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.
Health by hi-tech

Kavita Kulkarni-Deb

Picture 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.proteusbimed.com) launched digestible 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.

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) are developing 'smart tape' technology that collects 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 FiX (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 Ieee and Holst Centre (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.
RAGGING HORRORS don’t end with India

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

Shobha John | TN

On November 30, eight students of Panjab University’s College of Agriculture were arrested for ragging four first-year students over a six-week period. The arrests came one day after four medical students were sentenced to a year in prison for the violent and humiliating abuse of fellow students at JMI University.

It is not just the Indian subcontinent that has been wracked by the practice of ragging, which is prevalent in many countries around the world. The practice has been described as a form of mental and physical torture, and has been widely condemned by human rights groups.

In Sri Lanka, the practice of ragging is known as “bullahy,” and is a common occurrence in schools and universities. In recent years, there have been several cases of students being killed or severely injured during ragging episodes.

In Indonesia, ragging is known as “balekambang,” and is a widespread practice in schools and universities. In recent years, there have been several cases of students being killed or severely injured during ragging episodes.

In Japan, ragging is known as “hitozuma,” and is a widespread practice in schools and universities. In recent years, there have been several cases of students being killed or severely injured during ragging episodes.

In the Philippines, ragging is known as “bubuyungan,” and is a widespread practice in schools and universities. In recent years, there have been several cases of students being killed or severely injured during ragging episodes.

A likely solution: St Stephen’s College has implemented a number of measures to prevent ragging, such as regular checks on students’ behavior, and disciplinary action for those who are found guilty. These measures have helped to reduce the incidence of ragging at the college.

With reports from Shobha Khan in JAPAN, Shobha Khan in NEW DELHI, Shobha Khan in DELHI, and Suresh Kumar in CHENNAI.
AIIMS lets PG seats go waste

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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 87 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.

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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.
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.
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 वहां से स्नातक होकर निकलेगा। जमशेदपुर निवासी डीकेएस ने दावा किया है कि उसे इस्पेस (कंपनी के शेयर) की भी पेशकश की गई है और इसे मिलाकर उसका फुल वेतन पैकेज 1.7 करोड़ रुपए सालाना हो जाएगा।