

CSIR in Media



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Indian entrepreneurs keen on expanding footprint to Rwanda

CSIR

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Over 200 Indian entrepreneurs, part of a 25-company business delegation led by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), including the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) expressed keen interest in taking their innovations to Rwanda through the India-Rwanda Innovation Growth Programme (IRIGP) IRIGP was launched in February this year as part of the visit of former Vice President Hamid Ansari.

Over 200 Indian entrepreneurs, part of a 25-company business delegation led by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), including the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) expressed keen interest in taking their innovations to Rwanda through the India-Rwanda Innovation Growth Programme (IRIGP) IRIGP was launched in February this year as part of the visit of former Vice President Hamid Ansari. It is a first of its kind initiative between the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India; FICCI and the National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA), Government of the Republic of Rwanda. It aims to address the socio-economic needs of Rwanda by linking the Rwandan enterprises with cutting-edge Indian technologies and innovations; ultimately creating a mutually-beneficial ecosystem.

Through a wide outreach campaign in India, IRIGP received an enthusiastic response from over 200 Indian entrepreneurs willing and able to take their innovations global in wide-ranging focus sectors from agriculture, packaging and food processing to renewable energy and ICT. The delegation visit this month was being supported by the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Private Sector Foundation (PSF), National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA), Indian Embassy in Rwanda as well as other Chambers of Commerce and Trade Bodies in Rwanda.

Indian technologies innovations are to be showcased at the 20th Rwanda International Trade Fair (RITF), a multi-sectoral trade event which is being organised by the Private Sector Federation (PSF) in partnership with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and East African Community Affairs (MINEACOM) at Gikondo Expo Grounds, Kigali, Rwanda from August 22 September 6. Through their presence at RITF, the delegates seek to establish, build and develop contacts and business ideas with the local Rwandan counterparts. Additionally, over the course of the next few days, the delegation would also be participating in an India-Rwanda Business Forum, B2B meetings, interactions with senior government officials and industry visits.

The visit continues to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two nations with a focus on the key pillars of science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. I am confident of the Indian technologies; if they work in India, they will work in Rwanda. I thank FICCI for having worked with the Rwanda government and Private Sector Federation over the years. We look forward to the matched India-Rwanda enterprises creating impact development in Rwanda,” said Clare Akamanzi, CEO of Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and a Cabinet Member. IRIGP represented a unique program that could deliver impact development across sectors. The Program offers existing enterprises and start-ups the opportunity to acquire appropriate technologies for competitiveness and to scale,” added Dr. Joseph Mungarulire, Director General, National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA), Ministry of Industry, Trade and East African Community Affairs. The IRIGP demonstrates a strong commitment from both sides to strengthen collaboration based on Science, Technology and Innovation. The programme provides new international markets to Indian businesses and at the same time builds entrepreneurial opportunities for Rwandan entities with an end aim of socio-economic development of both nations,” opined Dr. A. Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI.

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[DNA](#)

Stop dumping of ‘ritualistic material’ to keep Ganga clean: NEERI study

CSIR-NEERI

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People must be stopped from dumping “ritualistic material” into the Ganga, considered a holy river by millions of Indians, says a study by a central government institute. The study by researchers at the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has called for restrictions on cremation-related activity, disposal of dumps and immersion of Hindu idols, garlands and flowers in the river. The study also held that a large number of “medicinal herbs growing in sub-alpine and alpine region near Gomukh (the origin of the Ganga), Chidbasa, Gangotri and adjoining areas (of the Himalayas) must be protected” to protect the “medicinal water quality” of the river. It called for changing pesticides-based farming along a 540-km stretch in Uttar Pradesh to organic farming. The study is a preliminary attempt to understand the anti-microbial characteristics of river Ganga. It said the “disposal of ritualistic material must be prevented from entering” the river Ganga to keep it clean.

The study said that although the Ganga finds its own way to survive despite unrelenting disposal of waste, immediate attention was needed to protect it and its special properties. The study, ‘Assessment of water quality and sediment to understand the special properties of River Ganga’, was conducted after the Union minister for water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation Uma Bharati last year said that NEERI will conduct a study to evaluate the medicinal values, if any, of the Ganga. The NEERI study was submitted to the National Mission for Clean Ganga, the nodal authority for the Ganga’s protection and conservation, a few months ago but is yet to be made public. The study also stressed the need for decentralized sewage treatment plants (STPS), individual household latrines (IHHLs) with proper excreta management in villages along the river, adoption of stringent measures like zero-liquid discharge by industries, and ensuring minimum environment flow (e-flow) in rivers.

It also called for strict monitoring of wastewater from major multi-speciality hospitals, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries situated in Kanpur, Bhagalpur, Allahabad and Varanasi and suggested mitigation measures as per the latest bio-medical waste management rules 2016. It noted that farming is common along the riverbank from Harsil (Uttarakhand) to Gangasagar (West Bengal) but that the use of “pesticides in agriculture in the surrounding areas increases rapidly as the river flow through the plains”.

“Converting from pesticidebased agriculture to organic farming must be initially considered in the stretch between Narora and Allahabad due to extensive farming activities and reduced flow in river,” the study said.

Cleaning up the Ganga has been a priority project for Indian governments for nearly three decades but despite spending thousands of crores of rupees the mission has failed. In a scathing judgment, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in July 2017 noted that “even after spending Rs7,304.64 crore up to March 2017 by the central government, state government and local authorities of the state of UP” the status of the Ganga has “not improved in terms of quality or otherwise and it continues to be a serious environmental issue”. The NGT in a 543-page judgment had also banned all construction within 100 metres of the river’s edge from Haridwar in Uttarakhand to Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.

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[LiveMint](#)

Pune to get mobile visarjan van, hi-tech eco-ponds closer to home during Ganeshostav

CSIR-NCL

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Punekars can visit any of the stores with their Ganesh idols, where they will be assisted in carrying out the 'visarjan' (immersion). These eco-ponds are located at JM Road, Hirabaug, Wakdewadi, Aundh, Karve Road, NIBM Road, Kalyaninagar and Kharadi. (Pratham Gokhale/HT PHOTO)

This year, technology will play a major role in the Ganeshostav with the telecom industry using internet of things (IoT) technology to gauge the depth of eco-ponds in the various parts of the city. An initiative of Vodafone India, the Maharashtra and Goa circle has partnered with the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) in an attempt to help citizens across the city celebrate and immerse Ganesh idols in an environment-friendly manner.

“We have set up ‘Vodafone eco-Ponds’, a temporary water tank setup equipped with a promoter and a life guard at eight Vodafone stores across the city. Pune-kars can visit any of the stores with their Ganesh idols, where they will be assisted in carrying out the ‘visarjan’ (immersion). These eco-ponds are located at JM Road, Hirabaug, Wakdewadi, Aundh, Karve Road, NIBM Road, Kalyaninagar and Kharadi. “Additionally we also plan to set up a mobile visarjan van, which will be visiting select large housing societies and old-age homes, to provide the visarjan facility exclusively to the residents of the society,” explains Ashish Chandra, business head, Maharashtra & Goa Circle, Vodafone India. These eco-ponds will be set up with an IoT device which will gauge when it is filled with idols and works on the displacement of water method. It will relay a message to PMC and NCL informing them about the capacity of these ponds, thus the officials

then remove the water from these ponds to water plants and have them refilled. “We are aware of the impact the festival leaves on the environment. PMC along with NCL have been in the forefront in encouraging people to undertake immersion at home in order to keep water bodies from polluting,” added Chandra.

Suresh Jagtap, joint Commissioner Solid Waste Management department, Pune Municipal Corporation said, “The response from Pune-kars to our new method of Ganesh visarjan that was developed by NCL has been overwhelming. Citizens are now more conscious of their environment and are eager to adopt new methods that have a positive result.”

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Vodafone sets up 'Eco-Ponds' to promote environment friendly visarjan on Ganeshotsav

CSIR-NCL



Vodafone unveiled its unique initiative 'Vodafone Eco-Ponds' on the occasion of 125th anniversary of Ganeshotsav celebrations in the city. Vodafone's Maharashtra and Goa circle has partnered with Pune Municipal Corporation and National Chemical Laboratory in an attempt to help citizens across the city celebrate and immerse Ganesh idols in an environment friendly manner.

Vodafone has set up 'Vodafone Eco-Ponds', a temporary water tank setup equipped with a promoter and a life guard at 8 Vodafone stores across the city. Pune residents can visit any of the stores with their Ganesh idols, where they will be assisted to carry out the Visarjan. Vodafone stores located at JM Road, Hirabaug, Wakdewadi, Aundh, Karve Road, NIBM Road, Kalyaninagar and Kharadi

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will be equipped with Vodafone Eco-Ponds (See Annexure). Further to this, devotees can also dial 7391000000 to locate all the Vodafone Eco-Ponds. Additionally Vodafone also plans to set up a Mobile Visarjan Van, which will be visiting select large housing societies, old age homes, where it would provide Visarjan facility exclusively to the residents of the society.

'Vodafone Eco-Ponds' were unveiled at the hands of the Suresh Jagtap – Joint Commissioner Solid waste Management Department – Pune Municipal Corporation and Dr. Shubhangi B Umbarkar – Senior Scientist, Catalysis Division - CSIR National Chemical Laboratory in presence of Mr. Ashish Chandra, Business Head, Maharashtra & Goa Circle, Vodafone India. Speaking about the initiative

Ashish Chandra, Business Head, Maharashtra & Goa Circle, Vodafone India said, "Ganeshotsav is one of the most celebrated festivals in Pune and being the 125th anniversary this year, it makes it even

more special. As much as we feel part of this festive buzz, we are aware of the impact, festival leaves on the environment. PMC along with NCL have been in the forefront in encouraging people to undertake immersion at home in order to keep water bodies from polluting. Vodafone is extremely happy to support them with our 'Vodafone Eco-Ponds' initiative that aims to reach out to as many citizens to help them carry out Ganesh Visarjan in an eco-friendly manner. I would like to invite Pune-kars to visit their nearest Vodafone Eco-Pond and give an environment friendly farewell to their beloved Ganpati Bappa”.

Shubhangi B Umbarkar – Senior Scientist, Catalysis Division - CSIR National Chemical Laboratory said, “First I would like to thank Vodafone team on behalf of NCL for coming forward to promote the "Eco-friendly Ganesh Visarjan" process developed by NCL. This is social project on which CSIR NCL has worked for almost three years in collaboration with PMC. Already last year many people have given positive response and around 25-30000 people have implemented it at home. But looking at the population of Pune city, this number needs to increase multi fold and I am sure initiative taken by Vodafone will have positive impact in achieving this goal. I would appeal all to either use clay idols or for POP idols use Eco-friendly Ganesh Visarjan process developed by CSIR-NCL.”

Suresh Jagtap – Joint Commissioner Solid waste Management Department – Pune Municipal Corporation said, “The response from Pune-kars to our new method of Ganesh Visarjan that was developed by NCL has been overwhelming. Citizens are now more conscious of their environment and are eager to adopt new methods that have a positive result on it. I appreciate Vodafone for having come up with such a unique initiative and would like to thank them, for extending a helping hand in promoting eco- friendly method of Ganesh Visarjan.

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Everythingexperiential.bw.in

'N.bhupathi', a frog with the face of a pig

CSIR-CCMB



Frogs are not exactly the cultural exemplars of good looks, as the famous fairy tale, The Frog Prince, reminds us. But the newly discovered *Nasikabatrachus bhupathi* could set the bar a couple of notches lower – or higher — depending on your aesthetic sensibility. According to a paper published last month in *Alytes*, a scientific journal devoted to the study of frogs and amphibians, Indian scientists have discovered a new species of frog that has a snout-shaped nose, just like a pig's, evoking comparisons with the Purple frog that took

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the world by storm when it was first discovered in 2003. The soiled-dwelling species, discovered by scientists from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad, has been named after the Indian herpetologist S. Bhupathy, who died in a freak accident in 2014. Bhupathy's purple frog inhabits the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats, near the Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. The discovery is significant as it constitutes additional evidence in favour of the theory of continental drift. The Purple frog is an inhabitant of Seychelles, and the discovery of Bhupathy's purple frog in India suggests that the Indian subcontinent was part of the ancient landmass of Gondwana before splitting from Seychelles 65 million years ago. Apart from *N.bhupathi*, *Alytes* also describes the discovery of two new frog species from north-eastern India: *Xenophrys sanu*, a

resident of the Darjeeling hills in West Bengal, and *Xenophrys katabhako*, found in West Bengal and Sikkim.

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Thehindu.com and Jagranjosh.com

Physician who brought renal care to India

CSIR – CSIO

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Professor KS Chugh's contribution to renal medicine has been acknowledged globally. Tribune photograph

Prof KS Chugh, the son of a small farmer in Patti (Punjab) — born in 1932 — fought against all odds in that small village, rising to become an emeritus professor of nephrology and is now a former professor and head, Department of Nephrology, PGI, Chandigarh. Professor Chugh was honoured with the Belding Scribner Trailblazer award by the International Society of Haemodialysis and Dr Ziblut Twardowski Life Time Achievement Award for his contribution to the science and practice of renal medicine in the US last year.

He is a renowned nephrologist and is known as the “father of nephrology” in India.

Professor Chugh started postgraduate training facilities for awarding doctorate in medicine (DM) degree in nephrology at the PGI in 1969. “The first batch qualified in 1971, one year before this examination took place in the US in 1971,” he says. He has trained the largest number of fellows in nephrology in his three decades at the PGI, before he retired in 1993. Some of the fellows trained at the PGI are currently recognised as world leaders in nephrology.

That Professor Chugh is a trailblazer in the field of nephrology in India – and abroad – is borne out by the fact that because of the prevailing economic conditions in the country in the 1960s and the difficulties in procuring foreign exchange for importing expensive monitoring machines for dialysis, he developed improvised techniques to provide affordable dialysis to patients suffering from kidney failure, without the

assistance of these machines. He devised a simple tank system for hemodialysis and designed Arterio Venous Shunts for vascular access by using locally available Teflon. Since commercial peritoneal dialysis catheters, which were being used in advanced countries, were not available and had to be imported, he made these catheters with polythene tubes with the help of the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) and successfully carried out peritoneal dialysis in several hundred patients. Because of these innovations, Dr Christopher Blagg, a world-renowned dialysis expert who visited the PGI on several occasions and saw these innovations, started referring to Professor Chugh as the “Belding Scribner of India”. Professor Chugh passed MD (Medicine) with kidney diseases in 1961 and became the first qualified nephrologist of India. “There is a little story behind it. After passing MBBS in 1955, I applied to Panjab University for permission to do post-graduation in MD (Medicine) with ‘kidney diseases’ as a specialty. “The university refused such permission initially and I was dubbed as ‘crazy’. Instead, I was advised to do post-graduation in gastroenterology, cardiology or neurology since these were the only three specialties recognised at that time. After several representations over nine months, the university relented and agreed for MD (Medicine) with urinary diseases. The name nephrology did not exist at that time. This resulted in the recognition of nephrology as a special subject and ushered in an era of modern medicine. He passed MD (Medicine) with urinary diseases in 1961 and became the first qualified nephrologist of the country,” he says.

Prof Chugh set up the first Department of Nephrology at the PGI in 1963. When asked whether he had something to convey to the medical fraternity, he said, “The real message is maintaining high standards of honesty, integrity and objectivity which are critical to scientific progress. Hiding or selectively reporting evidence and faking data thwarts scientific progress. “And my second message is about the research being done in our country. Lot of it is a duplication of the work being done in advanced countries. Research of this kind never gets published and, therefore, much research remains unpublished.”

Professor Chugh says because of commercialisation, ordinary people are losing faith in the medical profession. Doctors prescribe latest medicines and there is an indiscriminate use of advanced investigations, which puts a lot of financial burden on the patients. “Therefore, my advice to clinicians is that they should exercise a lot of restraint, that they should use a humanistic, judicious and rational approach.”

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Tribuneindia.com