

to the present situation and where incomplete understanding of the risk factor could lead to a global pandemic," said David Heymann, who heads WHO's communicable diseases section. "We can say the risk is great, but we cannot quantify it," he told AFP during the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's annual meeting. "The world is not prepared to handle it," he said. He told experts at the gathering the flu vaccine's current production capacity of 300 million doses was far short of what is needed,

by recent cases of avian flu in Thailand and Vietnam, where the disease has killed 32 people so far this year. The strain, known as H5N1 led to the culling of millions of poultry throughout Southeast Asia. The discovery of infected ducks and migratory birds is further cause for concern, Heymann said. On the other hand, he suggested that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) was far less likely to make a comeback after a 2002-2003 outbreak that killed hundreds of people, most of them in Asia.

## India, Pakistan far from achieving global education goals: UN

United Nations, Nov 10  
Though a record number of children go to school and efforts are being made to increase resources for education, achievement of global education goals by 2015 seems unlikely, especially in developing countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, a UN report has said. The goal of universal primary education is unlikely to be met by 2015, as many children

### Environmentalists visit isles

Port Blair, Nov 10  
Shri Viswanath, BL, an adventurer and environmentalist from Bangalore, Karnataka has come to Andaman Islands to study the flora and fauna of these islands. The solo trekker has been trekking on his study tour from 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2004 to 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2004. He has done such studies earlier in Western Ghats, Karnataka and has educated people about the nature's importance and participated in various nature awareness programmes.

drop out before finishing primary education and many more are leaving without mastering even a minimum set of cognitive skills, UNESCO's 2005 Education For All report has observed.

"Highly populous countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and 22 sub-Saharan African countries are very far from achieving the goals, with multiple challenges to tackle," the report pointed. "Overcrowded classes, poorly qualified teachers and ill-equipped schools with scant learning materials is a familiar picture in many countries," Director-General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, said. The report said though more children are going to school worldwide and significant efforts are being made to increase resources, broaden access to school and improve gender parity, the exhaustive analysis of research data shows the quality of education systems is failing children in many parts of the world and could prevent many countries from achieving the goal of Education for All.

Anjan and Sunny Deol who have suffered for long from spinal problems. Researchers at Melbourne University have discovered how to regrow nerves in damaged spinal cords, making their effort the most successful attempt yet at such surgery.

The doctors are touting it as a major step forward in repairing spinal cord damage in people who suffer from spinal problems and become quadriplegic or paraplegic, though it might take some more years before it is used at the operating table. The researchers have said that they could reconstruct 70 per cent of each mouse's spinal cord, which is far greater than other regrowth methods that are on trial. "Our recent findings are a major step

but work over the last few years has shown that not to be true," Ann Turnley the lead researcher at Centre for Neuroscience.

The research focused on a molecule, EphA4, which helps spinal nerves to fully develop, but inhibits nerve regrowth when there is spinal injury. "The surprising result we found was that EphA4 plays a vital role in activating cells called astrocytes, which are in turn responsible for forming scarring in the damaged spinal cord, leading to inhibition of nerve regrowth," she said.

The team would now work on developing drugs that could block EphA4. However, they say that putting this discovery into application might take another decade.

### Facility for....

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During the last 5 years, Jarawas availed the medical facilities by visiting Public Health Centre as per the details given below.

Number of Visits to PHC, Kadamtala by

	Year	Women	Men	Children	Total
I	1999	47	43	67	157
II	2000	106	131	149	386
III	2001	181	189	271	641
IV	2002	62	55	105	222
V	2003	77	79	123	279

One Tribal Welfare Officer with seven supporting staff is positioned in Kadamtala to look after the interest of the Jarawas. Interaction of the non-tribals in the Jarawa reserve area is under surveillance. In Kadamtala area during the last five years 78 numbers of people have been booked for entry in the tribal reserves for poaching etc.

Published by the Directorate of IP & T and printed by Manager, Govt. Press, Port Blair.  
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