi	4
Gujarat	2
Haryana	6
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Karnataka	10
Kerala	5
Madhya Pradesh	13
Maharashtra	16
Orissa	18
Punjab	14
Rajasthan	8
Tamil Nadu	10
Uttar Pradesh	65
West Bengal	32

of slight undermines the self-respect of an individual. Ragging is not just bodily harm, it's psychological too."

Last year, a student at Thailand's Rajamangala Tawan-ok University of Technology was forced to eat ink-stained paper and chillies. Some 75 senior students were suspended. Sompong Sheethaisong, the dean, reportedly said he had done everything he could to stop the ritual, "but deep down, I have no idea how to end this problem." In Malaysia's Royal Military College, a student was kicked in the stomach and died in June.

**THE INDIAN STORY:** Despite a ban on ragging, it continues in small towns. In Jaipur, Ashok Karol, a first-year student of Subodh College, was stabbed to death in a classroom in 2008. No action was taken. MS Poonia, chief proctor, Rajasthan University, admits that the perpetrators of

ten get away because "the Supreme Court has only issued guidelines to curb ragging, there is no separate law."

Observers say Kanpur is like the Wild West for the college freshman. On September 14, three students of Government Polytechnic Institute in Nawabganj were booked for assaulting two freshers with leather belts and bricks. District magistrate Mukesh Meshram has threatened the immediate arrest of anyone caught ragging but this has not been much of a deterrent. Educationist Mini Swaroop says colleges need to get more pro-active with a consistent display of anti-ragging posters.

Rajendra Kachroo, father of Aman who was ragged to death, says the authorities need to follow up on complaints and punish the guilty. That's the only way to show ragging will not be tolerated, says the bereaved father. "There should be a central control system to catalyze individual colleges to act. The UGC has failed in this regard. Ragging is a human rights abuse."

In Tamil Nadu, and especially Coimbatore, ragging takes on a peculiarly insular air because "outsiders" are ragged severely. One of the worst cases was the severe beating administered to Abdul Latheef, a Malayalee engineering student in Tirunelveli, in Tamil Nadu. He lost an eye.

So is there anywhere in India that's better? Bangalore has just stray cases, claims H Maheshappa, vice-chancellor of the Visvesvaraya Technological University.

**A LIKELY SOLUTION:** St Stephen's says it's had no ragging in two years. Freshers are given the phone number of the principal and everyone on St Stephen's anti-ragging committee. Hostels have block tutors who help ease the initiation process. In fact, Thampu says there is reverse ragging. "Even a gentle, social conversation by a senior makes freshers panicky. My advice to seniors is: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Rajendra Kachroo is hopeful there will be no ragging in India three to four years from now. But the jury is out on that one.

WITH REPORTS FROM SHOEB KHAN IN JAIPUR, FAIZ RAHMAN SIDDIQUI IN KANPUR, SRUTHY ULLAS IN BANGALORE AND D SURESH KUMAR IN CHENNAI

## DROPOUT TREND

# AIIMS lets PG seats go waste

**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Close to 30% students admitted to postgraduate courses at AIIMS this year have quit to take up seats in preferred courses at other institutes, wasting dozens of seats at the country's premier medical school.

Their decision to opt out of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences exposes the holes in its admission policy and raises questions about its failure to

act on Supreme Court norms.

A total of 138 students have quit PG programmes since 2008 with the numbers rising each year, data provided by AIIMS under the Right to Information Act reveals. Of the 240 admitted this year, 70 have quit. The numbers for 2009 were 37 out of the 180 who were admitted, and for 2008, 31 out of 160.

A cross-section of students who quit, when interviewed by HT, were unanimous in declaring that they left AIIMS to join

more sought-after streams of medicine at other institutions.

"AIIMS admissions are in January, before the other schools. I took a low preference course I got into, stayed in the hostel and earned a stipend till I got admission in my course of choice at JIPMER, Pondicherry," said one student, requesting anonymity because the Supreme Court has asked the Medical Council of India to take action against such students.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

## AIIMS wastes PG seats

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

"It is a matter of huge concern for us. But quite frankly, there is no easy solution," an AIIMS administrator said.

Students who have challenged the AIIMS admission policy in the top court are questioning why it is not acting to stop this wastage of seats.

Instead of punishing the guilty students, as directed by the court, AIIMS is practising a principle that violates another

SC order. It claims it transfers vacated seats to the next round of admissions but the SC has rejected such transfer of seats across academic sessions, arguing that it leads to an effective intake higher than that sanctioned by regulators.

The institute held open counseling sessions till last year. But it withdrew its open counseling this July without any explanation, after announcing it, despite high vacancies.

## Business Line ND 5/12/2010

P-2

# Soon, a museum of Indian business history at IIM-K

### Our Bureau

Kozhikode, Dec. 4

The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) is embarking on an ambitious project to set up a Museum of Indian Business History to acknowledge the contribution of the country's business leaders in the making of corporate India.

### OBJECTIVE

The museum will house business-related historical artefacts, objects, sculptures, models, photographs, documents and illustrations, among other things. The objective is to "inspire aspiring business entrepreneurs in the country and show them the path to success through innovative ideas, diligence and perseverance."

According to Prof. Debashis Chatterjea, Director, IIM-K, it was the endeavour of the institute to consolidate and conserve the invaluable memorabilia of India's business history for posterity. He wished that corporates would participate in the making of the museum by contributing significant historical objects and artefacts for which due acknowledgement would be attributed to the

organisation.

IIMK has requested around 100 CEOs and leaders of major business houses, including the Tatas, Ambanis and Birlas, for their contributions to the museum, which will be formally inaugurated on its Foundation Day in 2011.

The initial investment for the project is estimated at Rs 1 crore.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

As for the kind of contributions the institute is looking at, he said this could include, for instance, an original letter written by JRD Tata or a pen used by him.

The institute would preserve and showcase these artefacts.

Earlier, IIM-K had created an endowment to commemorate management guru Prof. C.K. Prahalad. The institute is expecting to generate Rs 1 crore in the endowment fund this year to promote the values that he stood for. The proposal for the museum comes close on the heels of the institute becoming a Centre of Excellence in Academic Leadership as part of the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative (SOKI), an academic leadership programme with Yale University.

Dainik Bhaskar ND p-16  
05/12/2010

# आईआईटी छात्र को फेसबुक से मिला 70 लाख का पैकेज!

एजेंसी. चेन्नई/मुंबई

आईआईटी-खड़गपुर के एक छात्र ने दावा किया है कि सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट 'फेसबुक' ने उसको अमेरिका में एक पद पर नियुक्ति के लिए 70 लाख रुपए के पैकेज का ऑफर दिया है। इस छात्र ने अपना असली नाम नहीं बताया है।

'डीकेएस' नामक इस छात्र का कहना है कि उसकी फेसबुक वाल पर फेसबुक की ओर से पोस्ट मिली है जिसमें यह पेशकश की गई है। वह आईआईटी-खड़गपुर में स्कूल ऑफ कंप्यूटर साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग का छात्र है और 2011 में यहां से स्नातक होकर निकलेगा। जमशेदपुर निवासी डीकेएस ने दावा किया है कि उसे इसोप्स (कंपनी के शेयर) की भी पेशकश की गई है और इसे मिलाकर उसका फुल वेतन पैकेज 1.7 करोड़ रुपए सालाना हो जाएगा।