

# CSIR IN MEDIA



**CSIR**

**NEWS BULLETIN  
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## CSIR-NCL conducts an industry meet under the DSIR-CRTDH programme in Aurangabad

CSIR-NCL

05<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

PUNE: CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune, in collaboration with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), New Delhi, organized an Industry Meet cum workshop in Aurangabad as a part of the Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH). DSIR has been encouraging SMEs to steer their progress through scientific interventions.



Recently, DSIR has sponsored a center at CSIR-NCL, Pune, said a statement issued by NCL.

Chairman, CII Marathwada Zonal Council, Prasad Kokil, and Senior Vice President, Cosmo Films Limited, Aurangabad Sanjay Chincholikar, inaugurated the event. Samir H. Chikkali, Harshwardhan V. Pol, and Dr. Nagaraju Barsu represented CSIR-NCL at this industry meeting.

Chikkali, in his remarks, elucidated the purpose of the meeting and the choice of Aurangabad as it has a large number of SMEs. Subsequently, he interacted with the participants on the topic “in reactor and post-reactor” modification of polyolefins. Harshwardhan Pol made a presentation on ‘Polymer characterization and processing and available facilities at CSIR-NCL.’ The session attracted a large number of questions. More than 70 SME participants attended the event.

## Study confirms airborne transmission of coronavirus

CSIR-CCMB, IMTECH

05<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

Hyderabad: A collaborative study by a group of scientists from the CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad and the CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh, with hospitals in Hyderabad and Mohali has confirmed the airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

The study has been published in the Journal of Aerosol Science.

The exact mechanism of spread of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has remained elusive. Earlier thought to spread by surfaces, epidemiologists found that countries where people wore masks in the pandemic were affected less severely. However, quantitative evidence that shows the infectious coronavirus particles in air was lacking.

The scientists analysed the coronavirus' genome content from air samples collected from different areas occupied by Covid-19 patients. These included hospitals, closed rooms in which only Covid-19 patients spent a short period of time, and houses of home-quarantined Covid-19 patients.

They found that the virus could be frequently detected in air around Covid-19 patients and that the positivity rate increased with the number of patients present in the premises. They found the virus in ICU as well as non-ICU sections of hospitals, suggesting that patients shed the virus in air irrespective of the severity of infection. The study also found viable coronavirus in air that could infect living cells, and these viruses could spread over a long range of distance. Scientists still suggest wearing face masks to avoid the spread of coronavirus.

“Our results show that coronavirus can stay in the air for some time in absence of ventilation in closed spaces. We find that the positivity rate of finding the virus in air was 75 per cent

when two or more Covid-19 patients were present in a room, in contrast to 15.8 per cent when one or no Covid-19 patients occupied the room in these studies,” said Dr Shivranjani Moharir, a scientist involved in the study.

“Our observations are concurrent with previous studies that suggest that the concentration of SARS-CoV-2 RNA is higher in indoor air as compared to outdoor air; and in indoor, it is higher in hospital and healthcare settings that host a larger number of Covid-19 patients, as compared to that in community indoor settings,” he added.

“As we are back to conducting in-person activities, air surveillance is a useful means to predict infection potential of spaces like classrooms, meeting halls. This can help refine strategies to control the spread of infections,” said Dr Rakesh Mishra, the lead scientist of the work, CSIR Distinguished Emeritus Professor at the CCMB, and Director, Tata Institute for Genetics and Society.

He also added that the air surveillance technique is not just limited to coronavirus but can also be optimised to monitor other air-borne infections.

## Lemongrass revolution in backward tribal belt of AP

CSIR-CIMAP

03<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022

HYDERABAD: After drought-hit Wanaparthy, it is the backward areas of the Srikakulam tribal belt that have come forward to take up lemongrass cultivation.



The Central Institute of Medical and Aromatic Plants has started the project to encourage lemongrass cultivation in AP's Srikakulam.

CIMAP Hyderabad senior principal scientist Kiran Babu said several awareness programmes were conducted in areas like Pathapatnam mandal under CSIR-Aroma mission.

An NGO Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society is involved in the project. The CIMAP has distributed 1,25,000 lemongrass slips to the farmers and the crop is shaping up well. Field visits were also carried out in Raiwada in Sarvakota.

“These enterprising tribals are in the process of establishing a steam distillation unit on their own. Now, looking at the success of Raiwada farmers, many other farmers from adjoining areas have also come forward and registered under the CSIR-Aroma mission to extend the cultivation of lemongrass,” said Kiran Babu.

J Kotesch Kumar, senior principal scientist, and KVNS Srinivas, principal scientist, CIMAP, are also part of the project. As part of CSIR-Aroma mission, lavender is cultivated in Kashmir, lemongrass is grown in AP and Telangana. CIMAP has been cultivating lemongrass as

agro-climate in the Deccan region suits it. India imports 182 tonnes of lemongrass oil annually. CIMAP is working on different aroma crops in various climates, process technologies to extract oil, toxicity evaluation and economic viability analysis.

## OPCW organises analytical chemistry course in partnership with Indian Institute of Chemical Technology

CSIR-IICT

02<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022

THE HAGUE, Netherlands—2 May 2022—

As chemistry is one of the key sectors of global economic development, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) promotes international cooperation as one of its pillars by encouraging the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the field of chemistry.



To contribute to this goal, the Organisation

for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) held an online Analytical Skills Development Course to enhance skills in the analysis of chemicals relevant to the CWC, and to share knowledge on laboratory best practices.

The course was held online from 25 to 29 April 2022 in partnership with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) in Hyderabad, India, and targeted analytical chemists and chemical professionals from OPCW Member States with economies that are developing or in transition.

The Head of India's National Authority for the CWC, Dr Sudhanshu Gupta, said in his opening remarks: "The ASDC course serves as an important capacity building tool in enhancing analytical capacities of participating chemistry professionals for advancing full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in OPCW States Parties. I welcome the sustained efforts undertaken by OPCW in strengthening the global regime against the chemical weapons and thank CSIR-IICT for its active contribution towards the organisation of this course."

The OPCW representative underlined: “The Analytical Skills Development Course serves as an essential learning tool in the portfolio of capacity building courses offered by OPCW. Specialized trainings like this will help with better equipping qualified chemists, from countries that are developing or in transition, in analysing chemicals related to national implementation of the Convention, and in turn help contribute towards the strengthening of laboratories in these Member States. We are pleased to be able to deliver these programmes together with our partners to advance implementation of the Convention.”

Through this course, participants also gained insights on Gas Chromatography (GC) and Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) as well as derivatization techniques and methods of chemical sample preparation and analysis.

The course was attended by 19 participants from 18 OPCW Member States: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Iraq, Namibia, Nigeria, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, and Uganda.

## **Background**

As the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, the OPCW, with its 193 Member States, oversees the global endeavour to permanently eliminate chemical weapons. Since the Convention’s entry into force in 1997, it is the most successful disarmament treaty eliminating an entire class of weapons of mass destruction.

Over 99% of all declared chemical weapon stockpiles have been destroyed under OPCW verification. For its extensive efforts in eliminating chemical weapons, the OPCW received the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize.



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