CSIR IN MEDIA

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Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates the Start-up summit in Srinagar

CSIR

11th November, 2022

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates the Start-up summit in Srinagar, and says, J&K has huge unexplored potential for Agri-tech Start-ups

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space, and Atomic Energy, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said, J&K has the huge unexplored potential of Agri-tech Start-ups as the geography and climatic conditions here favour the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Inaugurating the Start-up summit in Srinagar, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the government job mind-set is proving an impediment to Start-Up culture, mainly in North India. He pointed out that the 'Purple Revolution' originating from Jammu & Kashmir offers attractive StartUp avenues and those who have entered the lavender sector are making a fortune out of it. He said, it is important to take note of some of the exemplary instances of many young entrepreneurs who are seen quitting their lucrative jobs in the MNCs to establish their own Start-Ups, as these young entrepreneurs are now beginning to realise the possibility of greater fortunes in this.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that as Union Minister for DoNER, he had approved three Bamboo Clusters in Jammu, Katra, and Samba areas in 2020 for the making of Bamboo basketry, Agarbatti, and Bamboo Charcoal. He said that Bamboo products are in great demand

both in India and abroad and through Start-ups, the youth can explore huge entrepreneurial opportunities in this sector.

Dr. Jitendra Singh gave full credit to the futuristic vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had given a call for "Start-Up India Stand Up India" from the ramparts of Red Fort in his Independence Day address of 2015 that initiated a mass interest, as a result of which the number of Start-Ups in India has increased from a mere 350 in 2014 to over 80,000 in 2022 with more than 100 unicorns.

Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that the Biotech KISAN Hub has rejuvenated 40 orchards to date under the rejuvenation of apple orchards, where a very innovative methodology has been used to transform the old, senile, and the young and non-productive orchards into more productive orchards. He said, in J&K too, the new high-density plantation system of apples is taken up by farmers and is being promoted by the Biotech KISAN hub vigorously. The Minister promised full help by DBT and CSIR for setting up Agritech Start-ups.

The Minister pointed out that a new wave of Agri-tech Start-Ups has emerged in the country in the last few years and these Start-Ups are solving problems related to supply chain management, cooling, refrigeration, seed management, and distribution, besides helping farmers to access a wider range of markets.

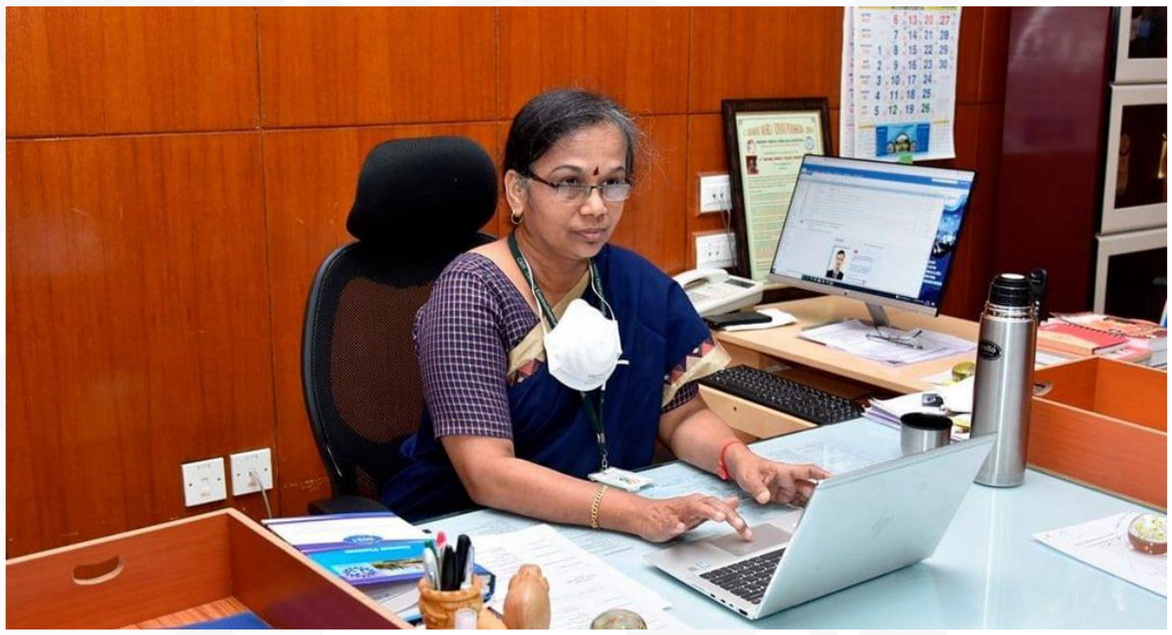
In the next 25 years of Amrti-Kal, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, Jammu & Kashmir and several hill territories as well as the Himalayan States are going to make a significant value edition to build India's future economy because these are the territories whose resources remain under-utilised in the past. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi giving focussed attention to these areas, they are going to play a pivotal role in placing India on the world pedestal by 2047; he said.

Published in:
IBG NEWS

Engineers must use skills to make India global leader: Director General of CSIR

CSIR

11th November, 2022



Engineers must deploy their skill and technical knowledge to help India become a global leader, said N Kalaiselvi, director general of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Delivering her speech virtually at the graduation-day event at Anna University's four campus colleges and its regional campus in Coimbatore, Kalaiselvi said engineers, along with researchers, play a crucial role in strengthening India's position in the technology, science and innovation.

"We are amid a very important exercise of positioning India in the global arena and to achieve this, we have to focus on two factors: Nation building and capacity building. In both scenarios, the role of students is crucial," said Kalaiselvi.

She urged the students to channelise their energy and knowledge for the betterment of the nation and solve the problems of society. She further added that using their technical knowledge, engineering students can help every sector, from agriculture to industries to education and health.

Speaking on the occasion, Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy highlighted the schemes rolled out by TN government to improve education among girls. He reiterated the government's stand on Hindi and National Education Policy. "The three-language policy cannot be accepted because when Tamil and English are more than enough for people, a third language should not be forced on people," Ponmudy said.

Published in:

The New Indian Express

Appointments. C Anandharamakrishnan takes over as Director, CSIR-NIIST

CSIR-NIIST

11th November, 2022

Chemical engineering and food processing technology expert and leading scientist C Anandharamakrishnan has taken over as Director of the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) based in Thiruvananthapuram.

Anandharamakrishnan served as the Director of the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM-T), formerly known as the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur, from April 2016 to till date, an official spokesman said. He built up vast experience in research and development in the food processing sector while earlier serving as Senior Principal Scientist at the CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru.

He obtained BTech in Chemical Engineering from AC Tech, Anna University, Chennai, and completed his MTech at the same university. He did his doctoral research in chemical engineering with a specialisation in Food Engineering at Loughborough in the UK, where he was awarded the Commonwealth Scholarship Programme by the Government of the UK.

His research areas include design of engineered nano and micro-scale delivery systems for controlled and targeted release of food bioactive compounds, 3D food printing, engineered human dynamic gastrointestinal system and glycemic index studies, spray drying and spray-freeze-drying of food products and computational modelling of food processing operations.

Published in:

The Hindu Businessline

CAQM to use AI and ML to tackle air pollution in Delhi-NCR

CSIR-CRRI, CSIR-NEERI

15th November, 2022

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has decided to tap the technical/ academic expertise of the reputed scientific institutions working in the field of air pollution for joint and augmented approach towards prevention, control and abatement of the menace of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

After detailed technical and financial evaluation and appraisal, seven (07) proposals have been approved by the Commission. The first project by CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur will use AI/ML tool for vehicle counting by uploading the CCTV footage on Cloud Platform. This will help in preparing the air pollution emission inventory with the help of vehicle count for urban centers. The different range of traffic density will be used for training of AI Tool for vehicle counting. CCTV Footage of 24 hours of different road section will be uploaded for training the AI Tool.

Second project by CSIR-NEERI, Delhi and CSIR - Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Delhi aims to improve the Air quality of Delhi NCR by addressing vehicular induced road dust with scientific and technological based action plans.

Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, Punjab look forward to develop an AI based technique for flying drones in a specified trajectory with minimal human intervention for real-time air quality monitoring specifically for the pollutants viz. SO2, NO2, PM 2.5 and PM10. The data will be useful to provide information about exact pollutant

concentration, on ground, spatial, temporal, altitudinal and seasonal variation of pollutant concentration at particular area/location in Delhi NCR vis-à-vis prediction of air quality scenario which help in optimization of control strategy.

Apart from theses there are also projects proposed by IITM, Pune; SASTRA University, Thanjavur; IIT Delhi and Swachh.io; and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune. The Projects are aimed at developing better capabilities for air quality monitoring/ demonstrating field implementable solutions/ technologies, for the Commission to bolster its fight against the air pollution menace of NCR. Specific time limits along with budgetary allocations have also been set for each of the projects to be carried out for identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality of NCR.

Published in:
INDIAai

Awareness / workshop on EV infrastructure held

CSIR-NEIST, CSIR-IIP

10th November, 2022

A two-day awareness programme cum workshop on 'Electric vehicle, charging infrastructure and renewable hybrid energy in North East India', which is being jointly organised by CSIR-IIP Dehradun, CSIR-NEIST Branch Lab, Lamphelpat and Transport Department, commenced from Thursday at City Convention Centre, Palace Compound, here.

Tourism Corporation of Manipur chairman MLA Karam Shyam and CSIR-NEIST senior principal scientist Dr Huidrom Birkumar attended the inaugural function as chief guest and president respectively while Manipur Pollution Control Board chairman MLA Dr U Deben, CSIR-IIP Dehradun principal scientist Dr L Robindro and senior scientist Punam Gupta were present as guests of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Karam Shyam exhorted the youth to pay attention in their study and gain knowledge with a sense of responsibility in order to remain relevant in today's competitive word.

Knowledge is the most valuable wealth today and without it, the society can never be part of the changing world, he said and also urged accomplished people in the state, who are holding high ranking posts in both government and private sectors, to spare some time and engage in activities to encourage the youth by sharing their knowledge and experience.

It is the responsibility of the present generation to leave behind a developed society and opportunities for the future generation, he stressed.

Published in:

E-Pao

Upcoming Covid-19 generic drug has Goa imprint on it

CSIR-CDRI

11th November, 2022

A generic antiviral drug named Umifenovir has been developed to treat Covid-19 by premiere government drug research laboratory the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow, in collaboration with Medizest Pvt Ltd, Goa.

This drug is currently undergoing large-scale, multicentric Phase 3 clinical trials. The trials are expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

"After the CDRI had devised the molecules required to treat the disease, we were looking for an industrial partner to manufacture the drug, at that time one of the companies which came forward was Medizest from Goa," Dr Ravishankar Ramachandran, the nodal scientist and Project Team Lead at CSIR-CDRI told Herald.

Dr Ramachandran was speaking on the sidelines of the two-day International Drug Discovery Conference inaugurated at BITS Pilani Goa Campus, on Thursday.

He said that the Covid outbreak was an emergency situation in the country and the lab started contacting pharma companies to partner with it to bring out the medicine into the market at the earliest.

"We did contact some of the big guns in the pharma industry at that point of time. But it was Medizest which showed a lot of enthusiasm. We had a common interest in making sure that the molecules for Covid come to the market for the country," he said.

The senior scientist said that a smaller company has more hunger and flexibility in its functioning. So, while in the case of a bigger company the decision making process may take a long time and business consideration is more important, sometimes smaller companies think from the heart.

Speaking about the drug, he informed that Umifenovir was selected from a list of 16 candidates after a detailed evaluation of the mechanism of action, feasibility of synthesis and published safety studies.

“The data from studies performed at CDRI, prompted the team to propose the testing of the drug at a dose of 800 mg twice a day, as opposed to the previously approved maximum dose of 200 mg three times a day. Following approval by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Umifenovir was tested in a Phase III, randomised, double-blind, placebo controlled clinical trial for efficacy, safety and tolerability in non-severe Covid-19 patients last year,” he said.

“Umifenovir has an excellent safety profile. It has been used as a safe, over-the-counter drug to treat adults, children and pregnant women for influenza and pneumonia for over 20 years in Russia, China and other countries,” the CSIR-CDRI chief scientist said.
He said that the faster recovery of patients could reduce virus shedding and consequent spread of the infection to others.

“The drug could also be tested in special populations such as pregnant women and children, a group for which Covid-19 specific antiviral drugs are not currently indicated. The current ongoing Phase 3 will help establish the efficacy and safety of the drug in a larger number of subjects, paving the way for marketing approval for Medizest,” the senior scientist added.

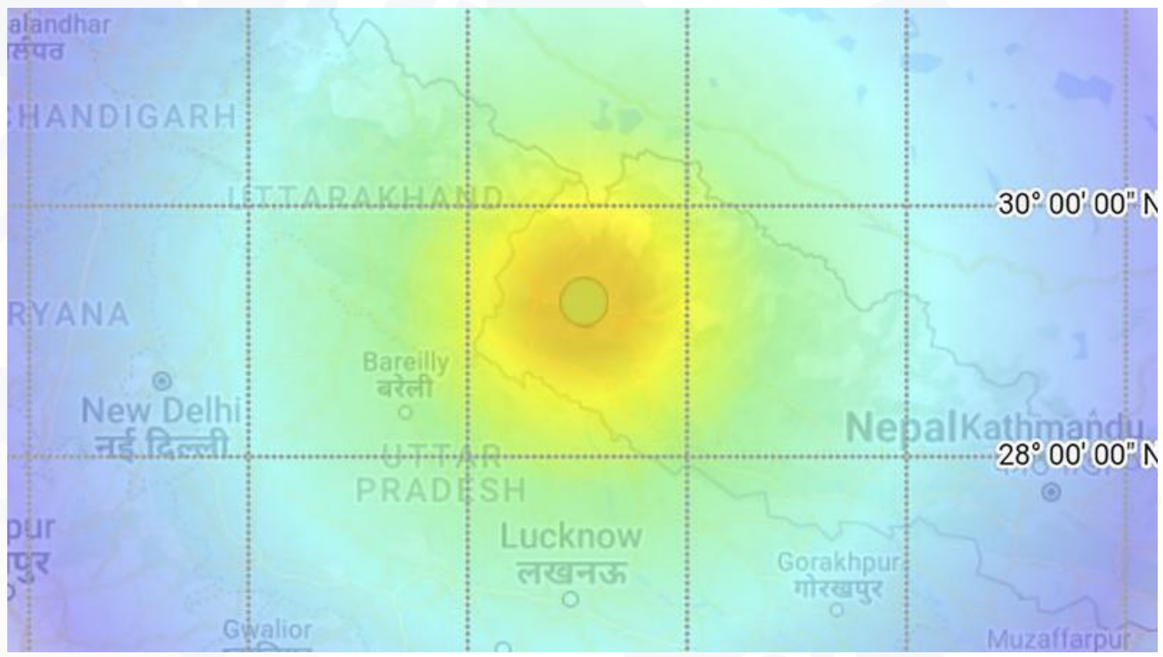
The company officials refrained from commenting.

Published in:
Herald

Experts vouch for Hyd safety from earthquakes

CSIR-NGRI

11th November, 2022



While tremors of a 6.3-magnitude that struck Nepal were felt till Vijayawada in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday night, seismologists and geophysicists dispelled the possibility of an earthquake having an epicentre in Telangana due to its stable geology.

M. Ravi Kumar, chief scientist and head of the seismology department at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI),

Hyderabad, said, "Typically, the regions of southern India are relatively stable because we are far from the plate boundaries, which are also called 'stable continental interiors' (SCI). Unlike the Indo-Gangetic plains, such as Lucknow, Delhi and Haridwar, which are covered with a thick pile of sediments, which bring the amplification of waves, Hyderabad sits on a solid granite mass, so there is no amplification of waves as such, thus making the city safe from an occurrence like earthquakes."

Moreover, the occurrences such as Bhuj and Killari, called intra-continental earthquakes, are also rare occurrences, with a possibility of recurrence only every few hundred years.

B. Veeraiah, HOD, geophysics department of Osmania University and principal of the University College of Sciences, said, "The entire Indian plate is moving towards the north and more towards the northeastern part and that is why we have so many earthquakes in the Assam and the Bengal region, and further Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian plate is colliding

with the Eurasian plate and the collision zones are getting more active in nature because of which more earthquakes are happening in those areas."

"The entire Himlayan belt is weathering due to tectonic disturbance because of physical activities, such as cloud burst and heavy rains in places such as Uttarkashi. Such activities make the tremors felt more strongly in those areas of the Himalayan belt because of the disturbances in the plates," Veeraiah said.

Published in:
Deccan Chronicle

CSIR-CEERI

11th November, 2022

विजन राजस्थान 2022 में सीएसआईआर सीरी ने जीती 'बेस्ट एग्जिबिटर' ट्रॉफी

100 से अधिक संस्थाओं द्वारा अपने उत्पादों का किया गया प्रदर्शन

पिलानी | सीएसआईआर-सीरी ने राजस्थान सरकार द्वारा सिरोही में आयोजित 'विजन राजस्थान 2022' प्रौद्योगिकी प्रदर्शनी में भाग लिया। संस्थान ने राजस्थान की झलक दिखाती हुई इस प्रदर्शनी में अपनी कुछ प्रमुख प्रौद्योगिकियों को प्रदर्शित किया। पिलानी स्थित सीएसआईआर-सीरी और हिमाचल प्रदेश के पालमपुर में स्थित सीएसआईआर-आईएचबीटी ने इस आयोजन में वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद (सीएसआईआर) का प्रतिनिधित्व किया। प्रदर्शनी में 100 से अधिक प्रदर्शकों ने अपने उत्पादों का प्रदर्शन किया और 7000 से अधिक स्कूली छात्र-छात्राओं ने प्रदर्शनी का अवलोकन किया। इसके अतिरिक्त विधायकों और सांसदों के साथ उद्योग और शिक्षा जगत के प्रतिनिधियों ने भी विजन राजस्थान 2022 का दौरा किया। टीम सीएसआईआर ने आर एंड डी श्रेणी में सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शक (बेस्ट एक्जिबिटर) का पुरस्कार जीता।

पिलानी. सम्मान पत्र देते सीरी निदेशक।

सांसद पटेल, देवजी मानसिंगराम ने टीम सीएसआईआर को पुरस्कार प्रदान किया। सांसद ने सीएसआईआर के वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा आम लोगों के जीवन के उत्थान के लिए किए जा रहे प्रयासों की सराहना की। प्रदर्शनी में सीएसआईआर टीम का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे डॉ. विजय चटर्जी, वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक, सीएसआईआर- सीरी ने जालोर-सिरोही के सांसद देवजी पटेल को संस्थान द्वारा आरंभ किए गए 'विज्ञान गांव की ओर कार्यक्रम' से भी अवगत कराया। संस्थान के कर्मचारियों ने निदेशक डॉ. पीसी पंचारिया ने सीरी टीम का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले वैज्ञानिक डॉ विजय चटर्जी एवं ज्ञान सिंह मीणा की सराहना की तथा बेस्ट एक्जिबिटर ट्रॉफी जीतने के लिए टीम सीएसआईआर को बधाई दी। संस्थान में आयोजित संक्षिप्त कार्यक्रम में मुख्य वैज्ञानिक डॉ अभिजीत कर्माकर, पीएमईबीडी प्रमुख, डॉ. प्रमोद तंवर सहित अन्य सहकर्मी उपस्थित थे।

Published in:
Dainik Bhaskar

CSIR-CEERI

10th November, 2022

सीएसआईआर–सीरी में डीएसटी – एसईआरबी कार्यशाला का शुभारंभ

बाबूलाल घोघलिया – विश्व नायक

पिलानी, 8 नवंबर, भारत सरकार के विज्ञान तथा प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के अंतर्गत विज्ञान एवं अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान बोर्ड (सर्ब) के सौजन्य से सीएसआईआर-सीरी, में उच्च स्तरीय कार्यशाला का शुभारंभ किया गया। कार्यशाला में देशभर के विभिन्न शिक्षण संस्थानों से एम टेक एवं पी एच डी कर रहे कुल 25 प्रतिभागियों का चयन किया गया है। इस प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला में इन प्रशिक्षार्थियों को ह्लसेमिकंडक्टर डिवाइस फैब्रिकेशनह्व विषय पर विद्वान

वैज्ञानिकों, प्रौद्योगिकीविदों, इंजीनियरों तथा एवं विशेषज्ञ शिक्षाविदों द्वारा विषय केंद्रित प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। सीएसआईआर-सीरी, पिलानी में 8 से 22 नवंबर 2022 तक आयोजित किए जा रहे इस गहन एवं महत्वाकांक्षी प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम को भारत सरकार के विज्ञान तथा प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के अंतर्गत सेवारत संसान (साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग रिसर्च बोर्ड ञ्च एसईआरबी) द्वारा प्रायोजित किया जा रहा है। कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ परपरागत रूप से सरस्वती वदना से हुआ। कार्यशाला के उद्घाटन सत्र की अध्यक्षता सीएसआईआर-सीरी के निदेशक डॉ पी सी पंचारिया ने की।

विदित है कि सीएसआईआर-सीरी ने सेमिकंडक्टर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स के क्षेत्र में अनेक उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धियां अर्जित की हैं और संस्थान में सेमिकंडक्टर्स की विशेषज्ञ जनशक्ति और अत्याधुनिक शोध सुविधाएं भी उपलब्ध हैं। इसीलिए डीएसटी द्वारा संस्थान को इस उच्च स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण के लिए चुना गया है। इस कार्यशाला का मुख्य उद्देश्य एम टेक एवं पीएचडी शोध छात्रों को सेमिकंडक्टर डिवाइस फैब्रिकेशन पर विषय केंद्रित व्याख्यान एवं प्रशिक्षण देते हुए उन्हें इस विषय की अत्याधुनिक जानकारी देते हुए देश के लिए नवीन विशेषज्ञ तैयार करना है।

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