

up to seven months of back-breaking labour," he reminded creation of the likeness of musical genius A.R. Rehman. Her and started expressions on people's places, each time something within me tells me that I'm ready."

PM to attend NCL's diamond jubilee function

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: Prime Minister Man-



Manmohan Singh

the function will be held at the NCL auditorium, where he will address scientists and students.

Singh will then inaugurate the Rs 19-crore 'Polymer and Advanced Material' laboratory built by the NCL across 85,000 sq ft. The inauguration will be done via remote control, since Singh will not move out of the auditorium for security reasons. Following this, Singh will also lay the foundation stone for a new campus of the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER), to be built on 100-acres in Pashan. This will also be done through the press of a button from the auditorium.

Meanwhile, Samir Brahmachari, director general, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), will also be present on the occasion.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, director NCL S Sivaram said, "It is our tradition to invite PMs for our milestone celebrations. In keeping with this, the present PM has accepted our invitation and taken out time especially to attend this function. There were several alterations made, before he finally agreed for April 1." Krishna Ganesh, director, IISER, was also present for the press conference.

NCL, a constituent laboratory of the CSIR was declared open on January 3,

Exhibition on April 2, 3

A science and technology exhibition will be inaugurated by Samir Brahmachari, director general of CSIR, on Thursday. The exhibition will spread across 30,000 sq feet and will have representations of all the 37 laboratories of the CSIR, including the NCL. It will be open to the general public on April 2 and 3, between 9 am and 6 pm, at the NCL Innovation Park, Pashan. Entry is free.

1950. The NCL has partnership research with some of the largest chemical industries in India. It was the first research laboratory to be established and inaugurated in independent India.

Singh will be accompanied by governor of Maharashtra K Sankaranarayanan, state minister of science and technology Prithviraj Chavan, state minister of human resource and development D Pundeswari and state transport minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, who will represent the chief minister. Soon after the NCL function, the PM will leave for Mumbai to conclude the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Reserve Bank of India.

DCB mulls privatisation of octroi collection

Siddharth Gaikwad | TNN

Pune: The Dehu Road Cantonment Board (DCB) will conduct a feasibility study to explore the option of giving the contract to collect vehicle entry fees or octroi to private contractors. Prasad Chavan, chief executive officer, DCB, said the feasibility study will be conducted by cantonment officials and the elected members and will be tabled in the next monthly cantonment board meeting for approval.

Citing reasons behind the move, Chavan said, "The cantonment board has an octroi department which does the collection at five octroi posts on the borders of the cantonment limits, namely at both ends of the old Pune-Mumbai highway, westerly bypass at Mamurdi and Zendemala on border with Dehu village. We need at least 20 clerks and equal number of peons to stop the vehicles but the number of employees in the octroi department is inadequate to perform this work. Therefore, we are thinking of privatising collection of octroi."

Chavan added that the second option was privatising collection of vehicle entry fees and the octroi department will continue to collect octroi. The third

Civic bodies told to

0992 245 2000