

# CSIR in Media



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## युवा वैज्ञानिकों ने पेश किए नये आविष्कार

Lab covered: CSIR-NPL

11<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### युवा वैज्ञानिकों ने पेश किए आविष्कार

जासं, नई दिल्ली : राष्ट्रीय भौतिकी प्रयोगशाला में आयोजित भारत अंतरराष्ट्रीय विज्ञान महोत्सव के दौरान वहां प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें युवा वैज्ञानिकों ने अपने-अपने आविष्कारों का प्रदर्शन किया। आगंतुकों ने युवा वैज्ञानिकों के इन आविष्कारों की सराहना की। उधर, इस मौके पर भारत सहित विदेशों फिल्मों की स्क्रीनिंग भी की गई।

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि भारत अंतरराष्ट्रीय विज्ञान महोत्सव में भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों के 600 छात्र-छात्राएं हिस्सा ले रहे हैं। इसमें उनके द्वारा किए गए तरह-तरह के आविष्कार प्रदर्शित किए गए हैं। इसमें से बेहतर आविष्कार वाले तीन युवा वैज्ञानिकों को राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार जबकि 57 को संत्वाना पुरस्कार दिए जाएंगे। महोत्सव में विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के सचिव प्रो. आशुतोष शर्मा ने भी शिरकत की।

ज्ञात हो कि विज्ञान महोत्सव के दूसरे दिन 550 छात्रों ने प्रख्यात वैज्ञानिक अल्बर्ट आइंस्टीन के वेश में नजर आए थे। 11 समूह में आइंस्टीन के वेश धरे 550 बच्चों ने गिनीज बुक



विज्ञान महोत्सव में आविष्कार दिखाता छात्र।

जागरण

आफ वर्ल्ड रिकार्ड के लिए दावा भी पेश किया है। इससे पहले अमेरिका के एक स्कूल के 304 छात्रों ने गत वर्ष मार्च महीने में आइंस्टीन के रूप में दिखे थे।

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**Dainik Jagran, Page 2**



## CHARGED UP - 524 little 'Einsteins' eye Guinness record

*Lab covered: CSIR-NPL*

*10<sup>th</sup> December 2016*



At least 500 Einstein enthusiasts gathered at India International Science Festival (IISF) on Friday , sporting his trademark wig and moustache. The aim of these 524 students of classes VIII and IX was to beat last year's record of 304 made by Black Pine Circle School in Berkeley , California in the US, as “the largest gathering of people dressed as Albert Einstein“. While the Guinness World Records may take up to a month to decide, the participants were confident that they had set a record.

The students were allotted numbered wristbands and videographed at the entry in the presence of Guinness observers and National Physical Laboratory (NPL) officials. “The final count -the number of students who are with their wigs and moustache in place during the competition -will be sent to the India office and then to the global headquarters in London,“ said an official.

Oblivious of all technicalities, the students were all charged up -some are already well read about the achievements of the 1921 Nobel laureate in physics while many others are eager to know more about the father of the theory of relativity.



“We are here to be a part of history. Einstein has been the greatest of his kind,” said Class IX student Gavi Ahuja of Manav Sthali School, New Rajendra Nagar. Asked about his greatest achievement, around 50 students jumped up with Gavi and chorused, “Theory of relativity“. Sahej Patil of Class VIII even quoted Einstein as saying, “the important thing is not to stop questioning; curiosity has its own reason for existing“, while another came up with, “imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited; imagination encircles the world“.

A few were even unaware about the competition. “I was excited as we were told that we would discuss the theory of relativity and photo electric effect, and learn about Einstein,” said a student.

The event at NPL, Pusa Road was coordinated by the science and technology ministry and Union minister Harsh Vardhan wished the students before the event.

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**Times of India, Page 2, 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**Also Published in:**

**TOI, Page 1**

**Dainik Jagran, Page 6**

**Rashtriya Sahara, Page 16**



## Cycad plants under extinction threat

*Lab covered: CSIR-NBRI*

*12<sup>th</sup> December 2016*

*Kalyan Ray*

**Cycad plants, living fossils that survived for nearly 300 million years, are now facing an extinction threat in India.**

Of the 12 cycad species reported in India, three are ‘critically endangered’, three are ‘endangered’ and another three are ‘vulnerable’. For the remaining three, data is deficient, but scientists studying this plant say those three are also under threat.

A common ornamental plant in urban India, cycads are the most primitive seed plants characterised by a large crown of compound leaves and a stout trunk. They are often termed as living fossils as they underwent little change compared to their Mesozoic ancestors.

Cycads are listed among the most threatened plant families in the world in the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s 1997 Red List of Threatened Plants. Nearly 64% of cycads are threatened, which is the highest value of risk of extinction given to any group of organism.

“All the habitats of Indian cycad species are threatened and have suffered severe reduction and degradation. These ever-increasing pressures are mainly due to clearing of forests, increase in human population, urbanisation and unsustainable harvesting of seeds and male cones,” said R K Roy, scientist at the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow.



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For the plants located in the vicinity of human settlements, the extinction threats are due to anthropogenic activities, especially cleaning of forest for agriculture and illegal mining. In the Eastern Ghats, unsustainable harvesting of seeds led to its reduction.

Over the years, these plants found multiple use.

Indian cycads are extensively used as food and traditional medicine, and in cultural and religious rituals wherever they grow naturally. In South India, cycad fronds are used to decorate temples and churches.

In remote areas of the Western and Eastern Ghats, its seeds are extensively used as food as an alternative for starch.

Male cones are used as a pest repellent in Kerala and Odisha, while in the Northeast, the young leaves are commonly used as a green vegetable.

With their survival under threat, NBRI scientists, in a report published in the December 10 issue of the journal *Current Science*, suggested special conservative arrangements for cycads.

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**Deccan Herald, Page 1**



## More than 3 lakh Formulations from the texts of AYUSH System have been digitalized under TKDL: Shri Shripad Yesso Naik

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*Lab covered: CSIR-TKDL*

*13<sup>th</sup> December 2016*

As per the information provided by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), 204 Patents have since been granted on formulations/ processes/ products of herbs / plants. DIPP has further stated that Patents are issued on inventions that satisfy the patentability criteria as laid out in the Patents Act, 1970. As per the Patents Act 1970 (as amended), patents can be imparted only to new formulations based on products related to herbs/ plants or processes related thereto, which are not in public domain and fulfill the criteria of patentability.

The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945, does not have any provision for registration of Ayurvedic formulations. To protect Traditional Medicinal Knowledge of India, the Ministry of AYUSH has created Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in collaboration with Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) for digitalization of traditional medicinal knowledge. More than 3 lakh formulations from the texts of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Systems have been digitalized till date under TKDL to protect Traditional Knowledge from misappropriation by providing defensive protection.

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**[bit.ly/2hrSbUJ](http://bit.ly/2hrSbUJ)**



## NGRI to explore Deccan for hydrocarbons

*Lab covered: CSIR-NGRI*

*9<sup>th</sup> December 2016*

*Syed Akbar*

After successfully discovering oil and natural gas in the Krishna-Godavari basin, geophysicists have now turned their attention to the Deccan region for exploration of hydrocarbons. Scientists from the citybased National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) have noticed the presence of oil and natural gas in the Deccan region that spreads over a vast area including parts of Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

Soil samples collected from Telangana and other areas revealed the potentiality of the region in oil and natural gas reserves. The depths at which the reserves were found vary from one km to 2.5 km below the earth. Though the region is known to contain oil, natural gas and shale gas, this is the first time that the NGRI scientists have scientifically established the hydrocarbon potentiality in the Deccan basalt through geochemical techniques.

The NGRI team, however, says further studies including corroboration of the ground data are needed to zero in on the areas, where oil and natural gas can be explored. In earlier studies, NGRI scientists found the presence of shale gas in the PranahitaGodavari basin that runs through the coal belt. Only shale gas can be obtained from the coal fields, whereas oil and natural gas can be explored in the rest of the Deccan syncline (a vast shallow region spread over about two lakh square km).



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"Further work is required to estimate the extent of hydrocarbon reserves and their exact location in Deccan basalt," said Dr AM Dayal, one of the members of the NGRI research team. The research study was published in the recent issue of the Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering.

The research finding gains significance in the back drop of India's growing energy needs and its plans to cut down imports by increasing local production. Analysis of the soil samples showed the presence of a special type of bacteria that are capable of oxidizing hydrocarbons like propane.

The NGRI team integrated the geochemical data with the geophysical model to arrive at the gas and oil reserves. They also observed variation in the distribution of methane concentration indicating the presence of reserves hidden in traps with thickness ranging from 800 metres to 1200 metres. Certain areas are up to two km thickness with favourable conditions for generation of methane.

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**[bit.ly/2hDxu8G](https://bit.ly/2hDxu8G)**



## Centre constitutes committee to assess impact of industrial pollution on Taj Mahal

*Lab covered: CSIR-NEERI*

*10<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Aditya Dev*

The union environment and forest ministry has constituted a five-member high-level committee comprising its advisor, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) director and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) director general among others to conduct a fresh study to find out the impact of industrial pollution on Taj Mahal.

Earlier, in September this year, the ministry had decided to allow only non-polluting 'white category' new industrial units in Agra, a move vehemently opposed by Agra businessmen.

The latest direction, passed on December 8, has come in the wake of several representations sent to the ministry by various organisations of Agra.

According to the new direction, the committee will assess level of industrial pollution as well as ambient air quality and suggest appropriate course of action based on the scientific evidence. It will also assess implementation of decisions taken on September 8 in the ministry while reviewing the status of environmental issues in the Taj Trapezium zone.

Besides, the committee will hear all the stakeholders and submit a report by December 14, 2016 to the ministry.



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The ministry has appointed its advisor Manoranjan Hota as the chairman of the committee. Other members are secretaries of Central Pollution Control Board and UP Pollution Control Board, besides NEERI director and ASI chief or his representative.

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