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A Daily News Bulletin

21st April 2017



Earthquake warning system receives research council's innovation award

CSIR-CSIO

21st April 2017

Not many might be aware that Delhi was struck by some two dozen earthquakes in the last two years. But it appears that not a single tremor missed the radar of an earthquake warning system.

Pune-based industrialist Arun Firodia said the earthquake warning system (EqWS), developed by Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) in Chandigarh, was able to predict each of those tremors.

"Many small earthquakes were measured by the EqWS, but ignored. The system, however, measured two

big tremors and the epicentre of one of those was in Nepal," said Firodia, who is also the chairman of CSIO.

Currently, a unit of the system has been installed near New Delhi at the behest of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and is operational. It issued an early warning of a recent quake in Nepal and cautioned that it will not have any major impact in the Delhi area. For this, the organisation received the meritorious innovation award from the National Research Development Council (NDRC) in March.

Firodia said one of the objectives of the organisation was to develop solutions that could be used for the country's benefits. "Mass-scale adoption of technology is also a challenge," said Firodia, who also heads Kinetic Engineering in Pune.

"That is something that is really bothering us. Scientists like science for the beauty of it. Money is not something that moves them. When we try and tell them that your science can be used for the benefit of the common man, then that motivates them. 'Earn more money' pitch does not work," he added.

The sensors developed by CSIO works on the concept of "time lag" to alert the machinery. "During earthquakes, one wave travels earlier than the other. This is the time gap available to protect strategic installations. We have fixed a number of sensors around Delhi and if all of them confirm that there is an earthquake signal, only then we say there is an earthquake. Otherwise it can be a stray signal caused by, say, a movement of a truck," he said.

"If there is an earthquake of large magnitude, our instrument will be able distinguish between a major event or minor event. This can also give time to the control office to take necessary actions," Firodia said, adding that the EqWS was able to discriminate between a stray signal and an earthquake signal.

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NCL scientist gets early career research award

CSIR-NCL

21st April 2017

Scientist at the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Rahul Bhambure has received the early career research award from the Union department of science and technology.

His areas of research interest include process development, scale-up, and technology transfer for recombinant proteins and oligonucleotide therapeutics.

The award carries a research grant for the project led by Bhambure, a statement issued by NCL said. Bhambure has been working with NCL since March, 2016 in the Chemical Engineering and Process Development Division.

The award provides a research support to the young scientists to pursue exciting and innovative research in frontier areas of science and engineering, the statement added.

He completed his PhD in chemical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi and finished his post-doctoral research at University of Delaware, USA. He has the expertise in process development for biopharmaceutical drug substances.

The project led by Bhambure envisions the development of an indigenous clone for high-throughput cytoplasmic expression of biologically active refolded form of Ranibizumab — an antibody fragment used to treat vision loss associated with age related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

Published in:

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SMVDU students visit CSIR-IIIM Jammu

CSIR-IIIM

18th April 2017



Thirty-six students of Biotechnology, SMVD University, Katra of M.Sc (Sem II) and B.Tech (Sem VI) accompanied by Associate Prof Sharada Potukuchi, Assistant Prof Ratna Chandra, Assistant Prof Vinod Singh and associated Lab Staff member Meenakshi Krishen visited various facilities at Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) here on Monday.

The students got a chance to visit and interact with expert scientists and research scholars in different disciplines where they were demonstrated various experiments in the areas of Plant Biotechnology, Cancer Pharmacology, Value Addition, QCQA and Instrumentation (including the NMR, HPLC) sections.

They also had the opportunity to see the various types of experimental mice on which high end experiments related drug testing were in progress in the animal house.

The visit was made possible by the kind permission of Dr. Ram Vishwakarma, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu; Abdul Rahim, Sr Principal Scientist, IIIM, Jammu and Prof V Verma, Dean FoE and Head, Department of Biotechnology, SMVDU.

Published in:

News.Statestimes.in