

CSIR IN MEDIA



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Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairs a high level review meeting for the preparations of Science-20 meetings of the G-20 Summit to be held in India next year

CSIR

19th November, 2022



Minister says, all the six Science Ministries and Departments, including Science & Technology, Biotechnology, CSIR, Earth Sciences, Space and Atomic Energy are fully geared up for the upcoming G-20 Summit meetings

Some of the expected deliverables of S-20 Summit will be Creation of better and encouraging frameworks for environmentally responsible technologies and assertion of IP sharing and technology transfers, Creation of a global ecosystem for start-up mentorship and funding: Dr Jitendra Singh

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 a high level review meeting for the preparations of Science-20 meetings of the G-20 Summit to be held in Delhi next year.

The meeting was attended by Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India Ajay Kumar Sood and Secretaries of all the six Science Ministries and Departments, including

Science & Technology, Biotechnology, CSIR, Earth Sciences, Space and Atomic Energy. Dr Jitendra Singh said after the meeting that all the six Science Ministries and Departments under him are fully geared up for the upcoming G-20 Summit meetings. The Minister also welcomed the topics and subjects assigned to Science Ministries. He said, all the stakeholders will meet again with Sherpa of G-20, Shri Amitabh Kant this week to firm up Human Resources and Experts for assigned topics.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that apart from S-20 Summit and Side meetings, another important event assigned to DST is Research Innovation Initiated Gathering (RIIG) with side events.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the expected deliverables of the S-20 and RIIG will be Creation of better and encouraging frameworks for environmentally responsible technologies and assertion of IP sharing and technology transfers, Creation of a global ecosystem for start-up mentorship and funding, Encouragement of more mega science projects, Creation of framework for global holistic health program and mental health program, Creating common cultural dialogue for science through more engagement programs and interdisciplinary partnerships, Creation of a common digital global heritage that is accessible for all citizens.

The Science-20 Summit meeting will be held in Coimbatore from 21st to 22nd July, 2023 with the theme of “Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Growth”. The Sub-themes (side event topics) are- Non-conventional energy for a greener future, Connecting Science to Society and Culture and Holistic Health: Cure and Prevention of Disease.

Meeting schedule and venues for S-20 are as follows- Inception meeting: Pondicherry (30-31 January 2023), Side-event1: Bangaram Island, Lakshwadeep (27-28 February 2023), Side-event2: Agartala (3-4 April 2023), Side-event3: Indore (16-17 June 2023).

The S-20 Secretariat will be chaired by Dr Vijay P Bhatkar of Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. Prof Ajay K Sood and Prof Gautam Desiraju are also eminent members of the Secretariat.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, DST will also take care of the Research Innovation Initiated Gathering (RIIG) on the subject of “Research and Innovation for Equitable Society”. The Sub-theme/ topics for RIIG gathering will be Materials for Sustainable Energy (CSIR), Scientific Challenges and Opportunities towards Achieving a Sustainable Blue Economy (MoES), Bio-resource/ Biodiversity and Bio-economy (DBT) and Eco-Innovations for Energy Transition (SERB).

Meetings schedule and venues for RIIG are the following: Inception meeting: Kolkata (9-10 February 2023), Side-event1: Ranchi (21-22 March 2023), Side-event 2: Dibrugarh & Itanagar (24-25 March 2023), Side-event 3: Shimla (19-20 April 2023), Side-event 4: Diu (18-19 May 2023) and the RIIG Summit and Research Minister meeting, Mumbai (4-6 July 2023).

DSIR, CSIR, APCTT of the UN-ESCAP jointly organised two days International Knowledge Sharing Workshop on “Cross-border Innovation, Acceleration and Challenges in International Transfer of Technologies” at CSIR Science Centre, New Delhi

CSIR-HRDC, NBRI, NCL, NEIST, CSIO, NAL, IIP, NIScPR

16th November, 2022



An International Knowledge Sharing Workshop on “Cross-border Innovation, Acceleration and Challenges in International Transfer of Technologies”, was jointly organized by Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), in association with Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) from 14th – 15th November 2022 and coordinated by CSIR-Human Resource Development Centre (CSIR-HRDC) at CSIR Science Centre, New Delhi in Hybrid Mode. Out of around 350 participants registered for the programme 36 were international participants from 17 countries viz Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Uzbekistan who joined both online & offline. Around 70 participants joined physically.

Panelists were from International Organizations including FAO, ILRI, ISA, DWIH, UKRI, RIS; Indian National Organizations like CSIR-NBRI, IITD, SPMVV, CSIR-NCL, Venture Centre, Government departments including Office of PSA, MoE Innovation Cell, Public

sectors like NRDC, excellent Industries such as International Tractors, IOCL, TATA Power Company Limited, Ankur seeds and Mahyco Pvt. Ltd.; Innovation eco-system partner like Research Parks, Incubation Centres, Start-ups, Member Country dignitaries and participants from National Organizations like NIT, Arunachal Pradesh, PRISM-TOCICS like GSBTM, CSIR-NEIST, CSIR-CSIO, CTAE, Udaipur, CSIR-NAL, IGNOU, Shiv Nadar University, University of Delhi, IITD, IIT Mandi, IIT Roorkee, IIT Indore, several Incubation Hubs, DSIR, CSIR HQ, CSIR-IIP, CSIR-NIScPR, NRDC and APCTT.

The Workshop was inaugurated online by Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) and Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). While delivering the inaugural address, she emphasized about the importance of technology transfer, cross border innovation and the concerted efforts of CSIR in developing the technologies and transferring them to industry. She advised the participants to develop technologies that can ultimately reach the society. In this direction she commended the Workshop where innovators, industry, R&D labs, academia, MSME, Startups, Big Industries, Incubation centres, Policy makers and other stakeholders have been brought on a common platform to discuss about the roadmap for achieving the goals under SDG 2 SDG 7 and SDG 9.

Dr. Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India; Shri Surinder Pal Singh, Joint Secretary, DSIR, Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliances, Dr. Katja Lasch, Director, DAAD Regional Office and DWIH, New Delhi; Ms. Rebecca Fairbairn, Head of Science and Innovation, UK Research & Innovation (UKRI), UK Government; Dr. Habibar Rahman, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Regional Representative, South Asia; Prof. Jamuna Duvvuru, Vice Chancellor, Sri Padmavati Mahila University, Tirupati, Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Former Ambassador of India & Science Diplomacy Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, Dr Preeti Soni, Head of APCTT-ESCAP, Dr Rama Swami Bansal, Head of CSIR-International S&T Affairs Directorate (ISTAD) and Dr R. K. Sinha, Head of CSIR-HRDC also graced the occasion in person.

Dr. Parvinder Maini underscored, “Innovation is essential for boosting survival, competitiveness and market power despite being risky and prone to failure”. She gave an overview of India’s policy and a few focus areas i.e. R&D expenditure from industry should increase; Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in R&D; Increase in R&D exports; R&D by Central Public Sector Enterprises; Corporate Social Responsibility guidelines for spending in R&D, for boosting Technology transfer and start-up ecosystem.

Shri Surinder Pal Singh, Joint Secretary, DSIR told, “this workshop will provide a strong platform for APCTT Member States including India to share their needs and identify opportunities on Cross-border Innovation, possibilities on acceleration of International Collaboration and Challenges in International Transfer of Technologies

Dr. Katja Lasch, Ms. Rebecca Fairbairn and Dr. Habibar Rahman wished more fruitful collaborations to accelerate Cross-border Innovation acceleration. Prof. Jamuna Duvvuru maintained that New Education Policy of Govt. of India is an impactful step to promote more innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

This international workshop was envisaged to strengthen capacity of innovators and promote regional cooperation between innovators from India and member States of APCTT through cross-learning from experience and good practices, identifying potential collaboration opportunities and strategies for cross-border technology transfer. It Increased knowledge and awareness on the challenges, mechanisms and good practices of innovation, transfer and diffusion of technologies in the Asia-Pacific Region. It explored innovative strategies and modalities to strengthen regional cooperation for cross-border transfer and diffusion of technologies; The workshop panellists made recommendations on addressing the critical challenges for strengthening regional cooperation for innovation and technology transfer.

The workshop aimed to identify the challenges for achieving the goals in SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry-Innovation and Infrastructure). Under the Session, “Emerging technologies for climate-resilient agriculture and animal husbandry to support SDG 2”, moderated by Dr Anand Mohit, Principal Scientist,

CSIR-ISTAD, productive agriculture and animal husbandry through integrating emerging technologies like Internet of Things (IOT), robotics, drones, energy resilient preservation and biotechnology for better selection, yield improvement, disease resistance, precision farming, precision nutrient deliveries, Innovation and Policy perspectives were discussed. A constructive discussion was held particularly on smart and climate resilient agriculture, crop breeding technology for productive agriculture, precision farming, precision nutrient deliveries, animal husbandry and innovation – including Global and India's perspectives.

Under the session, “Green and low-carbon emerging technologies in energy to support SDG 7”, Material research & innovation, production technology, power electronics, energy storage and management for alternate energy (solar, offshore, wind etc), green hydrogen, carbon-negative technologies, ocean biomass, biofuel, 5G-based smart grids, climate protection, sustainability etc. was discussed. The various challenges, research & development Innovation and policy issues concerning green & low-carbon technologies in energy sector; Green hydrogen production & storage and utilization of hydrogen as a transport fuel, blending of hydrogen in fossil fuels, smart grids, emerging Technologies like IoT, ML, CPS in power sector for energy efficiency, green energy and sustainability; power electronics such as development of various controllers (AC-DC and DC-DC) for penetrating the renewable energy and issues concerning making the existing grids resilient, etc. were also covered in the discussions.

Under the Session, “The process and key constraints in innovation, technology promotion and commercialization to support SDG 9”, deliberations on the opportunities, challenges, and guidance on how countries can accelerate the technology formulation and adoption cycles were held. Various topics on innovation ecosystem, opportunities, challenges in India, Germany and UK and Member countries of APCTT were discussed.

Finally, panel discussions on “Pathways and constraints in techno-commercial value assessment, techno-economics, marketability, and affordability of innovative technologies” was held. Various innovators from countries like Cambodia, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Thailand, India discussed about their startups as case studies. Sri Vivek Pandey, Co-founder and Chief

Technology Officer, Ecozen Solutions Private Limited, Pune and Dr. Sandip Patil, Director, E-Spin Nanotech Pvt. Ltd. and Indeema Fibres Pvt. Ltd., Kanpur, the successful start-ups graduated from DSIR scheme, TePP and PRISM represented India during Panel discussion.

Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and Director General, CSIR, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India addressed the audience at the valedictory session. She discussed the outcome of the Workshop specially on critical challenges on cross border technology transfer and possible recommendation and envisioned couple of successful technology transfers/start-ups as an outcome of the Workshop in near future.

The programme ended with closing remarks and brief summary of deliberations by Dr Preeti Soni, Head, APCTT-UNESCAP and Dr. Ramanuj Banerjee, Scientist F, DSIR and National Focal Point (India) for APCTT of UNESCAP, followed by Vote of Thanks to all dignitaries, panellists, speakers and participants from India and APCTT Member states, presented by Dr Vinay Kumar, Principal Scientist, CSIR-HRDC.



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Scientists should take the Responsibility to Communicate Science: Prof. Ranjana CSIR-NIScPR in association with ICMR organized Contact Session on Health Communication

CSIR-NIScPR

20th November, 2022



“If scientists don’t communicate, non-experts will start communicating and then the cloud of misinformation and disinformation would emerge, therefore it is essential to make our scientists involved in the significant job of science communication”. Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director of CSIR-NIScPR (National Institute of Science Communication & Policy Research) shared these thoughts during her inaugural address in the ‘Contact Session on Health Communication’ organized by CSIR-NIScPR in association with ICMR (Indian Council of Medical research) on 16 Nov. 2022. She said, we learnt a lot of lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic in the recent past and we saw how science communication played a very crucial role to eradicate unscientific things during those days of uncertainty. This programme was attended by 30 scientists of various laboratories of ICMR.

A glimpse of the Inaugural function of the Contact Session on Health Communication organized by CSIR-NIScPR in association with ICMR (R-L: Dr. Rajni Kant, Scientist-G, ICMR, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR & Dr. Manish Mohan Gore, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR) Dr. Rajni Kant, Scientist-G & Director, ICMR-Regional Medical research Centre, Gorakhpur was the Guest of Honour of the programme. During the

inaugural function, Dr. Kant said that these are ‘Super 30’ scientists from ICMR laboratories and I am sure they will become proficient science communicators after this course of science communication. He said that ICMR has first initiated a course on Health Communication and it is need of the hour.

Participating scientists of ICMR attending the Contact Session at CSIR-NIScPR

In the first Technical Session at CSIR-NIScPR, four experts delivered lectures on various topics of concern. Shri R.S. Jayasomu, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR delivered a lecture on ‘Research Communication vs. Science Communication: Need of the Hour’. The topic of the talk of Dr. Y. Madhavi, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR was ‘Health Communication in Post Covid Era’. Dr. Manish Mohan Gore, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR presented his talk on ‘Popular Science Writing for Different Media’. Shri Ashwani Brahmi, Principal Technical Officer, CSIR-NIScPR discussed knowhow of production and printing in science communication with the participating scientists of ICMR.

After the first technical session, all the participants visited the scientific facilities of CSIR-NIScPR. During this visit, all the participants of the programme went through the Printing Unit-machineries, Ayur Vatika of medicinal plants and Herbarium of raw materials based on plants, animals and minerals. CSIR-NIScPR is one of the constituent laboratories of CSIR with the two key mandates of STI based policy studies-research and science communication. NIScPR brings out 16 peer reviewed open access journals in various prominent disciplines of S&T. Three most popular science magazines of the country are published from CSIR-NIScPR. These magazines are Science Reporter (in English), Vigyan Pragati (in Hindi) and Science ki Duniya (in Urdu).

During second Technical Session, three experts delivered lectures. Senior Science Communicator and Photo journalist Shri Pallav Bagla interacted with participants about the ‘Clever ways of communicating science’. Dr. Paramananda Barman, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR presented his talk on ‘SVASTIK and its Media Coverage Insights’ focused on the scientific validation of Indian traditional knowledge. The theme of the lecture of Dr. Meher Wan,

Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR was 'How to communicate your research to general public'. All the participating scientists of ICMR labs learnt a lot from the inspirational talks of the experts of both the sessions. It was also planned that every participant will write a popular science article on his/her area of expertise and submit to CSIR-NIScPR for publishing purpose in Science Reporter and Vigyan Pragati (Popular Science Magazines of CSIR-NIScPR). At the end of the programme, Dr. Enna Dogra and Dr. Priya, Scientists of ICMR coordinated the feedback and takeaway session. Dr. Manish Mohan Gore, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR proposed vote of thanks. Ms. Shubhada Kapil, Technical Assistant, CSIR-NIScPR compered the whole programme.

School of Planning and Architecture 9th convocation held

CSIR-AMRPI

20th November, 2022

The 9th Convocation of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Bhopal was organised physically first time after covid19. Chairperson, Board of Governors declared the convocation open to confer degrees to Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD students.

Director, Prof Chandra Charu Tripathi welcomed Chief Guest, Durga Shankar Mishra, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh and former Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India and all dignitaries on the dais and off the dais. Director presented an annual report including the activities and achievements of SPA Bhopal since last year.

While the presentation of the annual report he stressed that the SPA is engaged in more than 40 Research and Consultancy projects and has collaboration (MoU) with several national and international institutes of high repute like UN-Habitat, GIZ (Germany), NITTTR Bhopal, NID Bhopal, IISER Bhopal, The Madhya Pradesh State Bamboo Mission, DG Research Cell Madhya Pradesh Police (DRC-MPPA), MSME Technology Center Bhopal, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis Bhopal, Rajiv Gandhi University Arunachal Pradesh, The University of Florence, NTNU Norway, CSIR-AMPRI etc.

He told that our students are treasured assets for the institute and have done them proud by participating and achieving at various national and international competitions in different extracurricular events for bringing laurels to the institute. He took this as an opportunity to congratulate and thank them for making the institute and country proud. Hailing from different geographies, students superbly displayed the unity in diversity of our country by celebrating festivals from all parts of India with profound affection and gaiety.

Respective HoDs presented recipients of degrees in their respective areas of specialization

and Chief Guest, Durga Shankar Mishra awarded the degrees to the PhD and Post Graduate Students and 2 Medals of Excellence, 9 Proficiency Gold Medals, 1 Certificate for Proficiency, 9 Best Thesis Awards, and 2 Certificates of Appreciation for Thesis.

Dr Prakash Kumar is Director of CSIR-NGRI, Hyd

CSIR-NGRI

20th November, 2022

Dr Prakash Kumar, a leading geophysicist, has been appointed as the Director of the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), where he was serving as a Chief Scientist. A statement here on Sunday said, Dr Prakash Kumar obtained his Master's degree in Applied Geophysics from the IIT-Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and then his Ph.D. in Geophysics from Osmania University, Hyderabad. He is heading the "Seismic And Gas Hydrate Division", one of the largest research teams at CSIR-NGRI, that has made milestone contributions towards strategic planning for our country's energy security.

His research interests include active and passive source seismology, and he has made a seminal contribution to imaging the Lithosphere-Asthenosphere Boundary in diverse tectonic regions. He was a visiting researcher in reputed international institutes, such as GFZ-Potsdam, Germany and Earthquake Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan. He has widely travelled to Germany, Japan, France and Russia to establish international research collaborations.

He has co-authored a book entitled "Structure and Tectonics of the Indian Continental Crust and Its Adjoining Region: Deep Seismic Studies" published by Elsevier. He has published his research in the leading international journals, including Nature, Science, Nature Geoscience and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr Kumar is a recipient of various awards and honours, including the Young Scientist Award (CSIR), Krishnan Medal (Indian Geophysical Union), National Geoscience Award (Ministry of Mines, Government of India), Anni Talwani Memorial Prize (Indian Geophysical Union), DAAD Fellowship by Germany and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellowship. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI).

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Island Seafood Festival at Corbyn's Cove Beach

CSIR-CSMCRI

20th November, 2022



The Department of Fisheries in association with Tourism Department, A&N Administration will be organizing 'Island Seafood Festival' at Corbyn's Cove Beach on 20th& 21st, November 2022 in connection with the celebration of World Fisheries Day-2022 in A&N Islands. The festival is mainly focused on popularizing seafood culture of the Islands among the local population as well as tourists visiting Isles. The festival also aims to promote tourism in Isles by showcasing varied seafood cuisines of Isles.

The Secretary Fisheries, A&N Administration, Mr. G. Sudhakar, IAS, will inaugurate the Seafood Festival as the chief guest at Corbyn's Cove Beach at 5.30 pm on Nov. 20th, 2022 while the Secretary IP&T, Mr. Hari Kallikkat, IAS, will grace the occasion as the guest of honour.

There will be 24 different stalls of Hotels & Restaurants/Aquarists/Sport Fishing Associations/ Fishing Associations/Aqua Club/Women SHGs/ Fisheries Institutes like

Fishery Survey of India, ICAR-CIARI, NIOT, CSIR-CSMCRI, Coast Guard etc with fresh seafood cuisines/delicacies of different varieties of fishes and shellfishes, other fish value added products, aquarium fishes, display & models on various aspects of fisheries and aquaculture. A musical programme will also be organized for the entertainment of the gathering. The visiting hours of stall will be from 4 pm to 9 pm.

Meghalaya, Nagaland farmers throng Bhaderwah to learn ‘mission aroma’

CSIR-IIIM

19th November, 2022

Agriculturists from the north-east region thronged Jammu and Kashmir's Bhaderwah valley, which is famous for India's purple revolution, to have first-hand experience of lavender farming in the region. The visit of the farming community from the north-eastern states of Meghalaya and Nagaland to the lavender fields in Bhaderwah to learn the nuances of cultivation and use them in their respective states from such farming is a major psychological boost to the farmers associated with 'aroma mission'.



A group of 25 progressive farmers, scientists of CSIR northeastern states and the Institute of Natural Resources Meghalaya along with consultants of respective governments of North Eastern states accompanied by senior faculty members of IIIM (Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine) are camping here, officials said.

Farmers from Nagaland and Meghalaya while expressing their joy said that this is like a fairytale to walk the lavender fields in person which we have seen in photographs and videos only and for this experience, we are thankful to the Ministry of science and technology and union minister Dr Jitendra Singh.

“We share an almost similar climate in majority of the areas of Northeastern states and hope we will replicate the success which farmers of Bhaderwah have experienced by bringing purple revolution here,” Dr Hygina Siangbood -Scientist, Institute of Natural Resources, Meghalaya, said.

“The experience over here is quite fascinating, seeing the success of farmers is overwhelming. Our main objective is to take lavender cultivation to Meghalaya also, so that our farmers and aroma industry can also get benefit by adopting the ways and means farmers and startup owners are practising in this Valley,” Dr Hygina added.

Principal Scientist Aroma Mission IIIM Jammu Dr Sumeet Gairola said that Bhaderwah has emerged as a role model for the entire Country and the success story of the farmers have started attracting Scientist, technocrats and progressive farmers from the length and breadth of India.

“Bhaderwah is not only the birthplace of India’s Purple revolution and capital of it but we are heading towards our goal of making this Valley the ‘Bulgaria of India’ and for the success MoS Science and Technology has acted as a catalyst,” Gairola added.

Local farmers and those associated with aroma industries are also upbeat and enjoying the experience of newfound attention and recognition they have gotten from across the country for cultivating lavender and its value addition.

“It’s like a dream come true and to conquer the impossible as we are steadily heading to make Bhaderwah – ‘Bulgaria of India’. For this path-breaking success, credit goes to MoS Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh for making it sure to adopt a holistic approach and get it implemented by CSIR-IIIM,” said Touqeer Bagban, a lavender farmer and startup owner of Bhaderwah.

An idea for the Aroma Mission was conceived for the lavender plant in Jammu and Kashmir by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). It is a joint effort by the CSIR and the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu.

“Lavender is grown in cold temperatures and moderate summers. It has a gestation period of

two years before the plantation can rain money”, he said. They said that the lavender has been a ray of hope for farmers with small land holdings. Compared to any other normal crop, such as maize, it could hardly fetch Rs 2500 per kanal (8 kanals = 1 acre). On the other hand, lavender can easily earn up to Rs 15,000 per kanal every year.

International Conference on Advanced Nanomaterials and Applications at VIT-AP University

CSIR-IICT

19th November, 2022

A 3-day International Conference jointly hosted by the VIT-AP University - School of Advanced Sciences and Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), USA on Advanced Nanomaterials and Applications (ICANA 2022) is being held at VIT-AP University, Amaravati from 16th to 18th November 2022. The conference aims to bring together national and international



communities of scholars, scientists, and engineers from academia and industry to discuss exciting advances in the field of Nanoscience and Technology. The conference intends to publish presented research papers further to facilitate the recent innovations in science and technology. This conference is co-sponsored by CSIR - India. The inaugural session of the conference has been held on 16th November'22 in virtual mode. Dr. Santanu Mandal, Dean of the School of Advanced Sciences of VIT-AP University welcomed the chief guest and all the distinguished guests followed by a briefing about the conference events which has been done by Dr. Mangilal Agarwal, General Co-Chair of the conference from IUPUI, USA.

The program was graced by Dr. D. Srinivasa Reddy, Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India as the chief guest. He expressed the importance of conference in bringing academia and industry collaboration. He has convinced that a conference like this will help researchers and research scholars of various disciplines to know more about the advances in nanotechnology. He also mentioned that the facilities and infrastructure of VIT-AP University, Amaravati will provide a better education.

The esteemed presence of the Vice-Chancellor of VIT-AP University, Dr. S.V. Kota Reddy has elaborated the prominent achievements of VIT-AP towards research publications, patents, innovation and incubation, Startups, MOUs with industries, placements, infrastructure, and ranking. He has appreciated the efforts of IUPUI and the entire team of ICANA 2022 for hosting such a prominent international conference that would create a strong platform for the national and international budding young scholars and students. Dr. Jagadish C. Mudiganti, the Registrar of VIT-AP has shared his gratitude to the chief guest, all the eminent speakers, delegates, and participants for attending the conference.

This conference has 12 eminent speakers from reputed universities across the world such as the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis-USA, Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science-New Zealand, University of Wollongong-Australia, Universidad de Sevilla-

Spain, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia-Italy, Korea National University of Transportation-South Korea, IIT Bombay and CSIR-IICT-India, with about 130 paper presentations and 200 participants from 12 different countries.

New 'Ima Chenghi' launched

CSIR-NEIST

18th November, 2022

Works minister Govindas Konthoujam launched the improved 'Ima Chenghi' of Holistic Enterprises, Sangaiprou, with new package design during a simple function held in the minister's office at New Secretariat, here, on Friday.

Oinam MLA I Nalini, ICAR Manipur Centre joint director Dr I Meghachandra, CSIR-NEIST senior principal scientist Dr H Birkumar, ICAR Manipur Centre senior scientist Dr SS Roy and Ima Chenghi brand ambassador Tonthoi Leishangthem also attended the launch function.

Speaking on the occasion, minister Govindas lauded the initiative of Holistic Enterprises and promoting an indigenous product, which has been in use for thousands of years, as a modern product.

The product not only reproduce the traditional product of Chenghi as a marketable hair wash liquid but it will also help in bringing economic development in the state, he said.

State native to attend India-France venture

CSIR-IIP

18th November, 2022

Dr Robindro Lairenlakpam (principal scientist, CSIR-IIP, Dehradun), one of the well-known scientists in the zero fuel and emission transport and energy system of India, will be representing the country in the India-France Bilateral Collaboration for Scientific Programme, to be held in France.

Dr Robindro was invited by the French Embassy in India to attend the week-long research programme. He will leave for France on November 20 and participate in the research with French scientists on future intelligent transport and energy system for non-fossil fuel and zero-emission. Speaking to The People's Chronicle in this regard from Dehradun, Dr Robindro expressed belief that the scientific research programme would help in gaining new knowledge on sustainable ecosystem, which in turn would greatly benefit the country.

With regard to Manipur's situation, he stressed the need for focussing on producing electricity from renewable energy without using coal or fossil fuel and also reducing the usage of petrol of diesel as soon as possible. The world is already making significant stride towards realisation of zero-emission goal and even India is paying close attention to the same.

Manipur must make crucial efforts beforehand to attain India's target of net-zero by 2070. For this, the state government, authorities and institutes concerned need to guide the youth properly, which will, in turn, not only help in generation of jobs but also help in improving the state's economy, he suggested. It may be mentioned here that Dr Robindro Lairenlakpam had recently taken on the role of event director of a workshop on electric vehicle, organised jointly by Manipur Transport Department and CSIR Dehradun at City Convention, here.

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MOU Signing ceremony with CSIR NML and BSL

CSIR-NML

18th November, 2022

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between SAIL-BOKARO STEEL PLANT and CSIR-NATIONAL METALLURGICAL LABORATORY (NML) at ED (Works) Office . The objective of this MOU is to pursue joint research & development projects, including those related to innovation, fundamental research and technology development, between CSIR-NML Jamshedpur and SAIL-BSL leading to New Product Development, Improvement in the Quality of products and raw materials and reduction in specific energy consumption and CO₂ footprint etc.

It is noteworthy that from SAIL-BSL, B. K. TIWARY, ED (Works) signed the MOU and Sharad Gupta, CGM (Maint.) signed as witness in presence of P K Baisakhiya, CGM (EMD) & Utilities, Bipin Sartape, CGM (CA&C) and Saurabh Singh, AGM (EMD) and Convenor (Centre for Digital Transformation). From CSIR-NML, Dr. S K Pal (Head Research Planning and Business Development), CSIR-NML signed the MOU on Behalf of the Director CSIR-NML. Dr. Ganesh Chalavadi, Sr. Scientist, MNP Division, CSIR-NML, Dr. Suman Tewary, Scientist, AMP Division, CSIR-NML and Biraj Kumar Sahoo, Sr. Scientist, MTE Division, CSIR-NML joined the MOU signing ceremony on behalf of CSIR-NML, Jamshedpur.

B. K. TIWARY ,ED (Works), SAIL,BSL elaborated that this MOU will collaborate joint research and development projects in different areas of steel plant including improvement in the quality of product and raw material and reducing the CO₂ footprint of steel production at SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant. The representatives from CSIR-NML, expressed his happiness during the signing ceremony of MOU and expected a good number of collaborations in core R&D areas related to steel making and Industry-4.0 and digital transformation.

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Environmental DNA-based assay to detect invasive catfish in waterbodies

CSIR-CCMB

18th November, 2022

Invasive alien species are a severe threat to biodiversity, causing local extinction of native species and impacting ecosystem services, human livelihood, economy, and health.

The North African Sharptooth catfish is one such species that was illegally introduced in India for aquaculture purposes. Now the species has invaded most freshwater ecosystems.

“The ecological damage is staggering that the Indian government has eventually banned this species from culturing and selling. Yet the control and management of this species is an uphill task, which requires the primary task of detecting the presence of this species in waterbodies and mapping its distribution,” said Govindhaswamy Umapathy, Senior Principal Scientist of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB).

While the conventional methods to detect invasive species, like using nets, traps, and visual observations, are cumbersome, the researchers from CCMB now have developed Environmental DNA (eDNA)-based molecular methods that provide a time and cost-effective alternative. eDNA is defined as “genetic material obtained directly from environmental samples (soil, sediment, water, etc.) without any obvious signs of the biological source material.”

It is an efficient, non-invasive and easy-to-standardise sampling approach. eDNA can be obtained from ancient and modern environments. Coupled with sensitive, cost-efficient and ever-advancing DNA sequencing technology, the technique is increasingly being used for biodiversity monitoring.

“Our lab has designed a molecular assay utilising eDNA to specifically detect this invasive catfish in Indian ecosystems, which is affordable and quick, and will be a very useful tool in conservation management,” Umapathy said.

Umapathy hoped that the pilot study will serve as a foundation to map the distribution of invasive *Clarias gariepinus* and also as a useful tool to inform management authorities for timely control and regular monitoring of this species.

The developed assay helps detect invasive fish species using eDNA. The researchers have designed and optimised a reliable eDNA-based quantitative PCR assay to detect the African Sharptooth Catfish from water samples in the aquatic system.

The step-by-step processes involved in the design and optimisation of the assay were field-tested in selected water bodies of Hyderabad city and around. The present workflow can be used to design assays to detect a wide range of aquatic species. The research study has been published in *Biological Invasions*.

Prabhakaran honoured as fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry

CSIR-NCL

17th November, 2022

Pune: Vinod C Prabhakaran, a scientist from CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune, has been honoured as a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) by The Royal Society of Chemistry, London. Prabhakaran completed his MSc in Physical Chemistry from the School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, in 1995. He obtained Ph D in Chemistry from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research,



Bangalore under the guidance of Prof C N R Rao FRS. He did post-doctoral work at various institutes including the Technical University Eindhoven, The Netherlands; Denmark Technical University, Denmark and Cardiff University, United Kingdom. He joined CSIR-NCL in 2010 and started his independent research group at the Catalysis Division.

“Vinod’s research group at CSIR-NCL has been involved in surface science studies and developing structured catalysts that can give molecular-level insights into many catalytic processes. The group also works in the area of in-situ spectroscopy to study materials under close working conditions. Last few years, the group has been actively engaged in developing catalysts for CO₂ reduction and methane partial oxidation,” stated the release from CSIR. To his credit, he has more than 125 research papers in peer-reviewed international journals and one US patent. So far, he has supervised nine Ph D theses and has been guiding seven students for Ph D. Dr Vinod is also a co-recipient of the National Award for Technology Innovation in Petrochemicals and Downstream Plastics Processing industry (2021) instituted by the Ministry of Petroleum, Government of India.

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IMMT Arranges Jigyansha-ATL Program In Seven Schools For Scientist-Student Connection

CSIR-IMMT

17th November, 2022



NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) conducted an ATL Tinkering Day at ATL Labs in its 10,000 schools across India, where students conducted an AIM prescribed experiment. To support this programme, scientists from CSIR-IMMT visited seven schools and conducted ATL Tinkering Day 2022 in the schools. The schools accepted by IMMT for this program are Sainik School Bhubaneswar, BB High School Dhenkanal, Government Girls High School Unit 6 Bhubaneswar, Central School No. 4 Bhubaneswar, Central School No. 5 Bhubaneswar, Government High School IRC Village Bhubaneswar and Jawahar Vidyapitha Pipili. IMMT arranged the experimental materials for the schools and personally guided them for the program. All the students made a motor-fan model using the materials. The national level program was conducted by scientists Dr. Santosh Kumar Behera, Dr. Simantini Nayak, Dr. Mamata Mohapatra, Dr. Sahid Anwar, Dr. Ashutosh Rath, Dr. Vikas Kumar Jena, Dr. Umakant Subudhi and Dr. Devi Prasad Das. Dr. Devi Prasad Das, coordinator of the program, said that the CSIR-Jigyansha team regularly conducts several Scientist-Student Connection programs for schools.

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