

## Newspaper Clips

January 28, 2011

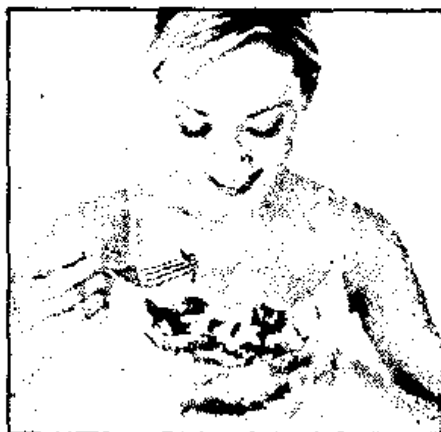
Times of India ND 28/01/2011 P-21

# Common food bug ups risk of heart diseases

**London:** Some variants of the common food bug, called *Listeria monocytogenes*, appear to have an enhanced ability to increase the risk of serious heart diseases, a new study has claimed.

Researchers at the University of Illinois, Chicago, found that some deadly strains of the bug are "uniquely adapted" to invade heart tissues of people with pre-existing heart problems, or who have had heart valve replacements. In a study on mice, the scientists discovered that the animals infected with the strains had up to 15 times more bacteria in their hearts than those exposed to other forms of *Listeria*.

The findings, the researchers said, could help develop new ways of identify-



**CHEW ON THIS:** The bacteria is found in a wide range of foods like cheese, cold meat products, fish, salads & unpasteurised milk

ing the strains and protect those most at risk, the Daily Mail reported. *Listeria monocytogenes* is widespread in the environment, living in soil and vegetation, and exists harmlessly in the

the guts of at least 5% of healthy people. According to the researchers, the bacteria has an unusual ability to grow in low temperatures and can be found in a wide range of foods including soft cheeses, cold meat products, raw vegetables, fish, salads and unpasteurised milk.

*Listeria* infections may cause nothing worse than flu-like symptoms and a upset stomach or lead to serious illness involving the blood and nervous system. Research showed some *Listeria* strains had modified surface proteins which helped them home in on the heart. The scientists are now working on developing diagnostic tests based on bacterial genetic markers. **PTI**

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## Body clock is similar in humans, algae

**London:** An Indian-origin scientist at the University of Cambridge has led a study identifying the mechanism that controls the internal 24-hour clock of all forms of life from human cells to algae.

Not only does the research by Akhilesh Reddy provide important insight into health-related problems linked to individuals with disrupted clocks — such as pilots and shift workers — it also indicates the 24-hour circadian clock found in human cells is the same as that found in algae and dates back millions of years to early life on Earth.

Two studies give insight into the circadian clock which controls patterns of daily and seasonal activity, from sleep cycles to butterfly migrations. One study has for the first time identified 24-hour rhythms in red blood cells. Another study found a similar 24-hour cycle in marine algae, indicating internal body clocks are important even for ancient forms of life. ■■

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# Now, plants to look for explosives at airports

Kirk Johnson

**Denver:** Could airport security gardens be the wave of the future? ("Please have photo ID and boarding pass ready and walk past the rhododendrons.") How about a defensive line of bomb-sniffing tulips in Central Park in New York, or at the local shopping mall's indoor waterfall, or lining the streets of Baghdad?

Researchers at Colorado State University said Wednesday that they had created the platform for just such a plant-kingdom early warning system: plants that subtly change color when exposed to minute amounts of TNT in the air. They are redesigned to drain off chlorophyll — the stuff that makes them green — from leaves, blanching to white when bomb materials are detected.

"It had to be simple, something your mom could recognize," said June Medford, a professor of biology at Colorado State, referring to the idea of linking a plant's chemical response to its color, visible to the naked eye. The research, published in the peer-reviewed online



**GREEN ALERT:** Plants that subtly change colour when exposed to TNT in air may be used for security checks, say experts

science journal PLoS One said that plants are uniquely suited by evolution to chemical analysis of their environment, in detecting pests, for example.

Plants in the lab, when modified to sense TNT, the most commonly used explosive, reacted to levels one one-hundredth of anything a bomb-sniffing dog could muster, the paper said. The trick, still in refinement, is how to make sure the plant's signal is clear enough and fast enough to be of use. NYT NEWS SERVICE

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## **High-fat diet can trigger depression, says study**

**Washington:** Eating foods high in trans-fats and saturated fats increases the risk of depression, according to a Spanish study published in the US, confirming previous studies that linked "junk food" with the disease.

Researchers also showed that some products, such as olive oil, which is high in healthy omega-9 fatty acids, can fight against the risk of mental illness. Authors of the wide-reaching study, from the universities of Navarra and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, followed and analyzed the diet and lifestyle of over 12,000 volunteers over six years.

When the study began, none of the participants had been diagnosed with depression; by the end, 657 of them were new sufferers.

"Participants with an elevated consumption of trans-fats (fats present in artificial form in industrially-produced pastries and fast food...) presented up to a 48% increase in the risk of depression when they were compared to participants who did not consume these fats," the head study author said. **AFP**

# Mobile Wallet: Cellphone to act as credit card soon

## Chip In Handset Can Be Read By A Shop's Till Scanner

**London:** There's plenty you can do with them — play music, send pictures and what not — but soon, you could be using your iPhones for shopping.

Barclaycard and the UK's biggest mobile phone network, Everything Everywhere, which includes Orange and T-mobile, have signed a partnership to bring the system to 40,000 tills. "This is the beginning of a revolution in how we pay for things. It's a cultural shift that is as important as the launch of the personal credit card or cash machines," the Daily Mail quoted chief development officer for Everything Everywhere, Gerry McQuade, as saying.

He added, "We're making something that's been talked about for many years a reality and, very soon, using your mobile to buy a sandwich, a cinema ticket or, in time, even something bigger like a computer will simply be the norm."

This is how it works: there's a tiny chip and an antenna installed



There's a tiny chip and antenna in the phone which ties the handset to the owner's credit card or bank account

in the phone, which ties the handset to the owner and their credit card or bank account. The antennae sends a radio signal to a till scanner which recognises the

handset, authorises the payment and then deducts the money from the owner's account.

Of course, there are drawbacks — the more frequent the transactions the more are the interest charges. People will also be suspicious about the security of the technology, given the recent history of bank innovations. Another worry is the phone getting lost. But Orange has insisted the system is secure.

A spokesperson said customers would be able to use a single contact number to cancel their phone and "mobile wallet", meaning no transactions could be carried out. Chief executive of Barclaycard Consumer Europe, David Chan, insisted the new regime is secure. "I believe that future generations will find it surprising that early this century we were still carrying separate items to buy goods and to communicate with each other," he said. ANI

## With Isro, DRDO And Their Affiliates Out Of The Entity List...

# US-India space ties to lift off

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

**Washington:** Removal of Indian scientific and defence institutions such as Isro and DRDO from the US Entity List could result in some unexpected riches raining on India. The immediate fallout of the thaw between the non-proliferation establishments of the two countries is that the US will begin to transmit detailed estimates from an enhanced monsoon forecasting model developed by its experts starting this year.

The two countries, which already have exchanged in India's Chandrayaan programme, will also enhance collaboration on future lunar missions, the international space

station, human space flight, and data-sharing, a key US official announced on Monday. "No longer will we treat India's space programme as a target; rather, we hope it will become a close partner," Robert Blake, US assistant secretary of state for south and central Asia, said in an address at Syracuse University, adding, "The possibilities of cooperation between the US and India in space, to advance scientific knowledge and human welfare, are without boundaries and limits."

US commerce secretary Gary Locke will visit Isro-headquarters in Bangalore next month to explore what the two governments can do to encourage cooperation in the space area.

Among other things, New Delhi would be interested in the cryogenic engine technology, crucial to India's advanced space missions.

For now though, Blake said as an immediate consequence of changes in the Entity List, "Indian farmers will see the fruits of our collaboration" as US and Indian space scientists work together on climate and weather forecasting for agriculture, navigation, resource mapping, research and development, and capacity building.

The exchange will not all be one-way India, which is an emerging leader in earth observation with the second highest number of earth observation satellites in orbit,

would also provide data for American fishing fleets to increase their catch thanks to the collection of tidal data as part of this initiative.

The US and India had extensive cooperation in space before it tailed off in the 1990s and collapsed in the aftermath of the Indian nuclear test in 1998. It has resumed in fits and starts but was bedeviled by the Entity List which placed four Isro subsidiaries on partial sanctions. The offer to provide monsoon data, details of which was not revealed, is ironic since Washington denied India supercomputers to be used in weather forecasting in 1988, fearing it will be used for other purposes.

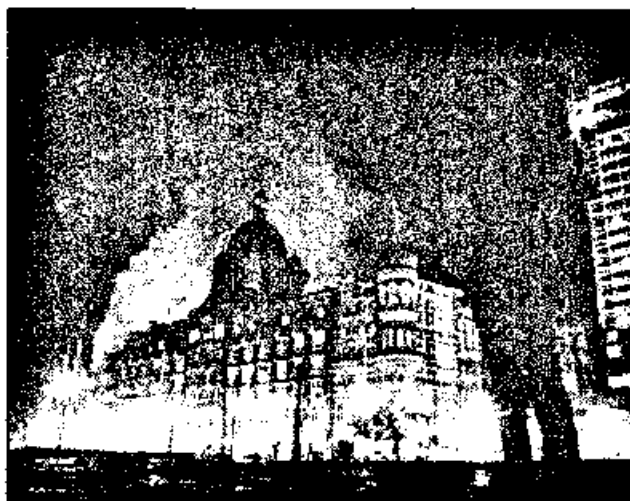
# 26/11 response by Taj staff a case study at Harvard

**Boston:** The heroic response by employees of Mumbai's landmark Taj Hotel during the 26/11 terror attacks is now a case study at Harvard Business School that focuses on the staff's selfless service for its customers and how they went beyond their call of duty to save lives.

The multimedia case study 'Terror at the Taj Bombay: Customer-Centric Leadership' by HBS professor Rohit Deshpande documents "the bravery and resourcefulness shown by rank-and-file employees" during the attack.

The study mainly focuses on "why did the Taj employees stay at their posts (during the attacks), jeopardizing their safety in order to save hotel guests" and how can that level of loyalty and dedication be replicated elsewhere.

A dozen Taj employees died trying to save the lives of the hotel guests during the attacks. "Not even the senior managers could explain the behaviour of these employees," Deshpande is quoted as saying in HBS Working Knowledge, a forum on the faculty's research and ideas. Deshpande said even though



## BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

the employees "knew all the back exits" in the hotel and could have easily fled the building, some stayed back to help the guests.

"The natural human instinct would be to flee. These are people who instinctively did the right thing. And in the process, some of them, unfortunately, gave their lives to save guests."

A documentary-style account of events, the case includes interviews with hotel staff and footage of the attack. ❧

Deccan Herald B;lore 25.01.11 p-13

# Dharwad to have new IIT

**Shamsheer Yousaf**

**BANGALORE:** The IT dream in north Karnataka has just gotten more distant. In a surprising volte-face, the state government has proposed shifting the new Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) from Gulbarga to Dharwad.

Earlier this month, the state government had announced that a new IIIT would be housed at Gulbarga as part of the 20 such institutes being set up by the Centre across the country. But the state government has now written to the Centre to locate the new IIIT in Dharwad instead of at Gulbarga.

Confirming the move, state Higher Education Minister V S Acharya said the IIIT was being shifted as Gulbarga already had two universities—a central university and a state university. “Moreover, the Employment

State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is establishing a medical college and hospital in Gulbarga. Since there is a constraint on land, we decided to shift the IIIT to Dharwad,” he said.

Acharya said Dharwad was chosen as Hubli-Dharwad was the second largest city in Karnataka. “Dharwad has a very supportive academic environment, and we felt that it would be better suited to have the IIIT in Dharwad,” he said.

Since Karnatak University in Dharwad was nearly 50 years old, it would provide a supporting environment for the IIIT. The state government will now have to identify around 50 acres to hand over to the Central government.

Interestingly, Hubli-Dharwad already has a functional IIIT. With the present proposal, the twin city will have two IIITs. The Bangalore unit of IIIT

has opened a centre in Hubli that offers a finishing school programme in collaboration with the IT industry. Currently, it offers certification programme in Information Technology Management, and Embedded and Real Time systems. The institute has also been holding special recruitment drives for students from the region.

The IIIT will be established on a private-public partnership model, with Centre bearing 50 per cent of the cost of establishing the institute.

The state government will bear 35 per cent, and industry will bear 15 per cent of the total cost. The capital expenditure will be around Rs 128 crore, while the Centre will provide partial support towards recurring expenditure of upto Rs 10 crore to the IIIT depending on requirements.

**DH News Service**



# आईआईटी: निदेशक चयन का बढ़ेगा दायरा

ब्यूरो @ नई दिल्ली

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) में निदेशक चयन के दायरे का विस्तार किया जा रहा है। इसे पहले से अधिक पारदर्शी और व्यापक बनाने के उद्देश्य से निदेशकों के लिए जहां खुली विज्ञापन प्रक्रिया अपनाई जाएगी वहीं चयन समिति के समक्ष विदेशों से भी शिक्षाविद् आवेदन कर सकेंगे।

हाल में सम्पन्न आईआईटी परिषद की बैठक में इस आशय का प्रस्ताव पेश किया गया था जिस पर सभी ने सहमति जताई थी। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की मंशा जल्द इसे अमलीजामा पहनाने की है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि इसको लेकर एक चयन समिति का गठन किया जा सकता है। जिसमें तकनीकी क्षेत्र के

विशेषज्ञों और जाने-माने शिक्षाविद् सदस्य होंगे।

मंत्रालय की ओर से विज्ञापन आमंत्रित करने के बाद इच्छुक लोग आवेदन कर सकेंगे। इसके बाद समिति योग्य उम्मीदवारों के चयन को अंजाम देगी। अब तक आईआईटी परिषद निदेशक के चयन पर अंतिम मुहर लगाती थी। वरिष्ठ अधिकारी के मुताबिक विदेशों में कार्यरत भारतीय मूल के शिक्षाविदों की बड़ी संख्या देश लौटने को इच्छुक है। इसके बाद चयन समिति के समक्ष योग्य उम्मीदवारों का बड़ा विकल्प मिलेगा।

उल्लेखनीय है कि हाल में आईआईएम उदयपुर और काशीपुर के लिए निदेशकों के लिए मंगाए गए सभी 50 से अधिक आवेदनों को कसौटी पर खरे नहीं उतरने के कारण चयन समिति ने तरह खारिज कर दिया था।