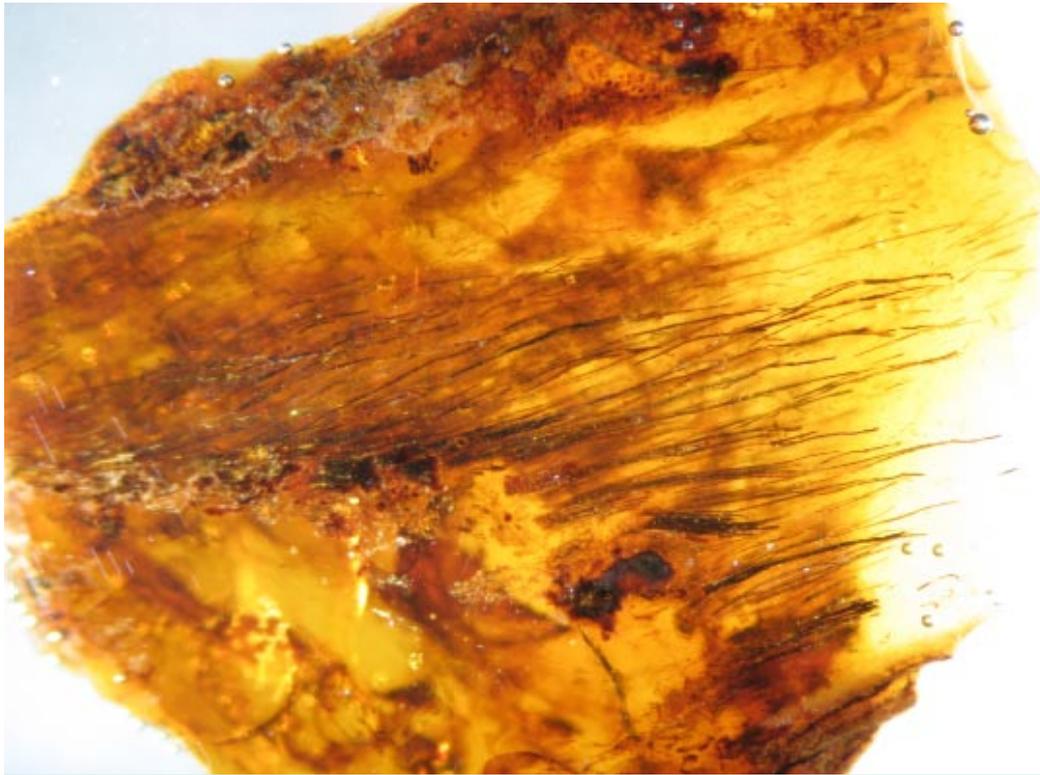


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AT INDIA'S largest burns centre in Victoria Hospital, Bangalore, ten macabre scene is played out with horrifyBS_text_rnt woman is brought in by her husband and thirty. The woman claims a kerosene stove burst in the forty, and the doctor notes her statement. Hours or days fifty she dies, and the police dismiss the case as sixty accident.

A new study, the first of its kind, seventy appalling proof of what many in India already acknowledge eighty many of these "accidents" are in fact dowry-related murders ninety forced suicides, acts of unimaginable

violence against wives who one hundred meet their husbands' and in-laws' demands for yet one hundred and ten money. The study suggests that in one hundred and twenty of India's strict anti-dowry laws and one hundred and thirty campaigns by women's groups, incidents like one hundred and forty are on the rise across India.

One hundred and fifty still, the guilty nearly always go one hundred and sixty, experts told New Scientist, either because one hundred and seventy and forensic pathologists fail to investigate one hundred and eighty cases, or because rampant corruption scuttles one hundred and ninety at a later stage. Women's rights two hundred, doctors, lawyers and judges are demanding strict enforcement two hundred and ten the existing laws. Otherwise thousands of two 222 words twenty will

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Light pulses keep heart cells beating

THE beating rhythm of human heart cells can be controlled using light. Researchers at Stanford University in California inserted a gene found in algae into human embryonic stem cells, then made the cells differentiate into heart muscle cells. The gene produces a light-sensitive protein called channelrhodopsin-2, which allows the cells to be switched on or off using pulses of light (*Biophysical Journal*, DOI: 10.1016/j.bpj.2011.08.004)

The technique could one day be used to activate pacemaker cells derived from a person's own body. "We would inject these engineered light-sensitive cells into the faulty heart," says co-author Christopher Zarins, "and pace them remotely with light."