CSIR IN MEDIA

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Dr Jitendra chairs joint meeting of 6 Science Ministries, emphasises integrated StartUps

CSIR

16th July, 2022

EW DELHI, July 16 : Continuing with the trend initiated by him of holding joint meetings of different scientific streams in order to break the silos and evolve a synergistic integrated approach, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today chaired the 5th joint meeting of six Science Ministries and departments, including Science & Technology, Biotechnology, CSIR, Earth Sciences, Space and Atomic Energy, wherein the Minister emphasised integrated StartUps and integrated R&D.

During the meeting that lasted over two hours, the Minister was informed that 214 areas requiring science/technology intervention were identified and mapped from 40 odd Line Ministries for Scientific Applications and Technological Solutions by all the six science departments including Space and Atomic energy.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the ever increasing requests from Line Ministries for scientific applications and solutions have vindicated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of involving Science Ministries and Departments to solve the technical and complex issues of General Ministries and Departments. He also called for evolving a holistic framework of budget sharing, while delivering scientific solutions and inputs to Line Ministries.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in 2015, on the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, an extensive brainstorming exercise was held in Delhi where representatives from different ministries and departments engaged in an intense interaction with scientists from ISRO and the Department of Space to work out as to how best the Space technology could be utilised as a modern tool for supplementing, improving and expediting infrastructural development as well as implementation of various welfare schemes.

The Minister informed that 32 Ministries and Departments approached for 'problem statements'. CSIR will lead 20 challenge areas and participate in 46 challenge areas posed by Line Ministries as the entire exercise is being coordinated by CSIR. He also referred to different scientific applications for sectors like agriculture, food, education, skill, railways, roads, Jal Shakti, power and coal to name a few that have worked out since the launch of the initiative in September last year. Apart from other Science Departments, DBT and ISRO have also submitted their preference for leading in solution development/deployment for few challenges.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, on the lines of Central Ministries/Departments, 172 major issues have been identified by 36 States/UTs and 163 technology problems have been posed by States seeking solutions from 24 Central ministries / departments. He expressed satisfaction that within six months' time, STI (Science Technology & Innovation) mapping exercise for all the 28 States and 8 UTs have been completed. He added that mapping of States, including NE was done in terms of innovation ranking, startup ranking, number of S&T Organizations, R&D labs, universities, Incubators, Start Ups, MSMEs, industries, Clusters, Grassroots Innovations, etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh asked all the Science Ministries and Departments to prepare in advance the agenda and themes of the breakaway sessions for the State S&T Ministers Conference to be held this year. He said, state-specific discussions could be included in the in the first ever National Science Conclave involving states, industry representatives and other stakeholders.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, before the proposed Science and Technology Communication Centre

(STCC) comes into force, the success stories of all the departments must be compiled and disseminated to common people to create general awareness about India's Scientific Prowess. He also directed that workshops on success stories must be organized at regular intervals.

The meeting was attended by Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, Secretary, DST, Secretary D/o Space, Secretary, M/o Earth Sciences, Secretary, D/o Biotechnology, Secretary, DAE, Secretary, Capacity Building Commission and representatives and senior officials of other science departments.

Published in:
Dailyexcelsior

CSIR-CECRI and GODI India partner to manufacture lithium-ion cells in Chennai: Details

CSIR-CECRI

19th July, 2022

CSIR-CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute) and GODI India have entered into a partnership to run a lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility in Taramani, Chennai. This makes it India's first ever public-private partnership for large scale lithium-ion cells manufacturing. The new facility in Chennai was inaugurated by Dr Shekhar C Mande, Former Secretary DSIR and Former Director General in the presence of Dr Kalaiselvi, Director, CECRI.

On the occasion, Dr Mande said, “CSIR is a treasure of knowledge covering all facets of science. CSIR is contributing a lot in the Space, Defence, Nuclear and other societal applications. Partnering with GODI India marks a new chapter in the development of advanced Lithium-ion cells with regard to next generation of energy storage applications. We have taken a step further to provide fruitful contribution to the ultimate benefit of the country under ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.”

Commenting on this partnership, Mahesh Godi, Founder and CEO, Godi India, said, “This partnership is just a beginning of development of next generation cells for mobility, ESS applications and new R&D projects. GODI India will operate and maintain the facility to manufacture advance Lithium-ion cells and cater to various applications ranging from e-mobility to large scale energy storage systems. This partnership signifies our credibility and testimony of technology strength in Lithium-ion cells manufacturing”

“Currently, all the Lithium-ion cells are being imported mostly from China and South Korea.

GODI India is the first Indian company to manufacture Made-in-India & Made-for-India Lithium-ion cells, which is certified by BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards), tested and qualified by TUV, the third-party testing agency. With this, GODI India can manufacture and sell the cells at par to the standard cells available in the world market," added Godi.

Published in:
Times Of India

Roads in Ladakh to be made out of plastic

CSIR-CRRI

20th July, 2022

The Ladakh administration has decided to build roads with growing plastic waste to preserve ecology and reduce the carbon footprint in the Himalayan region. The official order passed regarding this initiative was taken by the Administrative Secretary of the PWD Department of Ladakh. It states that it is mandatory to make use of at least 10% of plastic waste for road construction in Ladakh.

The goal is to dispose of the tons of plastic waste left behind by tourists over the years. Roads built using plastic also tend to last longer and have better durability as compared to traditional asphalt concrete roads, cutting down the cost of maintenance. They also have the ability to withstand water and have a smoother surface.

At least 10 percent of roads will be built of plastic for which the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) will lead the training process. The order also stated that the department is required to ensure the shredding of plastic by machines in Leh and Kargil and use it in the construction of roads as well.

The Ladakh administration has also initiated training for local engineers and scientists from Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), New Delhi. A team of 5 principal scientists from the Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi has already been tasked with holding training sessions with local engineers, according to an official.

Until now, the country has almost 33,700 km of plastic roadways, which means that almost

every kilometer of road uses at least 1 million plastic bags. However, as of 2021, only 703 kilometers of National Highways were constructed using plastic roads.

10% of plastic waste

Environment friendly

Training begun

703km of National Highways

Published in:

Economic Times

CSIR-NGRI scientist gets National Geoscience award

CSIR-NGRI 20th July, 2022

The Union Ministry of Mines has conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Award-2019 on Anand P. Singh, Emeritus Scientist, CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad. Dr. Singh has made notable contribution towards understanding the tectonics of the southern Indian Shield, Deccan Volcanic Province and Rajmahal Traps regions using terrestrial gravity data.

His pioneering work has significant implications on unravelling the Precambrian tectonics of Southern Indian shield and modification of the Indian continental crust by plume activities. He aptly integrated gravity and geoid to delineate the Lithosphere-Asthenosphere Boundary (LAB) in the Indian subcontinent.

Dr Singh partook in preparation of the Gravity Map Series of India-2006 and made wide-ranging contribution towards Hydrocarbon exploration in Infracambrian Bikaner-Nagaur Basin. These maps are of immense use to understand regional tectonics and natural resource exploration, said a press release on Tuesday.

Published in:
The Hindu

CSIR-NEERI

20th July, 2022

CSIR-NEERI Celebrates World Youth Skills Day

नीरीतर्फे विश्व युवा कौशल्य दिनाचे आयोजन

नागपूर : वायुप्रदूषणाचा स्तर कसा वाढतो, जलप्रदूषण कसे होते, त्यांची गुणवत्ता कशी राखावी, मातीचे प्रदूषण व तिची गुणवत्ता काय, याबाबत प्रत्येकाच्या मनात कुतूहल आहे. नीरीच्या प्रयोगशाळेत वैज्ञानिकांद्वारे या साऱ्या गोष्टींवर प्रयोग चाललेले असतात. या साऱ्या गोष्टींचे प्रयोगासह अवलोकन शाळा-महाविद्यालयाच्या विद्यार्थ्यांनी केले. जागतिक युवा कौशल्य दिनाचे औचित्य साधून राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण अभियांत्रिकी संशोधन संस्था (सीएसआयआर-नीरी) च्या वतीने विशेष आयोजन करण्यात आले. सीएसआईआर-नीरीने २०२१ साली विदर्भातील सहा शाळांना सीएसआईआर-एआईएमच्या सहयोगाने दत्तक घेतले होते आणि त्या शाळांमध्ये नीति आयोगाच्या माध्यमातून अटल टिंकरिंग लॅब स्थापित केल्या होत्या. या ६ शाळांसह नागपूरची पं.बच्छराज व्यास व नागभीडची जनता स्कूलच्या विद्यार्थ्यांनी या आयोजनात सहभाग घेतला.

Published in:
Lokmat Marathi

CSIR-CFTRI

19th July, 2022

'Use Of Latest Technology, Nano-Fertilisers Key For Boosting Agri Production'

ಕೃಷಿ ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ-ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ನೆರವು ಅಗತ್ಯ: ಪ್ರೊ.ಅಯ್ಯಪ್ಪನ್

ವಿಚಾರಸಂಕಿರಣವನ್ನು ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿದ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಕೃಷಿ ವಿವಿ ಕುಲಪತಿ

ಮೈಸೂರು: ವಿಶ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಫಲವತ್ತತೆ ನಾಶವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಇಳುವರಿ ತಗ್ಗಲಿದ್ದು, ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕಾಂಶಯುಕ್ತ ಆಹಾರ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯೂ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಇಂಫಾಲದ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕುಲಪತಿ ಪ್ರೊ.ಎಸ್.ಅಯ್ಯಪ್ಪನ್ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ನಗರದ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಆಹಾರ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹಾರ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞರ ಸಂಘವು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಅಮೃತ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವದ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ 'ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಆಹಾರ ಭದ್ರತೆಗೆ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರಂತರ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳು' ಎಂಬ ವಿಚಾರಸಂಕಿರಣವನ್ನು ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿ ಅವರು ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು.

ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರೀತ್ಯದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕೃಷಿ ವಲಯ ಅನೇಕ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅವುಗಳ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ನೆರವು ಅಗತ್ಯ. ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಫಲವತ್ತತೆ ನಾಶವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕೃಷಿ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕಾಂಶಯುಕ್ತ ಆಹಾರ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯೂ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸಲು ನ್ಯಾನೊ, ಕೃತಕ ಬುದ್ಧಿಮತ್ತೆ, ಜೈವಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಬೀಜ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಸದೃಢಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಸಾವಯವ ಬೇಸಾಯ ಅನುಸರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸಿರಿಧಾನ್ಯ, ಎಣ್ಣೆಕಾಳು-ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕಾ ಬೆಳೆಗಳತ್ತ ಕೃಷಿಕರು ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು. ನ್ಯಾನೊ ರಸಗೊಬ್ಬರ, ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್ ಫಾರ್ಮಿಂಗ್ ಮೊದಲಾದ ನೂತನ ವಿಧಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಹಾಲಿನ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ವದ ಶೇ.25ರಷ್ಟು ಪಾಲು ಭಾರತ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ಆಹಾರ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ, ರೈತನ ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಹಿಡುವಳಿ ತಲಾ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಎಕರೆ ಇದೆ. ಜಾಗತಿಕ ತಾಪಮಾನದ ಬಾಧಿತ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶವು 7ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಹಸಿವು ಸೂಚ್ಯಂಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ದೇಶಗಳ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಆತಂಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

ಐಸಿಎಆರ್-ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಕುಲಪತಿ ಡಾ.ಸಿ.ಎನ್.ರವಿಶಂಕರ್, ಡಿಫ್ ಆರ್‌ಎಲ್‌ನ ಡಾ.ಭಾವಾ, ಆಹಾರ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞರ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಡಾ.ಎನ್.ಭಾಸ್ಕರ್, ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಡಾ.ನಂದಿನಿ ಪಿ.ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಇತರರು ಹಾಜರಿದ್ದರು.

> ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ದೊರೆತ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ 1.5 ಕೋಟಿ ಟನ್ ಆಹಾರ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಇದೀಗ 31 ಕೋಟಿ ಟನ್ ಆಹಾರ ಬೆಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ವಲಯಗಳ ಚಾಲಕ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಾದ ಕೃಷಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷಿಸುವುದು ಸಲ್ಲದು. ವಿಶ್ವಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಗುರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 7 ಕೃಷಿ ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿವೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಮರೆಯುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 255 ಮಂದಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಂಶೋಧಕರಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬೇರೆ ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ದೇಶದ ಜನರು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗೆ ಮಹತ್ವ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಾಮಾತ್ಮಕ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ರೂಪುಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.
>
> -ಪ್ರೊ.ಎಸ್.ಅಯ್ಯಪ್ಪನ್

Published in:
Andolana

JIGYASA Program At CSIR-IMMT On Word Youth Skill Day 2022

CSIR-IMMT

16th July, 2022

Bhubaneswar: World Youth Skill Day was celebrated by JIGYASA Team at CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology on 15th July 2022 in association with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India. 43 students and 9 teachers from 7 schools of Odisha participated in the program. The scientists of CSIR-IMMT demonstrated advance research setups and facilities to the school children and teachers. They also visited the JIGYASA medicinal and aromatic garden which is a unique facility created in the city. A specially designed hands-on training program using electronics circuit components and modules were organised for the students. Ten schools having ATL labs have been adopted by CSIR-IMMT for hand holding. Out of 10 adopted schools, Govt. High School, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar, Kendriya Vidyalaya No-4, Bhubaneswar, Jawahar Vidyapitha, Pipli, Sainik School, Bhubaneswar, Panchayat Raj High School, Kanapura, Capital High School, Unit-3, Bhubaneswar, B.B High School, Dhenkanal participated in the program. Dr. Santosh Kumar Behera, Principal Scientist co-ordinated the program. Other scientists Dr. Bhagyadhar Bhoi, Dr. B.S. Jena, Dr. AK Sahoo, Dr. DS. Rao, Dr. Satyajit Rath, Dr. Ashutosh Rath, Dr. Bikash Kumar Jena, Dr. Nilotpala Pradhan, Dr. Umakanta Subudhi, Dr. Alok Tripathy helped in organising the program and also interacted with students and teachers. The JIGYASA garden visit was co-ordinated by Mr. Bibhudatta Pradhan. Sophisticated instruments were demonstrated by Mr. Ajit Dash, Mr. Debadatta Sahoo and Ms. Swagatika Mohanty. Prof. S. Basu, Director, CSIR-IMMT conveyed that students of India at the young age require skills to demonstrate their innovative ideas. To make our young generation more skilful, the JIGYASA team at IMMT organised this World Youth Skill Day 2022. The JIGYASA Nodal Scientist, Dr. Debi Prasad Das conducted the

hands-on training and encouraged students to develop models and prototypes for solving societal issues. All teachers expressed that such programs are very much useful for their students. The schools participated are having Atal Tinkering Labs with funding received from Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India. JIGYASA is a Scientific Social Responsibility program of CSIR where emphasis is given to have more scientist-student connect activities.

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Orissadiary

CSIR-IHBT

17th July, 2022

खेती

सीएसआईआर और आईएचबीटी के वैज्ञानिक कर रहे शोध, विभिन्न जगह से जुटाए बीज

लाहौल के मडग्रां में काठु और फुलण पर शोध शुरू

दिनेश जस्या

उदयपुर (लाहौल-स्पीति)। पारंपरिक फसल काठु और फुलण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए लाहौल में शोध कार्य शुरू हो गया है। वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद (सीएसआईआर) और हिमालयी बायोसाइट्स प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईएचबीटी) पालमपुर के वैज्ञानिक शोध कार्य कर रहे हैं। संस्थान के वैज्ञानिक डॉ. रमेश और उनके शोधार्थियों ने लाहौल-स्पीति, पांगी, चंबा, किन्नौर, शिमला, कुल्लू, मंडी और जम्मू-कश्मीर से काठु और फुलण के बीज के सैंपल एकत्रित कर शोध के लिए मडग्रां में फसल की बिजाई की है। बताया जा रहा है यह फसल औषधीय गुणों से भरपूर है।

विशेषज्ञ वैज्ञानिक की मानें तो भारत में पोषण की कमी सबसे गंभीर समस्या है। भारतीय आबादी मुख्य रूप से प्रमुख खाद्य फसलों में गेहूं और चावल पर अधिक निर्भर है। यह केवल कार्बोहाइड्रेट का प्राथमिक स्रोत है। इन फसलों में आवश्यक अमीनो एसिड और खनिजों की कमी होती है, जो संतुलित पोषण के लिए संभावित घटक है। शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार यह फसल हर जगह नहीं होती है। इसे ठंडे वातावरण में एक निश्चित तापमान में ही तैयार किया जाता है। जनजातीय क्षेत्र लाहौल घाटी में तीन दशक पूर्व काठु की फसल की काफी पैदावार होती थी, लेकिन अब नकदी फसलें आने के बाद काठु और फुलण की खेती सिमट गई है। पट्टन घाटी के वयोवृद्ध रामा नंद और प्रेम चंद ने बताया कि पूर्व में लाहौल घाटी में नकदी फसल में आलू, मटर के अलावा सब्जियों का उत्पादन नहीं होता था। लोग मटर खत्म होने के बाद खेत में काठु और फुलण की खेती काफी कर लेते थे, लेकिन अब नकदी फसल आने से काठु और फुलण की फसल विलुप्त हो गई है।

काठु पर शोध कर रहे विशेषज्ञ वैज्ञानिक डॉ. रमेश चौहान ने बताया कि उन्होंने अपनी टीम के साथ मडग्रां में काठु और फुलण की फसल पर शोध कार्य शुरू कर दिया है। इसके लिए उन्होंने हिमाचल प्रदेश और जम्मू-कश्मीर से बीज सैंपल एकत्रित कर बिजाई कर दी है। संवाद

दिल और मधुमेह के लिए संजीवनी है काठु

काठु दिल की बीमारी के साथ, पाचन, वजन को नियंत्रण करने तथा मधुमेह के रोग के लिए रामबाण है। देश में इसकी पैदावार जम्मू और कश्मीर के पहाड़ी क्षेत्र उधमपुर, लद्दाख, कारगिल और द्रास के अलावा उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल के भरमौर, पांगी, शिमला, किन्नौर, कुल्लू तथा लाहौल के अलावा पिन वैली में उगाया जाता है।

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Hyderabad: Recording of micro earthquakes hindered by noise says NGRI study

CSIR-NGRI

15th July, 2022

HYDERABAD: A study by the National Geophysical Research Institute has revealed micro earthquakes occurring in far-off places during the lockdown could also be recorded due to reduction in noise generated by humans.

Vineet Kumar Gahalaut, chief scientist of NGRI, said human activities, industries and vehicular traffic cause vibrations which can be recorded by a seismometer. "Seismometers are sensitive instruments which record the ground vibrations from earthquakes so that we can estimate their magnitude and locate them. A small earthquake of magnitude 4.5 or above anywhere on the globe can be recorded by these seismometers," he told TOI. Researchers analysed the noise recorded a week before and after the implementation of the lockdown. A reduction of 6 dB was observed during the lockdown.

However, the vibrations caused by human activities referred as noise, contaminate the eco-system and vibrations of small magnitude earthquakes cannot be identified. To avoid this, seismometers are placed at locations away from the cities where the surrounding noise is relatively less.

"Before 1990s, the Hyderabad seismology observatory at NGRI was considered as a quiet place with almost no cultural activities. However, rapid urbanisation, increased cultural activities, traffic, industries and metro rail have increased the noise levels. During the lockdown, these activities were reduced significantly, which again decreased the recorded noise levels in Hyderabad seismological observatory and brought it close to the pre-1990s period. If we compare the noise recording at the observatory before and during the lockdown, there is a marked difference," added Vineet.

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