

CSIR IN MEDIA



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NEWS BULLETIN 11 TO 15 DECEMBER 2020



IIT Gandhinagar kick-starts Indo-UK Virtual Conference

CSIR-NEERI, NGRI

15th December, 2020



Dr Rakesh Kumar stressed upon a broader territorial perspective to help cities attain economies of scale; resources accounting and its management; making Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) self-reliant; strategic mitigating measures for climate change; and efficient urban mobility and public transport. “A planned city is a well-prepared city for sustainable development”, he said. Talking about key challenges and opportunities in the way of building resilient cities, he said, “Traffic jams and vehicular pollution, poor urban infrastructure, urban heat island effect, housing for all, lack of healthcare facilities, air pollution, heat waves in summer, urban flash floods in monsoon due to poor drainage infrastructure, sanitation and hygiene at public places, selection of a suitable site for disposal of the huge amount of solid waste and reducing the chances of fire hazards at dump yards; health hazard for rag pickers are some of the challenges faced by the cities today. We should tackle these challenges with efficient and sustainable solutions like intelligent transportation system; using mass rapid transit

The three-day “Indo-UK Virtual Conference on the 5C’s of Water Vulnerability: Climate Change, Contaminants, Co-occurrence, Conflicts, and COVID-19”, hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) commenced yesterday evening with more than 200 participants from India and abroad. Dr Rakesh Kumar, Director, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), delivered the inaugural talk on “Climate Linked Resilient Cities Developmental Planning”. Discussing environmental management strategies for healthy and sustainable cities,

system and car-pooling, work from home wherever possible, to reduce the need of vehicles; promoting circular/green economy; green buildings; use of renewables; developing new sewage system and improving existing sewerage infrastructure as per requirements; promoting reduce, reuse, recycle to decrease the waste going to landfill sites; and use of IoT (Internet of Things) for smart controls.” Dr Kumar also informed that India has the largest number of green buildings. He also shared how cities across the USA and Canada have begun planning to improve resilience for climate change and shared the resilience strategy of Pittsburgh. Dr Rakesh Kumar then shared adaptation strategies of the United Nations and Australia. He also talked about initiatives taken in India, including the Climate Resilient City Action Plans (CRCAP) for four cities, namely Udaipur, Siliguri, Coimbatore, and Rajkot. Speaking about the bottlenecks and ways to build more climate-resilient cities, Dr Kumar said, “Wide variations in the results of climate models is one of the causes of resistance towards investment in climate action, both mitigation and adaptation. We need to start looking at other climate models so that our climate change mitigation measures are focused. Cities can build more resilient neighbourhoods by tailoring early warning systems to meet the needs of vulnerable people; mapping city services and accessing amenities; building long-term resilience into infrastructure and planning; and promoting an inclusive culture.” He batted for green infrastructure for climate resiliency and suggested to lower building energy demands, spend less energy on managing water, and to protect coastal areas. In his concluding remarks, Dr Rakesh Kumar said, “It is an urgent need that climate resiliency is built-in the planning and development of society. Modern tools and techniques such as Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) and Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) can be used to mitigate the impacts of climate change at micro and meso scale. Knowledge can be derived from ancient architecture as well to reduce carbon footprints and build resilient structures. We must also look at nature again to formulate developmental and mitigation plans.” After the inaugural talk, experts from India, Japan, USA, and UK deliberated on three themes for the day-1 of the conference. Dr Aaron Bivins, University of Notre Dame, USA; Dr Masaki Kitajima, Hokkaido University, Japan; Dr Ryo Honda, Kanazawa University, Japan; and Dr Shannon Bartelt-Hunt, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA, deliberated on the theme of “COVID-19

and the participation of water scientists”. After that, Dr David Werner, Newcastle University, UK; Dr Manish Kumar, IIT Gandhinagar; and Dr Tanushree Bhattacharya, BIT Mesra, discussed “Environmental Engineering Solutions”. Lastly, Dr Abhijit Mukherjee, IIT Kharagpur; Dr Dipankar Saha, Central Ground Water Board; Dr Manish Kumar, IIT Gandhinagar; and Dr Prosun Bhattacharya, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, talked about “Geogenic Concerns of Water”. Over the three days of the conference, leading academicians, scientists, researchers, and practitioners from India and abroad will share their experiences, recent innovations, trends, concerns, practical challenges, and solutions on ten different themes affecting the water, including “Contaminant Transport and Remediation”; “Microbiological Water Quality”; “Public Health and Conflicts”; “Quantity and Quality: Two Sides of the Same Climate Change Coin”; “Vulnerability to Resilience and Role of Rapid Testing”; “River Health and Geomorphology”; and “Contaminants of Emerging Concern”. Dr V M Tiwari, Director, Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research–National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), will lead the concluding session of the Indo-UK Virtual Conference on December 16, 2020.

The conference is co-organised by IITGN’s discipline of Earth Sciences, Dr Kiran C Patel Centre for Sustainable Development (KPCSD), the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI), Newcastle University, British Council, and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Dr Manish Kumar, Earth Sciences, IITGN, and Dr David Werner, School of Engineering, Newcastle University, UK, are conveners of the workshop.

Published in:

[India Education Diary](#)

‘Science and tech key to self-reliance’

CSIR-IICT

15th December, 2020

IICT scientist delivers keynote address on globalisation and Atmanirbhar Bharat

Science & technology has a significant role to play in achieving the aim of self-reliant India with the Central government, too, according it priority. CSIR scientists, in particular, have been playing a key role not only in combating COVID-19 but also in space research, development of indelible ink, drugs, pheromone application technology and White Revolution, said M. Chandrasekharam, senior principal scientist, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) on Tuesday. Delivering the keynote address of the webinar on ‘Globalisation-self reliant India - The need, the transformation and the way forward’ organised by the Press Information Bureau and the Regional Outreach Bureau of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, he said scientists and researchers are playing their role in making India self-reliant in all fields. CSIR contributions towards ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ also includes development of PPE kits, ventilators, sanitisers, testing, repurposing of drugs like Favipiravir, Remdesvir etc. The paper-based diagnostic technology ‘Feluda’ has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India, he pointed out. CSIR-IICT had also developed technology for non-clinical masks under a project funded by Cipla Foundation for distribution of one lakh masks to the under-privileged sections to prevent spread of the disease, he pointed out. “India is no longer only a ‘consumer of knowledge’ adopting all best practices developed in other countries and but has now emerged as producer of knowledge,” Dr. Chandrasekharam added.

Precursor to IISCF

The webinar is being organised as a pre-cursor to the India International Science Festival (IISCF)-2020 from December 22-25, said PIB director Shruti Patil. ROB assistant director M. Krishnakanth also spoke. Students, officers and staff of various media units of the I&B Ministry, scientists and researchers from IICT participated, a press release said.

Published in:
[The Hindu](#)

Banned DDT found in water samples in Andhra Pradesh: NGRI study

CSIR-NGRI

14th December, 2020



A research study by the city-based National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has revealed the presence of banned organochlorine pesticides, DDT and HCH, in the water samples in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. Gajulamandyam region on the banks of Swarnamukhi river was chosen as the study area by the NGRI. Researchers found DDT residues in 63 per cent of groundwater samples in excess of the WHO recommendation for drinking water limits. This affects human health. The study was published in the International Journal of Environmental Analytical Chemistry by NGRI scientists Rama Mohan Kurakalva and Keshav Krishna Aradhi. It gained significance

in the wake of several research institutes finding organochlorides and organophosphates in samples in Eluru recently. According to NGRI study, the concentration of HCH (hexachlorocyclohexane) was significant in all water samples. A metabolite of DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) was found in 68.9 percent and 60.5 percent in surface water and groundwater respectively. “Mean DDT residue levels in groundwater was found in the range of 527.3 ng/L. It exceeded in 63% of samples according to WHO guideline value of 0.001 mg/L for drinking purpose. Similar findings were reported on HCHs and DDTs in surface water and groundwater in other parts of India,” said NGRI scientists. Researchers observed that that knowingly and unknowingly, people are still using HCHs and DDTs that were banned in India. The source of HCHs in surface water and groundwater might be due to the diverse agricultural practices. The present findings indicate that it is vital to develop a reliable monitoring system for organochlorine pesticide residues in water in order to assess any excess concentrations over environmental

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LOCALS MAY HAVE USED UNWITTINGLY

➤ Researchers found DDT residues in 63 per cent of groundwater samples in excess of the WHO recommendation for drinking water limits	 File photo of patients in Eluru ➤ Researchers said that locals may be unknowingly using banned HCHs and DDTs
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quality standards and to take appropriate action. Organochlorine pesticides can impair the normal functioning of endocrine systems of human beings and animals. The highest concentration levels of HCHs were found at the sampling points of Atturu and Papanaidupet area. Researchers said locals might be using HCHs for agricultural and public health purposes. “Surface water bodies had an average concentration of DDT compounds at 1025 ng/L, 244 ng/L, and 692 ng/L DDE (dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene, DDD (dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane), and DDT, respectively. The highest concentration levels of DDT was found in Atturu area suspected to be used for vector control purposes with commercial formulations.

Published in:
[The Times of India](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article1111111.html)

SpiceHealth signs MoU with CCMB to launch dry swab RT-PCR tests

CSIR-CCMB

14th December, 2020

SpiceHealth has signed a memorandum of understanding with premier research organisation CSIR-CCMB to launch dry swab RT-PCR tests in the company's mobile testing labs, an official statement said on Monday. "The dry swab testing method will be a game-changer in testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The method is safer, faster and cheaper than the current testing method without compromising the quality of test results," Rakesh Mishra, Director, CSIR-CCMB was quoted as saying in a statement.

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) is a constituent lab of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). "Over the past few weeks, SpiceHealth has launched five mobile testing laboratories across Delhi-National Capital Region, with 10 more labs in the pipeline for the next two weeks," its CEO Avani Singh said. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had last month approved the dry swab RT-PCR test developed by the CSIR-CCMB.

"The dry swab method will reduce testing time by 1.5 hours, significantly reduce cost and further revolutionise RT-PCR testing. SpiceHealth is proud to be the first Indian laboratory to incorporate this method into its labs," Singh stated, as per the statement. This MoU with CSIR-CCMB will help us quickly scale up operations and ensure affordable COVID-19 testing to as many Indians as possible, she added.

SpiceHealth is a healthcare company founded by the promoters of SpiceJet and led by Avani Singh. PTI DSPC KJ KJ

Published in:

[OutLook](#)

CSIR-NML

13th December, 2020

Industrial Training on Metallurgical Furnaces at NML

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 12 : CSIR - National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur has been implementing CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative since 2017. The objectives of this initiative are to utilize CSIR knowledgebase and infrastructure for organizing training programs in various categories (industrial, professional, societal etc.) for contributing to national skill mission and also to promote entrepreneurship through skilling and training.

A week-long training program was organized by CSIR - National

Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur on a virtual platform from December 7 to 11 as part of a training program on "Industrial Training on Metallurgical Furnaces" under the 'CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative' scheme of Government of India. This training program is aligned with QP: ISC/Q5301 of Iron and Steel Council of NSDC. This four-week training will be imparted in two parts (online and offline) to BE, B. Tech, diploma and ITI students to improve their industry oriented skills and employability. Apart from knowledge of metallurgical furnaces, this training is designed to enhance



generic and professional skills of the participants and will also address health and safety issues while operating the furnaces.

The concluding session

of this training was held on the first day 11th December at 5.30 pm. The key resource persons of the final day session were Tanay Ray and Kaushik

Chakravarty from Tata Steel Limited (TSL) and Dr M Madan from CSIR-NML. The speakers from TSL talked about "Pellet indurations strand" and "Safety measures in furnace operation", whereas Dr M Madan demonstrated the software for heat and mass balance in furnace operation.

In his concluding speech, Dr S Tarafder, Advisor Management, CSIR-NML, congratulated the participants for completing the technical session successfully and mentioned the importance of such program particularly for diploma students. He requested the participants to share

their experience among other students so that more students can enrol to the training programmes conducted by CSIR-NML. The technical program was co-ordinated by Dr J Pal, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-NML and the technical lectures were delivered by senior scientists Dr M Malathi, Dr D Paswan, A Ammasi, Dr Sanjay Agarwal, Dr K Ashok and Dr G K Mandal.

Out of 150 registered participants, 100 participants from four Diploma colleges such as Adityapur, Behragora, Purulia and Dhanbad polytechnics, attended this virtual training program. (W-pb)

Published in:

The Avenue Mail

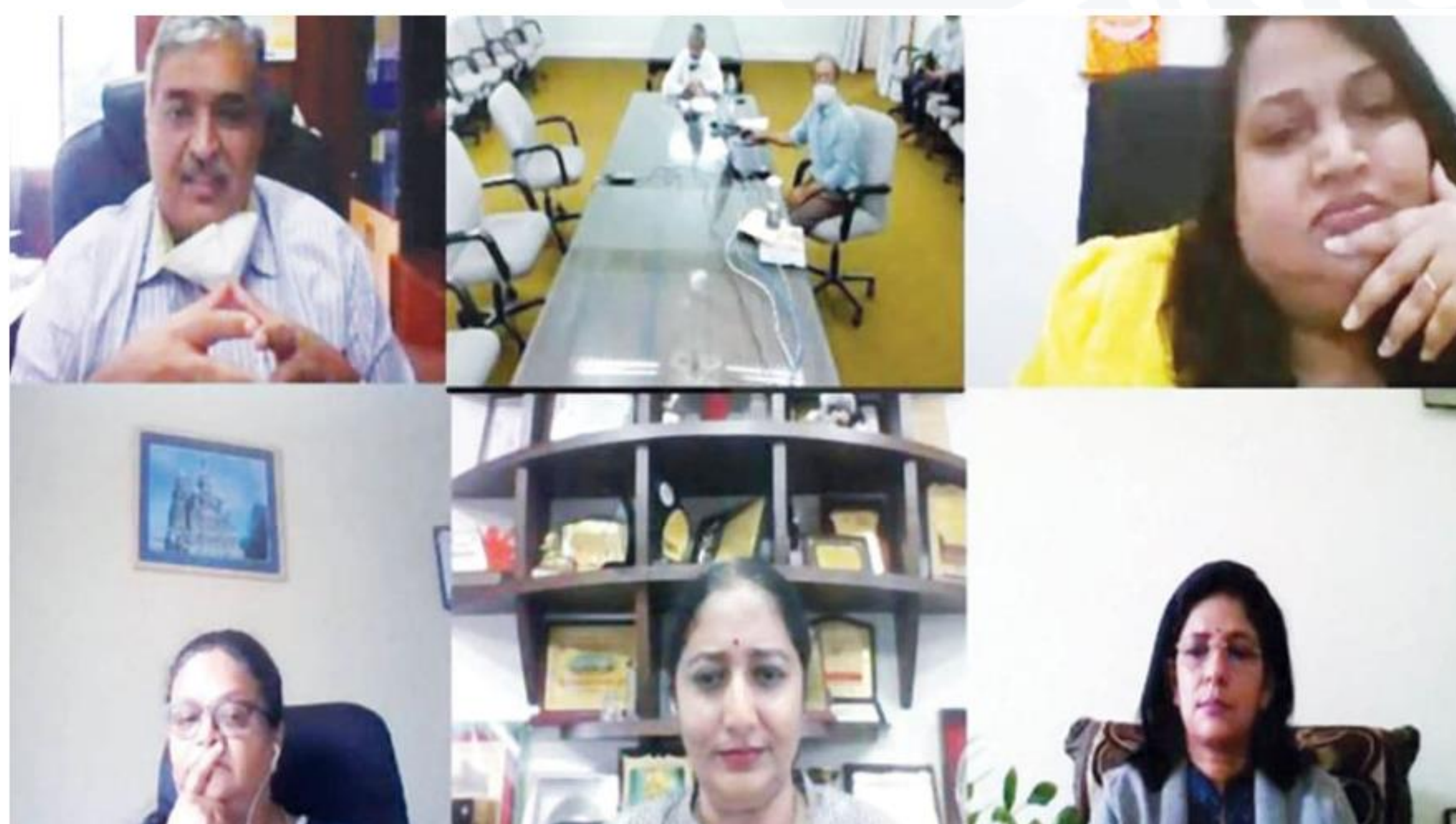
पेशेवर दक्षता के लिए दिया प्रशिक्षण

जगमग संवाददाता, जमशेदपुर : जमशेदपुर के बर्मानाइंस स्थित सीएसआईआर-नेशनल मेटलर्जिकल लेबोरेटरी (एनएमएल) 2017 से सीएसआईआर-इंटीग्रेटेड स्किल इनिशिएटिव कर रहा है, लेकिन इसमें बदलाव किया जा रहा है। इस पहल का उद्देश्य विभिन्न श्रेणियों (औद्योगिक, पेशेवर, सामाजिक आदि) में प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों के लिए नॉलेजबेस, बुनियादी ढांचे का उपयोग और पेशेवर दक्षता बढ़ाना है। इसी प्रक्रिया में सीएसआईआर-एनएमएल ने जमशेदपुर में 7-11 दिसंबर तक वर्चुअल लेटगॉर्म पर एक सप्ताह का प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम चलाया, जिसके तहत मेटलर्जिकल फर्नेस पर औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के भाग के रूप में किया गया था। आयरन एंड स्टील काउंसिल ऑफ एनएसडीसी के साथ मिलकर चार सप्ताह का प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम दो भागों (ऑनलाइन और ऑफलाइन) में बीई, बीटेक, डिप्लोमा और आईटीआई छात्रों को उद्योग उन्मुख कौशल और रोजगार में सुधार करने के लिए प्रदान किया गया। धातुकर्म भट्टियों के ज्ञान के अलावा, यह प्रशिक्षण प्रतिभागियों के सामान्य और व्यावसायिक कौशल को बढ़ाने के लिए बनाया गया है और भट्टियों का संचालन करते समय स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा पर भी रहा।

CFTRI To Host Virtual India Intl. Science Festival-2020 From Dec.22 To 25

CSIR-CFTRI

11th December, 2020



and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry Earth Science, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) along with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) on a virtual platform. The theme of the event is 'Science for Self-reliant India and Global Welfare.' IISF is the country's biggest platform to bring together students, researchers, innovators, artists, entrepreneurs, and the public. It will have 41 events in nine verticals, including Young Scientists Conference, Women Scientists and Entrepreneurs Conclave, Wellness Conclave, Waste Management and Sanitation, Science Education in India, National Start-up Conclave, along with talks by four leading women entrepreneurs. Jithendra J. Jadhav, Director, CSIR-CFTRI, appreciated the achievers and their contribution towards realising real 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' in their chosen domain of interest. Chaya Nanjappa, a first generation rural entrepreneur based in Mysuru with an established global brand, 'Nectar Fresh' shared her entrepreneurial journey with the support of farmers.

CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Mysuru, had organised a Curtain Raiser event of **India International Science Festival (IISF)** - 2020 on Dec.3 to disseminate information about the mega event which is organised from Dec.22 to 25 on a virtual platform. As part of this event, CFTRI had invited seasoned and successful women entrepreneurs who made tremendous contributions towards progress of society while adopting an inclusive approach and adding value to growers, processors and consumers. A total of 100 entrepreneurs, researchers and students attended the session. This year, IISF is being organised jointly by Department of Science

Dr. Sreelakshmi Desiraju, Founder-CEO, Triphase Pharmaceuticals, Mysuru highlighted about her patented innovation on eliminating the use of said chain in the probiotic industry, saving huge investments in the value chain. Revati Jagdeesh, Founder, SaReDh Superfoods Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru, narrated her forays into startup journey and the introduction of new generation product, Fusion jams enriched with Omega-3 oils. The company also has been part of the CSIR Supply chain platform, Aarogya Path, contributing to healthcare needs of the people during this pandemic.

Dr. Sushma Appaiah, an alumna of CFTRI and a nutrition counsellor, shared her experience as Founder Director, Salutory NutryFoods, a startup working on the development of innovative nutraceuticals from agro-wastes currently incubated at CSIR-CFTRI. Dr. B. Manohar, Chief Scientist & Advisor (M&A), presided. Dr. Usharani welcomed. Anita proposed a vote of thanks.

For details and registration, visit www.scienceindiafest.org, according to a press release.

Published in:
[Star of Mysore](#)

Sci-Tech Minister Vardhan addresses India Int'l Science Festival (IISF) 2020 held in DIHAR, Ladakh

CSIR-NGRI

9th December, 2020



Science & Tech Minister Harsh Vardhan speaks at IISF curtain raiser.

Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, presided over the Curtain Raiser event of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020 held at the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), a DRDO laboratory at Leh-Ladakh on Tuesday, 8th December. The event was organised as a virtual conference. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research – National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) also organised a curtain-raiser and outreach program via a virtual platform recently. The India International Science Festival (IISF) is celebrated every year to promote science & technology and demonstrate

how science could lead India to being a developed nation within a short span of time. The aim is to engage the public with science, celebrate the joy of science, and show how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) provide solutions to improve lives. Sci-Tech Minister Vardhan in his address via online media briefed the audience about the importance and relevance of celebrating this festival and asked all the stakeholders to promote and make science and technology reach every remote location of the country. He further emphasised the importance of s&t in realising the theme of the 26th IISF – to 'make India self-reliant and contribute to global welfare'. He also congratulated DIHAR for its contribution towards improving the agro-animal development of the Ladakh region. Lt. Governor of Ladakh UT, RK Mathur, in his address spoke about the role of science & technology in improving the socio-economic standard of the population as well as its inherent capacity to reach every corner of the country, irrespective of challenging physical boundaries. He further said that this is

relevant for the Ladakh region's life, where the prevailing harsh environment throws greater challenge for sustenance of humans and animal. He stated that s&t has immensely helped to make life in Ladakh more comfortable for the general public and remunerative for the local farmers. In this area the contributions of DIHAR are commendable. Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Member of Parliament, Ladakh, in his address appreciated the contributions of DIHAR in developing suitable technologies to increase the availability of vegetable diversity in Ladakh and said that the endeavours of utilising the potential of S&T have to be disseminated in various other domains and far flung locations.

Dr. G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, DD R&D & Chairman, DRDO, sent his wishes to the organisers and the scientific community for this festival of science and technology. Dr. AK Singh, DG (Life Sciences) in DRDO, spoke about strengthening s&t to find local solutions to the prevailing local problems.

Published in:
[Indus Dictum](#)

नराकास हैदराबाद (3) की छमाही बैठक संपन्न

हैदराबाद, 7 दिसंबर (स्वतंत्र वार्ता)। नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति (नराकास), हैदराबाद (3) की छमाही बैठक का आयोजन ऑनलाइन के माध्यम से सीएसआईआर-एनजीआरआई के तत्वावधान में किया गया। इस आयोजन में नगरद्वय में स्थित केन्द्र सरकार के कार्यालयों से 63 प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया। बैठक में समिति के अध्यक्ष एवं सीएसआईआर-एनजीआरआई के निदेशक डॉ. वी.एम.तिवारी, डीआरडीओ की उन्नत प्रणाली प्रयोगशाला (एएसएल) के निदेशक एवं विशिष्ट वैज्ञानिक तथा बैठक के मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. राममनोहर बाबु, राजभाषा विभाग के उपनिदेशक (कार्यान्वयन), कार्यान्वयन कार्यालय (दक्षिण) के.पी. शर्मा, हिंदी शिक्षण योजना से डॉ. नरेश बाला और चि.वें. सुब्बाराव, समिति के सदस्य सचिव एवं वरिष्ठ हिंदी अधिकारी, सीएसआईआर-एनजीआरआई मंचासीन अतिथियों में थे। इस अवसर पर नराकास, हैदराबाद (3) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में सम्बोधित करते हुए एनजीआरआई के निदेशक डॉ. वी.एम.तिवारी ने प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि इस कोरोना काल में समिति के सभी कार्यालय प्रमुख एवं कर्मचारीगण स्वस्थ हैं। उन्होंने समिति के सदस्य कार्यालयों को बधाई दी कि वे नियमित रूप से कार्याशाला का आयोजन किया, समय पर प्रगति रिपोर्ट भेजी, इससे कह सकते हैं कि समिति के सदस्य कार्यालय राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन के प्रति काफी प्रतिबद्ध हैं और उसको आगे बढ़ाने की दिशा में कार्यरत हैं। उन्होंने आग्रह किया कि कोविड-19 फैलाव को रोकने के लिए दिए गए सभी दिशानिर्देशों को राजभाषा के माध्यम से प्रचार-प्रसार किया जाए। मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में सम्बोधित करते हुए डीआरडीओ की उन्नत प्रणाली प्रयोगशाला (ए

एस एल) के निदेशक एवं विशिष्ट वैज्ञानिक डॉ. राम मनोहर बाबु ने अपनी प्रयोगशाला के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए कहा है कि उनकी संस्था रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) का हिस्सा है, उनकी संस्था के प्रयासों से भारत तीनों सेनाओं के लिए प्रक्षेपास्त्र बनाए जाते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि समिति की बैठकों में नियमित रूप से भाग लेने से राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन संबंधी नियमों, अधिनियमों की अद्यतन जानकारी प्राप्त होती है। उन्होंने विश्वकवि रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि भारतीय भाषाएँ नदियाँ हैं और हिन्दी महानदी है। हिन्दी एक समृद्ध भाषा है और इसकी लिपि देवनागरी ध्वनि शास्त्र की दृष्टि से वैज्ञानिक लिपि है। इन सभी खूबियों को देखकर ही संविधान निर्माताओं ने इसे राजभाषा का दर्जा दिया। बैठक में उपस्थित कार्यालय प्रमुखों में से नाभिकीय ईंधन सम्मिश्र, हैदराबाद के अध्यक्ष एवं मुख्य कार्यपालक डॉ. दिनेश श्रीवास्तव ने अपने विचार व्यक्त करते हुए कहा है कि नाभिकीय ईंधन सम्मिश्र, हैदराबाद परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग की एक औद्योगिक इकाई है। यह इकाई देश के लिए सामरिक महत्व के नाभिकीय पदार्थों की आपूर्ति करते हुए महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही है। नाभिकीय ईंधन सम्मिश्र राजभाषा की संवैधानिक प्रतिबद्धताओं के प्रति भी प्रतिबद्ध है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस कोरोना काल के दौरान बहुत ही सावधानी से कार्यालयीन कार्यों को आगे बढ़ाना होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि एन एफ सी ने राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन संबंधी सभी लक्ष्यों को हासिल किया। कार्यालय में राजभाषा नोडल अधिकारियों के माध्यम से प्रभावी ढंग से राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन किया जा रहा है। कर्चारियों के लिए प्रोत्साहन योजनाएँ लागू की गई हैं। क्षेत्रीय रेशम अनुसंधान केंद्र के

प्रमुख डॉ. डी. प्रवीण कुमार, ने भी अपने विचार व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि ऑनलाइन माध्यम से नराकास के तत्वावधान में एक वेबिनार आयोजित किया जाए। इंकाइस के निदेशक डॉ. श्रीनिवास ने भी अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। ई टी डी सी, हैदराबाद के निदेशक ने भी उनके कार्यालय से संबंधी राजभाषा प्रगति के बारे में विवरण दिया।

इस अवसर पर अपने सम्बोधन में डॉ. नरेश बाला, सहायक निदेशक, हिंदी शिक्षण योजना, हैदराबाद ने हिंदी के प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों और राजभाषा विभाग द्वारा जारी वार्षिक कार्यक्रम पर प्रकाश डाला और अनुरोध किया है कि अप्रशिक्षित पदाधिकारियों को उपयुक्त प्रशिक्षण दिलवाने हेतु सदस्य कार्यालय उपाय करें। उन्होंने कहा कि आजकल हिन्दी शिक्षण योजना ऑनलाइन माध्यम से कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण दे रही है। उन्होंने सदस्य कार्यालयों से अपील की कि इस सुविधा का लाभ उठाया जाए।

तत्पश्चात, सदस्य-सचिव, नराकास एवं वरिष्ठ हिंदी अधिकारी, सीएसआईआर-एनजीआरआई चि.वें.सुब्बाराव ने सदस्य कार्यालयों की छमाही प्रगति रिपोर्ट की विस्तार से समीक्षा की और राजभाषा के क्षेत्र में हुई प्रगति की प्रशंसा और कमियों को दूर करने का आग्रह किया। वर्ष 2020-2021 के लिए राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन संबंधी वार्षिक कार्यक्रम की जानकारी भी दी।

तदुपरान्त राजभाषा विभाग के कार्यान्वयन कार्यालय (दक्षिण) के उपनिदेशक के.पी. शर्मा ने सदस्य कार्यालयों की राजभाषा प्रगति पर समीक्षा की। बैठक समिति के सदस्य सचिव चि.वें. सुब्बाराव द्वारा अध्यक्ष, नराकास, मुख्य अतिथि तथा उपस्थित सभी गणमान्य व्यक्तियों के प्रति ज्ञापित धन्यवाद के साथ संपन्न हुई।

APPCB calls for public hearing on uranium project expansion

CSIR-NGRI

7th December, 2020



Due to concerns of the impact on the health of locals as a result of groundwater contamination by existing uranium iron ore mining in Tummalapalle of Kadapa district, the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) has issued a notice for a public hearing. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) is planning to expand uranium mining with Rs 720 crore in 973 hectares in Pulivendula constituency of Kadapa. The constituency is represented by Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. The proposed expansion will take place in Meedipentla, Velpula, Tummalapalle, Mabbuchintalapalle, Bhoomaiagaripalle, Rachakuntapalle and KK Kottala villages in Vemula mandal.

The public hearing for environmental clearance will be conducted on January 6, 2021, at Tummalapalle in Vemula mandal, Kadapa. UCIL has proposed to increase the uranium ore production from 9 lakh tonnes per annum (TPA) to 13.5 lakh TPA with the expansion. Retired scientists oppose the move, stating APPCB has to act in the public interest. Retired chief scientist Dr K Babu Rao said, “Even after the violations became evident, APPCB have preferred to look the other way instead of protecting the people and the environment. None of the violations has been amended, and the study sponsored at IIT Madras is not released yet. APPCB is allowing expansion.” In 2019, a PCB appointed expert committee observed that the farmers of surrounding villages around the tailing pond reported stunted growth of groundnut crop and banana. “Uranium concentration in the borewell is in much higher limits, ranging from 690 ppb (parts per billion) to 4,000 ppb, whereas the permissible limit is 60 ppb,” the report said. APPCB later asked UCIL to commission studies by SVIMS for health studies, Banana Research Centre (Trichy) for studying withering of banana plantation and National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) for geophysical studies. Activist Kakumanu Jayashree said, “KK Kottala and six other villages surrounding the tailing pond spread over 200 acres,

where the slurry waste effluent of uranium mining is dumped, are affected.” UCIL maintained data collected over the years do not reflect any significant increase of any of the pollutants. UCIL says that the area falls in metasediments of Cuddapah basin with predominant dolomitic nature of the rock that contains carbonates of calcium and magnesium. UCIL general manager M Srinivasa Rao said, “There is no contamination of water, air or ground due to our tailing pond or mining. The farmers are digging deep borewells and touching natural ore and salt formations due to which the levels are seen in water. Tailing pond has nothing to do with it.” He added UCIL provided several jobs in the past two years and also conducted medical camps.

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