

Newspaper Clips

January 2, 2011

Business Line ND 2.1.2011

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2011 Is Year of Chemistry

Bangalore, Jan 1

Indian scientists, research scholars and students on Saturday began celebrating 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) for the achievements and contributions made by this important branch of science to the well-being of humankind. "The new year will be celebrated as the IYC in line with the resolution adopted by the 63rd general assembly of the United Nations in December 2008, with Unesco and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) organising the year-long event," eminent scientist C.N.R. Rao said, inaugurating the celebrations at the premier Indian Institute of Science here. The year also coincides with the centenary year of the Nobel Prize for chemistry to Marie Curie (1867-1934) for her discovery of radioactivity. — **IANS**

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50% must in Class XII for engg aspirants

Bharat Yagnik | TNN

Ahmedabad: If you are a Class XII (science) student, you will have to score at least 50% marks to be eligible to apply to any engineering or pharmacy college. The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) in its approval process handbook 2011-12 released online has said that minimum qualification for admission to engineering and pharmacy colleges will be 50% marks.

This eligibility qualification is expected to have a huge bearing on students pursuing science stream in Gujarat who were so far eligible for admission in engineering and pharmacy courses at 35%, the minimum pass marks. This also means that irrespective of students' score in Gujarat Common Entrance Test (Gujcet), the students in the state will have to score an aggregate of 50% in physics and maths as compulsory subjects along with chemistry and biology.

The new eligibility criteria will also impact engineering and pharmacy colleges in the state considering that of the 39,000 existing seats, this year only 19,000 seats were filled by students who had scored 50% and above marks. The rest 20,000 who had secured admission in these professional courses had scored less than 50%.

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US univ banishes Google, Facebook as verbs

Boston: This story might be epic, and could even go viral, but not if Lake Superior State University has anything to do with it. Just saying.

The small college in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, released on Friday its annual list of 'banished words' — terms so overused, misused and hackneyed they deserve to be sent to a permanent linguistic trash can in the year ahead. Facebook and Google may be impossible for most of those hooked to the internet, and yet both words as verbs stand banished in the popular word list that rolls out on New Year.

'Viral,' often used to describe the rapid spreading of videos or other content over the internet, leads the list for 2011. "This linguistic disease of a term must be quarantined," Kuahmel Allah of Los Angeles said in making a nomination. Runners-up included 'epic'

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and 'fail,' often twinned to describe a blunder of monumental proportions.

A total of 14 words were on the list. Cliched terms such as 'wow factor,' 'aha moment,' 'back story' and 'BFF' (Best Friends Forever) rated highly.

Previous winners and nominees include the terms "shovel ready" for 2010, "battleground states" for 2005, "24/7" for 2000 and "family values" for 1995. **REUTERS**

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DRUNKEN RAGE: IT IS IN YOUR GENES

Extreme anger or impulsiveness after consuming alcohol could be because of one's DNA build up

A new study may finally explain why some people transform from a pacific state to blind rage under the influence of alcohol.

The researchers found that a single DNA change that blocks a gene known as HTR2B causes people to act aggressive when drunk. It affects serotonin production and detection in the brain.

"Carriers of the HTR2B variant who had committed impulsive crimes were male, and all of them had become violent only while drunk from alcohol, which itself leads to behavioural disinhibition," said Dr

e-paper

David Goldman of National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism in Maryland, USA.

In the volunteers the team studied, the researchers found that violent crimes committed by individuals were spontaneous. They found the association with HTR2B gene and then conducted studies in mice. When the equivalent gene is knocked out or turned off, mice also become more impulsive.

"Impulsivity is a factor in many pathological behaviours including suicide, aggression, and addiction," said Goldman.

ANI

Business Standard ND 2.Jan 2011

Barnes & Noble: e-books take lead in online sales

REUTERS

New York, 1 January

Barnes & Noble said that sales of digital books made through its website now exceed those of traditional books that it sells online.

Barnes & Noble, which introduced its Nook electronic reader last year to compete with Amazon.com Inc's Kindle, said customers bought or downloaded 1 million e-books via the Nook on Christmas Day.

A spokeswoman for Barnes & Noble said that figure included free e-books, but that most were paid downloads.

Barnes & Noble, which put itself up for sale last sum-

mer, is under pressure to show that its share of the e-books market is growing fast enough to mitigate a longstanding industry-wide decline in book sales. Barnes & Noble says it has a 20 per cent share of the e-books market.

The top US bookseller also said the various versions of the Nook devices were now its best-selling product, echoing claims earlier this week by Amazon that the most recent version of the Kindle was its bestselling item ever.

Both companies do not divulge exact sales figures. The sales numbers compare the devices to items within a category, such as individual books or CDs, rather than any category as a whole.

Financial Exp ND 2 Jan 2011 P-1

Online sellers open windows to the Web with discount sales

Investors take note as budding online retailers attract youngsters to the Web with discounted food & beverage vouchers, party plans and cruises

Vishakha Talreja

New Delhi, Jan 1: Window(s) shopping has got a whole new meaning this holiday season? where shoppers are logging on to snatch the best deals. And if you were thrilled at your favourite stores offering a flat 50% off, there are better deals available on the Net on a host of websites, which offer up to 80% discount, besides, of course, the comfort of shopping from home.

Lucknow resident Harshita Singh's Christmas gift came from one such website? a D&G watch at a whopping discount, and that, too, delivered right at her doorstep.

For 25-year-old Delhiite Vivek Khaitan, some online shopping saved him from a dull New Year. He not only managed party vouchers to a popular pub at a 40% discount, but also access to the VIP lounge.

It's early days, but clearly the new-age

e-commerce sites using discounts as arsenal are gaining traction with both investors and consumers. While Fashion and You raised \$9 million from Sequoia Capital early this month, last month Accel India Venture Fund and Helion Advisors invested \$2.8 million in Exclusively.in. Some others such as 99 Labels are close to raising private capital.

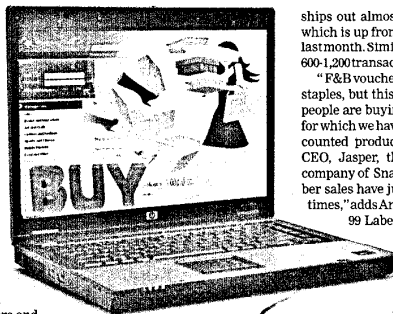
Most of these sites are not

more than a year old and have made the best use of their first year-end sales.

INSIDE STORY

A look at the number of members and transactions that these websites are registering gives an idea about the increasing online pie, though most sites are reluctant to share their turnover figures as they are privately held.

Deals and You claims to have a trans-



action every minute, and claims to have a pool of 6 lakh members. Similarly, SnapDeal claims it adds 10,000 new members everyday to its subscriber base of one million. Fashion and You

ships out almost 2,000 products a day, which is up from 1,500 a day average of last month. Similarly, 99 Labels boasts of 600-1,200 transactions per day.

"F&B vouchers and spa deals are our staples, but this festive season, a lot of people are buying products too online, for which we have introduced many discounted products," says Kunal Bahl, CEO, Jasper, the Delhi-based parent company of SnapDeal. "For us, December sales have jumped three and a half times," adds Anchal Jain, co-founder of 99 Labels. Here is a sample of what's clicking with online stores: Deals and You says that in the past one month, it has sold more than 107 New Year cruises (price

ranging between Rs.6,000 and Rs.23,000), more than 500 parties at popular lounge and bars in the metros and around 500 spa vouchers. SnapDeal recently sold 1,000 watches in a day at one-seventh the market price. Another of its sold out deals has been of the Rs.99 car servicing facility by Carnation (a Jagdish Khattar company). At the same time, on portals such as Fashion and You and 99 Labels, perfumes and watches are selling like hot cakes this season.

The portals point out that it's mostly youngsters who are buying on these websites as they offer entertainment options, as well as brands, at discounted prices. "The average age of our consumer is 26 years," says Gaurav Kachru, CEO of Deals and You.

And if you thought only residents of metro cities are buying online, think again - For both 99 Labels and Fashion and You, 35% of their orders come from non-metros.

"To our surprise, we have orders coming from places such as

ONLINE HOT SPOTS

- Deals and You
- Fashion and You
- SnapDeal
- 99 Labels
- MyDala
- Exclusively.in
- Taggle
- Brandmille

Bhubaneswar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Guwahati, Jammu and Lucknow. Sites like ours are making luxury brands more accessible, as most of the brands don't have stores in non-metros," says Pearl Uppal, CEO of Fashion and You.

At the same time, these websites are grappling with bottlenecks too, such as low Internet penetration, fewer credit card users and the fact that people in India still prefer to 'touch and feel' a product before buying it.

"Right now in India, e-commerce is gaining popularity because of the price factor, but as the medium evolves, people will order online for the convenience factor too," says Bahl of Jasper.

Hindu ND 2 Jan 2011 p-9

Nod for two new AMU centres

Staff Reporter

ALIGARH: Aligarh Muslim University has clarified that the President in her capacity as the Visitor of the University has approved in principal establishment of two new centres at Malappuram and Murshidabad in term of sub-section (2) of the Section 12 of the University Act.

Two courses -- MBA and BA-LLB -- with an intake of 60 students each are proposed to be started for the

2010-11 academic session at both these centres.

Aligarh Muslim University further clarified that there are separate provisions of funds for the Malappuram (Kerala) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) centres.

UGC grants

"The University Grants Commission has already released a sum of Rs. 35 crore for the establishment of these centres on March 31, 2010, with a break-up of

Rs.25 crore for the Murshidabad centre and Rs.10 crore for the Malappuram centre. A sum of Rs.9 lakh has been released on December 13, 2010, in favour of 'University Librarian' to purchase books and journals for the Malappuram centre as per the university library purchase rules," an AMU release said.

University officials further clarified that there has never been a proposal to transfer books and journals

from the Maulana Azad Library to the newly-established centres. No book will be transferred in future as well.

"The University has not transferred any funds for the establishment of the two centres other than specific funds allocated by the UGC for this purpose. All expenses will be incurred from the specified fund allocated for the establishment of these two centres," the statement clarified.

Hindu ND 2 JAN 2011 P- 11

MCI suggests major reforms in undergraduate course

Recommends doubling intake of medical students to meet doctors' shortage

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The Medical Council of India (MCI) has recommended major reforms in the undergraduate course in medicine by converting conventional education into a competency-based module to develop skilled doctors through early clinical exposure. It has also suggested doubling the intake of medical students to meet the healthcare needs of the country in the coming years.

Pointing out that the current undergraduate curriculum in medicine did not make an MBBS degree holder feel equipped with adequate skills and competence to take care of the common problems at the secondary and tertiary level, the Undergraduate Education Working Group has said this factor also prevents young doctors from going to practice in the rural and primary health centres. The goal of training is not focused on providing health

• **The curriculum should be made efficient by removing what is outdated**

• **Each medical college should be linked to the local health system**

care to the needy and the disadvantaged, the eight-member working group has said in its report.

Distance education

It recommends options for distance education towards a fellowship or diploma in areas such as diabetic care, HIV medicine, geriatric medicine, hospital infection control, hospital management, and inclusion of medical ethics, forensic medicine and hospital infection control in the regular curriculum.

According to the report, the current intake of medical colleges and the critical mass of doctors would have to be doubled if India had to achieve the world average doctor-population ratio of

1.5:1000 by 2031 as against the present 1:1700.

Taking into consideration the existing medical colleges in the country, it was felt that the current intake of medical colleges and the critical mass of doctors should be doubled to achieve this target.

At present, there are 330 medical colleges with an intake of approximately 35,000 and with the present intake the shortfall of doctors by 2031 is estimated at 9.54 lakh.

To offset this, the report has suggested increasing the intake in the medical colleges wherever there is adequate infrastructure of teachers, equipment and clinical load and to augment infrastructure in relation to clinical load by attaching established

medical colleges to district-level hospitals or secondary hospitals run by government agencies; upgrading existing larger district hospitals and augmenting their infrastructure to become community medical colleges through private-public partnership or public-private partnership and starting new medical colleges and hospitals preferably in States and underserved areas with doctors and medical colleges.

Clinical training

Chaired by George Mathew, Principal of the Christian Medical College, Vellore, the group stressed the need for restructuring the MBBS course with a four-year course and six months elective with a one-year internship. Clinical training should be included from the first year itself.

The past curricular revisions have mostly added to the existing content without undertaking the exercise to

remove what is obsolete and outdated. This exercise needs to be taken up in a detailed and extensive manner and make the curriculum as efficient as possible, the report has said. It has to be discipline-based curriculum and lack of integration between basic and laboratory science and clinical medicine should be addressed.

It goes on to add that each medical college should be linked to the local health system, including Community Health Centres, taluka hospitals and primary health care centres that can be used as training base for medical students.

The Working Group was set up in July last year to evolve a roadmap for medical education in India and to evolve a broad policy on the duration and curricular changes that could be adopted as future strategies to make medical education in India comparable to global standards.

HINDU ND 2 JAN 2011 P-12

DRDO working on system to cut submarine vulnerability

First it plans a land-based demonstrator

S. Anandan

KOCHI: Work is apace at the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Naval Materials Research Laboratory at Ambernath in Maharashtra on developing a land-based prototype plug, and subsequently an engineered, operational version of an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system that will significantly cut the 'indiscretion rate' of diesel and electric submarines.

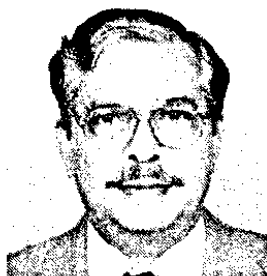
The 'indiscretion rate' is the percentage of time a submarine spends snorting when it is most vulnerable.

By eliminating the need for conventional submarines to frequently resurface for recharging batteries by breathing in air, it would considerably enhance their sub-surface endurance.

Talking to *The Hindu* here recently, J. Narayana Das, DRDO's Chief Controller, Research and Development (Naval Systems, Materials and Human Resources), said the Navy was satisfied with the DRDO's proposal. "We are first having a land-based demonstrator. And, as we progress, we will concurrently start an engineered version because engineering anything for a submarine platform is a completely different ballgame."

(Incidentally, *The Hindu* has learnt from sources in the Navy that it has asked the DRDO to come up with a fully engineered fuel cell AIP by 2014 for possible use in the last two of the six Scorpene submarines being built in Mumbai's Mazagaon Dock. The Navy has also given sanction for the land-based prototype AIP in August this year.)

Asked about the recent of-



• An engineered, operational version will be developed concurrently

• Hydrogen will be developed when it is needed

fer of French defence major DCNS to install its MESMA AIP in the last two Scorpenes, Mr. Das said he wouldn't want to commit on the platform that would have the indigenous AIP fitted. "It depends on which platform will be ready and which will come in then."

With the Navy

"We are working in tandem with the Navy as we don't have any other customer for the project. It will be ready in four to five years from now. The technology development is going on, and at an appropriate time, we will start marination and engineering for submarine quality. We are going to have industrial partners with us... Whatever we install will be on an operational submarine," Mr. Das said.

Safety ensured

Explaining the technologies available for improving the sub-surface endurance of conventional submarines, he said the AIP being developed

by the DRDO also ensured a higher level of safety to the submarine.

"In our technology, we generate hydrogen online on an as-needed basis. If you need more hydrogen when you are going fast, you produce more hydrogen and if you need less hydrogen, you produce less of it. The policy is 'do not store hydrogen on board,' which ensures a higher level of safety to the platform. Also, we use fuel cells of a different type — phosphoric acid fuel cells — as they can tolerate slightly impure hydrogen. This is because when you produce hydrogen on board, you cannot have very pure hydrogen whereas other companies making fuel cell-based AIP are using PEM (proton exchange membrane) fuel cell, which necessitates hydrogen to be of 'five-nines' quality, meaning 99.999 percent pure," he said.

More hydrogen needed

"The AIP developed by the DCNS, on the contrary, worked on combustion of fuel using a steam turbine and producing electricity," Mr. Das said. "Some other companies are using fuel cells themselves. They keep hydrogen stored on board. But if you want to be underwater for longer durations, you need larger quantities of hydrogen. Oxygen is required, but both systems use oxygen which is stored as [cryogenic] liquid oxygen.... And when you talk of a submarine's power system, the hydrogen you need is in the order of a couple of tonnes. Further, it has to be carried either in metal hydrides or in compressed cylinders. But high-pressure hydrogen is a potential explosive hazard."