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Initiative to find reasons behind prevalence of kidney disease in Andhra Pradesh

CSIR-IITR

29th January, 2020



As compared to the Indian average of 10-15 per cent, Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) cases Uddanam region of Andhra Pradesh shows a high incidence rate ranging between 30-45% of the population been affected. It is being found there are high incidences of CKDu prevalent in that region. The cause of these incidences is unknown. To understand the problem that affects the kidney health of this population a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow and Great Eastern Medical School and Hospital (GEMS and H), Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. Under this MoU, both the institutions have agreed to jointly work on

identifying the cause for the high incidence of CKDu. GEMS and H, Srikakulam and CSIR-IITR, Lucknow will jointly work to collect samples of food and water from Uddanam region affected with CKDu and analyze them for the cause of kidney diseases. Blood and urine samples of affected individuals will also be collected for identifying the reason for CKDu in the region.

The study will lead to the formulation of guidelines and suggest preventive measures to alleviate the root causes of CKDu in the region.

Chronic kidney disease refers to that the kidneys are damaged and can't filter blood the way they should. The affected kidney function gets slower; it can cause wastes to build up in the body. The damage happens with a slower pace, and it takes a long period; that is why the disease is called chronic. It can lead to other health problems.

High incidence of CKD leads to the tremendous suffering of affected people and the economic burden on the population. Frequent dialysis and transplant are the only options available to patients as the damage is irreversible after a particular stage.

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‘Assured innovation policy need of time’

CSIR-NEERI

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India needs a new innovation framework which is affordable, scalable and sustainable for which there should be a ‘quantified’ system to assess, fund and monitor everything, from start-ups to various projects, said Raghunath Mashelkar, former director general of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). He was speaking on his book ‘From leap frogging to pole-vaulting: Creating the magic of radical yet sustainable transformation’ at CSIR-Neeri auditorium.

Mashelkar said suitable framework should be used for start-ups, government-funded, and in-house institutional and industrial projects. He showed how the assured framework can be used for judicious evaluation of successful as also unsuccessful innovations.

In his book, Mashelkar has laid out the contours of an integrated strategy with assured success. He also spoke about why start-ups should pole-vault and not leapfrog, based on the assured framework. It looks at scalability and sustainability in economic, environmental and societal context and delves on why start-ups should be distinctive, he added.

He said there were some recent game-changing assured innovations which had a deep impact. He said the telephone could reach 50 million users in 50 years, but a recent mobile phone entity took only 83 days. This is pole-vaulting, he said. Earlier, Mashelkar had a meeting with Rakesh Kumar, director of CSIR-Neeri. He also interacted with Sunil Mansinghka, coordinator, Govigyan Anusandhan Kendra.

PK Labhsetwar, senior principal scientist and head, water technology and management division, CSIR-Neeri, briefed on performance evaluation of 12 water treatment technologies and other issues.

JS Pandey, chief scientist and head, climate change and skilling division (CCSD), introduced Mashelkar. Sadhana Rayalu, chief scientist and head, environmental material division (EMD), proposed a vote of thanks.

Shalini Dhyani conducted the proceedings while scientists Ankit Gupta, coordinated the event.

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Spread of Coronavirus is causing concern: Vice President

CSIR-CCMB



Vice President, Venkaia Naidu calls for global cooperation for early detection of new viruses and to contain serious fallout from outbreak of epidemics, Giving his keynote speech at CCMB in Hyderabad on Monday, the Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday underscored the need for global cooperation for early detection of new viruses and to contain any serious fallout from outbreak of epidemics. Addressing the scientists and researchers of CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad, the Vice President while referring to the newly-discovered strain of Coronavirus, said that it is spreading across

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the nations and causing major concern to health authorities. He pointed out that period outbreak of epidemics and new viruses highlighted our vulnerability to diseases. Referring to the vital role of the Indian Science and Technology Innovation (STI) System in achieving national goals as India aspires for sustainable and inclusive growth, he appealed to the private sector to create a fund for financing innovative scientific projects that will address societal concerns. Observing that investment in STI plays a major role in promoting research and developing cutting edge technologies, Vice President said the funding for basic research also has to be stepped up. Stressing that the outcome of every scientific endeavor must improve the lives of people, he called upon scientists of CCMB and other scientific labs to find answers to the many challenges the world was facing today like poverty, effects of climate change, pollution, lack of clean drinking water, sanitation, increasing urbanization and growing drug resistance, among others.

The Vice President also urged CCMB to develop Rapid DNA Testing Kits for the detection of some of the rare diseases and many other genetic disorders. “It is important to predict and prevent genetic diseases as more than 70 million Indians are estimated to be suffering from genetic disorders, according to the Organization for Rare Diseases India (ORDI)”, Mr. Naidu added.

He also advised institutions like CCMB to take up campaigns on a massive scale to create awareness among the people about the health risks associated with consanguineous marriages, particularly those relating to congenital disorders.

Earlier, he went around the exhibits which highlighted the research activities undertaken by CCMB.

CCMB Director, Dr. Rakesh Mishra, Directors of various CSIR labs, senior scientists and researchers were present on the occasion.

Minor earthquake shakes parts of Telugu states

CSIR-NGRI

27th January, 2020

It was the dead of night when the residents of Suryapet, Kodad and Nalgonda districts felt a sudden movement under the ground, who then came out to learn that the district had been hit by an earthquake. A minor earthquake of 4.7 magnitude hit Raghunathapalem in Nalgonda and the tremors were felt in Mahbubabad, Jayashankar Bhupalpally and in Warangal city.

The tremors were experienced in parts of the erstwhile Warangal district on Sunday at about 2.35 am. Residents said that they experienced movement of earth with a loud sound. “I heard a loud sound as if someone was banging on my front door. I suddenly woke up, experiencing movement underneath me,” said Perumandla Madhusudhan, a resident of Shambunipet. “I realised it was an earthquake and came outside the house, along with my family. All the colony residents too rushed outside. It was a scary experience as it is very rare to experience an earthquake in Warangal,” he said.

However, the impact of the seismic activity was not just limited to the neighbouring districts. According to officials of the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), there were tremors felt up to Hyderabad as well. This earthquake, which measured 4.7 on the Richter scale, took place at 2.37 am in the wee hours of Sunday. “I had felt walls of the building move for a few seconds, when the earthquake took place. Fortunately, no untoward incident took place. Since most people in my building were fast asleep, there were few people who felt the vibrations,” said Vijay Gopal, a resident of Tarnaka.

Similarly, even residents of Yapral, parts of Secunderabad and Dammaiguda, reported to have felt the quake. People in places like Begumpet and Punjagutta also experienced the mild earthquake for three seconds.

“The earthquake measured 4.7 on the Richter scale, and the activity took place at least seven kilometers beneath the earth’s surface,” Dr D. Srinagesh, chief scientist, CSIR-NGRI told Deccan Chronicle. As it turns out, the main earthquake was followed by 26 aftershocks. “Since the aftershocks were of next-to-negligible magnitude, they were not felt as evidently as the quake,” he added. The earthquake was a result of the Indian Tectonic Plate colliding with Eurasian Tectonic Plate. “The Indian plate is moving towards the Eurasian plate at a pace of five centimeters per annum. Whenever there is such a movement the energy generated from the collision is released onto the surface,” he said.

The buildings are, however, made to withstand such forces. “There will only be a building collapse if the quake measures six or higher on the Richter scale. This, provided that the buildings are built in line with the Bureau of Indian Standards’ guidelines,” he added. The tremors were registered in various areas of Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. People from Jaggaiahpet and Nandigama said they had experienced the tremors. District officials cautioned tahsildars to be alert in early hours of Monday.

In the past, the city had witnessed a mild earthquake in October 2016 that affected places like Padmavathi Colony, Devaiah Basthi and other places in Borabanda. With that being the most recent one, there were four other quakes that took place in and around the city. The first one was in 1843, which measured 3.7 on Richter scale, the second in 1876 and had measured 5.0 on Richter scale, the third occurred at Gandipet in 1982 measuring 3.2 and the fourth at Medchal in 1983 measuring 4.0 on the Richter scale.

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