



# CSIR IN MEDIA

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## NGRI scientists visit tremor-hit areas

PHOTO: K. RAVIKUMAR

NGRI chief scientist D. Srinagesh allaying fears about micro tremors and aftershocks, in Nellore on Tuesday.

A team of seismologists and scientists led by Dr. D. Srinagesh, chief scientist of the Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), made a field visit to the micro tremors-hit villages like Varikuntapadu and Vinjamur in the upland areas of Nellore district here on Tuesday.

During their interactions with the fear-stricken local people, the scientists sought to allay the public concerns saying the majority of the micro tremors were actually mere low intensity after-shocks and there would be no damage or harm because of either of these happenings.

The seismologists also said that in the past six months or so in Nellore district, nearly two tremors occurred with a very low intensity of 3 to 3.4 on the Richter scale while 29 after-shocks took place with 2 to 2.9 intensity and another 25 shocks occurred with 1 to 1.9 intensity.



After listening to the concerns of the locals, Dr. Srinagesh said that all the tremors recorded on the seismographs in Nellore district lasted three to four seconds and even lesser. Similar harmless happenings were recorded at Nanded in Maharashtra and Jubilee Hills and Vanasthalipuram in Hyderabad.

Dr. Srinagesh said it was true that such micro tremors did not take place in Varikuntapadu area in the past 50 years but there were other places in the district such quakes were recorded where they eventually disappeared.

### **Seismic zone 3**

Stating that there was no mechanism so far to predict the quakes beforehand with accuracy, Dr. Srinagesh said that the coastal region including Nellore fell in the seismic zone 3 which was classified keeping in view of the seismic activity in Bhadrachalam and Ongole areas. In this zone, tremors measuring only between 4.5 to 5.5 intensity may occur, which did not pose any danger to the people like in the case of quakes of 6 and above magnitude.

District Collector M. Janaki, who interacted with the scientists, said that needless fears and rumours were being fuelled every time there were after-shocks and the people should not be worried about them considering the very low intensity.

Stating that the NGRI scientists installed seismic instruments in Varikuntapadu just to monitor the quake activity, Ms. Janaki appealed to the public to cooperate with the district administration and the scientists by maintaining restraint in times of rumours. She said that false rumours led to people not to send their children to a school in Chakalikonda.

The scientists installed a new velocity metre at Chakalikonda to measure the tremor intensity accurately. Nearly 4 types of seismic instruments were being used to study the pattern of the tremors and after-shocks.

As part of the confidence building measures, the authorities and the scientists had decided to retain these seismic instruments for the next one year to continuously monitor the seismic activity in the affected villages.

## **ERODE TANNERY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION & CLRI JOIN HANDS TO REVIVE LEATHER INDUSTRY**

The Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) will extend technology support to Erode leather industry which has been in decline due to pollution related constraints.

The Erode Tannery Owners' Association has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CLRI for desired technology-infusion.

The association has assured that all the 30 odd leather units in Erode will implement the new waterless chrome tanning technology which already has been trial-tested in few industries of the district.

The MoU was signed by B. Chandrasekaran, Director of CLRI and Mohamed Hyder President of the Association.

Announcing the agreement President of ETOA said, "The MoU would pave way for adoption of the breakthrough technology for safeguarding water bodies from pollution caused by toxic effluent containing chromium and sulphates".



The technology is developed by CLRI for which it has filed a patent in 2014.

The Central Government aims to raise export revenue from leather to \$ 27 billion by 2020 from the existing \$ 12.5 billion, he said.  
(KNN Bureau)

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[knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/state/erode-tannery-owners-association-clri-join-hands-to-revive-leather-industry](http://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/state/erode-tannery-owners-association-clri-join-hands-to-revive-leather-industry)

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## **Assam refinery sends first consignment of paraffin wax to Kenya**

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Assam's Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has sent its first consignment of Type-II paraffin wax to the Rok Industries in Kenya from its marketing terminal in Golaghat, the refinery said on Wednesday.

The 60-tonne consignment was flagged off by the refinery's Technical Director S.R. Medhi on Tuesday evening.

The NRL's wax plant was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February this year at a public function in Dibrugarh town. The 50,000-tonne a year wax plant was commissioned in March last year at a cost of Rs 676 crore.

The country's largest wax producing unit has indigenous technology developed by the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) Dehradun, Engineers India Ltd (EIL) and NRL.

Since its wax plant was commissioned, the NRL has emerged as the largest manufacturer and marketer of wax in the country with a market share of more than 52 per cent.

Leveraging on the inherent properties of wax-rich crude oil from Assam's oil fields, the plant is designed to produce superior quality paraffin and micro-crystalline wax. It is a worthy manifestation of the "Make in India" campaign of the central government.

Till now, a major part of the country's annual demand for paraffin wax along with the entire demand for micro-crystalline wax was being met through imports. NRL's wax plant has minimised the supply deficit in the domestic market substantially, thus reducing imports.

Paraffin wax is used in making candles, tarpaulin sheets, food grade wrappers and in PVC pipe manufacturing industries while micro-crystalline Wax finds widespread application in the manufacture of tyres, rubber products, paints and polishes, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

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[www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/assam-refinery-sends-first-consignment-of-paraffin-wax-to-kenya-116060800977\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/assam-refinery-sends-first-consignment-of-paraffin-wax-to-kenya-116060800977_1.html)

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## ILLUSION THAT WORKS: 3D WAY TO CURB ACCIDENTS

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With India accounting for 11% of road-accident deaths in the world, there's an urgent need to reduce pedestrian fatalities. Recently, the ministry of road transport and highways asked CSIR-CRRI to conduct a study on the efficacy of three-dimensional zebra crossings in the city. According to the study, the 3D zebra crossing showed excellent results for heavy commercial vehicles, such as trucks and buses, while the impact was not so great on small cars.

CSIR-CRRI recommended marking all entry and exit points on national highways with 3D paint to further monitor the reduction in vehicle speeds over a year. Dr Kayitha Ravinder, who carried out the study under the supervision of CSIR-CRRI director Satish Chandra, said: "The idea was to see how effective such a crossing was and whether it could be used in areas close to schools, colleges and in accident-prone locations."

The study noted and analysed spot speeds of various categories of vehicles, both before and after the crossing came up. The reduction in speed of different types of vehicles was found to vary between 1.6% and 20.3%, said Dr S Velmurugan, who was also part of the team that undertook the study.

The minimum speed reduction -- of about 1.6% -- was observed in small cars (up to 1400 cc). The maximum speed reduction of 20.3% was seen in the case of heavy commercial vehicles. "The reason was the vantage viewing height of HCVs and buses, which is more, making the 3D marking laid across the road conspicuous from such a height. Consequently, statistically significant speed reduction was observed."

The findings recommended that 3D zebra crossings be coloured with thermoplastic paint at all accident-prone locations in urban and peri-urban areas and monitored.

The actual spotting, or visualisation, of the 3D marking was found to be more effective during the lean hours of traffic flow. It was found 3D zebra crossings with conventional enamel paint dissipated fast. A 3D paint, which has been invented by Saumya Pandya

Thakkar and Shakuntala Pandya of Ahmedabad, was used in the experiment by CSIR-CRRI. The report said the 3D marking "should find a place in the Indian Road Congress document, Code of Practice for Road Markings IRC:35 (2015), to gain acceptability at national level before putting to effect on Indian roads".

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[timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/illusion-that-works-3D-way-to-curb-accidents/articleshow/52662981.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/illusion-that-works-3D-way-to-curb-accidents/articleshow/52662981.cms)

June 9, 2016



## **METALLURGICAL STUDENTS' SEMINAR BTTD-2016 STARTS TODAY AT CSIR-NML**



The Indian Institute of Metals (IIM), Jamshedpur chapter, NIT Jamshedpur, Tata Steel Limited and CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (CSIR-NML) have been working together to nurture the young metallurgists and inspire them to flourish into dedicated professionals.

This year, Indian Society for Non-Destructive Testing (ISNT), Jamshedpur Chapter, has joined in organizing BTTD 2016. “Behind The Teacher’s Desk” (BTTD) is the annual students’ seminar for the promising and aspiring metallurgists, providing a befitting platform for interaction of student and the experts from industry/R&D/academia.

Students’ seminar on metallurgical engineering “Behind The Teacher’s Desk” (BTTD-2016) will be organized at CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, on June 9-10. In this event, the young generation of professional metallurgists gets an opportunity to share their academic achievement, innovation, creativity, sense of adventure and new ideas in the field of metallurgy.

Anand Sen, president TQM and Steel Business, Tata Steel, will be the chief guest for the inaugural program, while Professor Rambabu Kodali, director, NIT Jamshedpur will be the guest of honor. The event will start at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, June 9.

Plenary Talk-1 will be addressed by Dr. T. Venugopalan, technical advisor to MD, Tata Steel, while Plenary Talk-2 will see Amitava Sircar, COO, Usha Martin, Jamshedpur, addressing the gathering.

The BTTD seminar, held at the CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory for the past five years, has been a great success and has now become a sought after event among students' fraternity. The participation of undergraduate and post graduate students from across the country has been very high and is increasing over the years.

The seminar provides a podium to the participants to share their ideas and interact with scientists, eminent metallurgists, engineers and entrepreneurs so as to develop new skills in the field of metallurgy.

The delegates will be from various academic institutions such as NIT Jamshedpur; VSSUT Burla; NIT Durgapur; VNIT Nagpur; NIFFT Ranchi; Jadavpur University; BIT Sindri; NIT Rourkela; IIT Kharagpur; GCE Salem; IIT BHU, Varanasi; NSIT BIHTA, Patna; IMMT Bhubaneswar; BIT MESRA; GEC Gandhinagar; Central University of Jharkhand; PSG College Coimbatore; AKU Patna; Andhra University; NIT Raipur; IIIT Nuzivutu; Institute of Engineers; IIT Patna; and NIT Warangal.