CSIR IN MEDIA

CSIR

NEWS BULLETIN
21 TO 25 JANUARY 2022

Compiled by Science Communication and Dissemination Directorate (SCDD), CSIR, Anusandhan Bhawan, New Delhi

Institut Pasteur and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research sign MoU on Health

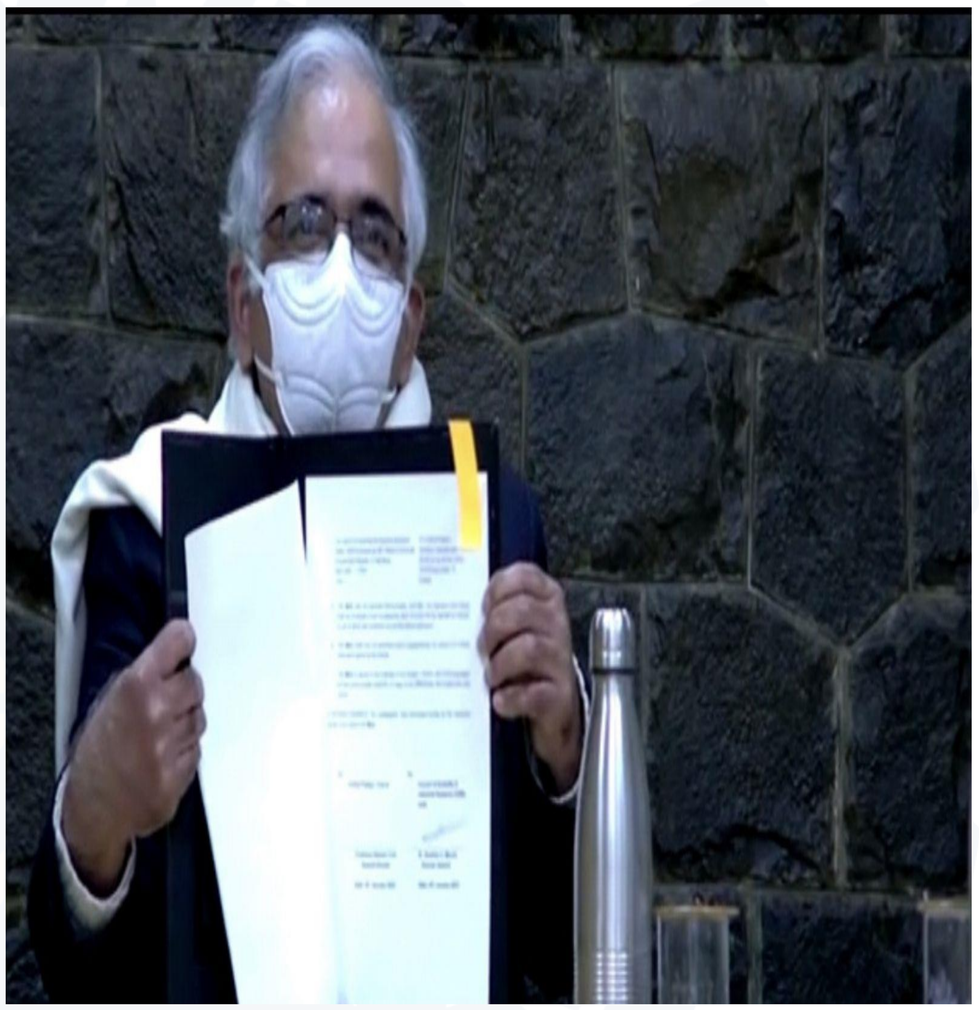
CSIR

25th January, 2022

The current pandemic has highlighted how global health challenges can only be tackled with the involvement of different partners bringing their own strengths and expertise.

Institut Pasteur and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at a hybrid signing ceremony on 25th January 2022. Aimed at making both our countries prepared for tomorrow's health challenges, the MoU includes collaboration in important areas:

- Genomics of Inherited Diseases
- Personalized Medicine
- Infectious Diseases
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Development of New Models for Drug Screening



Concluded in the year marking the bicentenary of the birth of Louis Pasteur, this new MoU reinforces the already strong scientific collaboration in health innovation between France and India. Health is a strategic sector of bilateral collaboration, based on the two countries' complementarity, especially for biotechnology, applied artificial intelligence, and integrative health approach.

Actions on research, education, and training are included in this agreement. Every year, France offers over 11 crore rupees in scholarships to Indian students and researchers opting to study in France.

The MoU was signed by the President of Institut Pasteur, Professor Stewart Cole, and the DG of CSIR, Dr Shekhar C. Mande in presence of the Ambassador of France to India, H.E. Mr Emmanuel Lenain.

A video message was also shared by DG of Research and Innovation, Mrs Claire GIRY, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Government of France on this occasion: “The French government announced last June the launch of Healthcare Innovation 2030. More than €7 billion between now and 2030 will be dedicated to a medicine that is more predictive, more preventive and more innovative.”

Published in:

IfIndia

Neglected infectious diseases may be tomorrow's pandemic, warns Bharat Biotech chief Krishna Ella

CSIR-IMTECH 25th January, 2022

Bharat Biotech International Limited Chairman Dr Krishna Ella on Monday said today's neglected infectious diseases could be tomorrow's global pandemic and stressed the need to have a coherent strategy to fight them.

He said this during an event organised as part of the 38 foundation day celebrations by CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh.

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is credited to be India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine to be approved and administered to a sizeable population across the globe.

Delivering this year's foundation day lecture virtually on “Innovation and Leadership in Pandemic”, Ella highlighted how today's neglected infectious diseases could be tomorrow's global pandemic and stressed the need to have a coherent strategy to fight infectious diseases, according to an CSIR-IMTECH statement.

During his lecture, Dr Ella highlighted how innovative technology in vaccine development is essential to solve public healthcare problems caused by infectious diseases.

He said Indian pharmaceutical companies need to innovate beyond generic vaccines to be a global player in the vaccine market. He stressed the need for scientists to examine the unknowns that could be the future cause of pandemic through zoonotic and unknown viruses.

A serial entrepreneur with a passion for innovative ideas, Bharat Biotech has also ventured into veterinary vaccines, food processing, and developing biotechnology infrastructure in the country.

Dr Ella is also involved in shaping India's science education and policy through his association with several committees, said the statement.

Dr Shekhar C Mande, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research & Director General CSIR, asked scientists to focus on microbiome therapies, which could be future game changer for treating diseases.

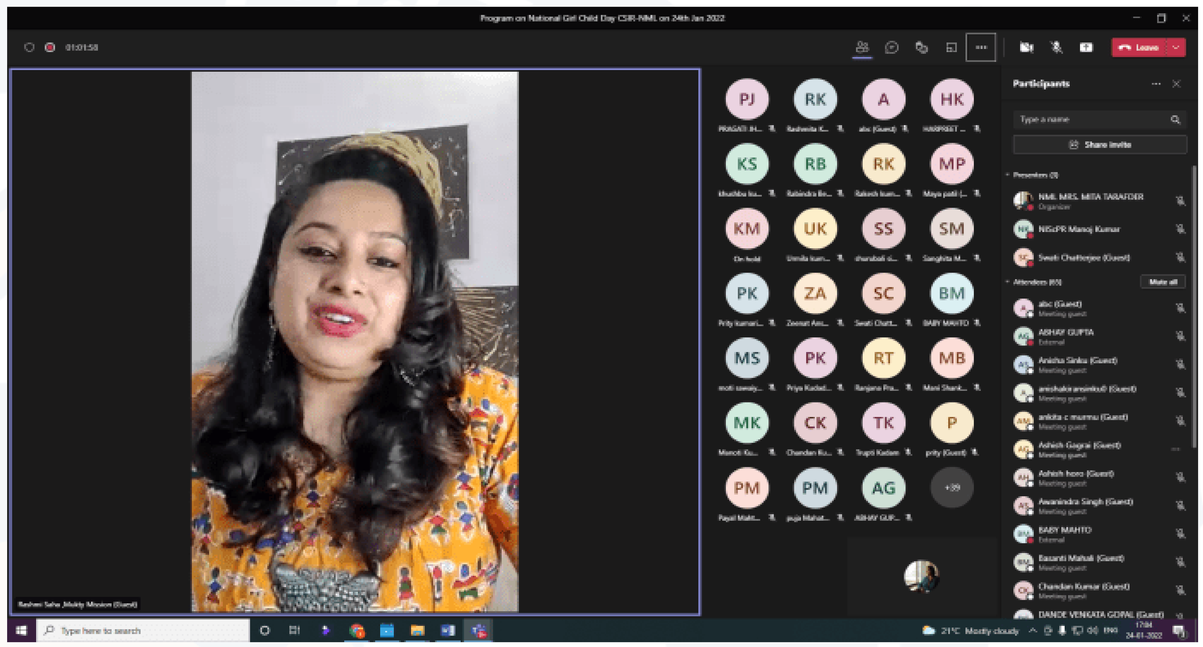
Dr Sanjeev Khosla, Director, CSIR-IMTECH, lauded efforts of scientists and researchers for the work carried out to fight the pandemic during the challenging times of Covid-19. The CSIR-IMTECH is a national centre for excellence in microbial sciences and was established in 1984.

Published in:
Deccanherald

Jamshedpur: CSIR–NML workshop on Women Empowerment on National Girl Child Day

CSIR-NML

25th January, 2022



Jamshedpur, Jan 25: On the occasion of National Girl Child Day that is being observed since 2008 annually on January 24, CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur, organised a workshop on Women Empowerment on the occasion online. This was a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India and the main objective was to spread awareness among all Indians on the rights of a girl child and the importance of health, education and nutrition of girls. In a society dominated by men, girls were exposed to various kinds of violence and made victims of child marriage, female infanticide and domestic labour. The virtual discussions included deprivation of girl children in the realms of health and education. The workshop was organised to highlight the issues faced by girls and women and the need and importance of women empowerment.

The virtual program commenced with a video on women in leadership at CSIR-NML. This was followed by Chief Scientist and Head of KRIT Division at CSIR-NML, Dr Mita Tarafder's speech on 'Women Empowerment in India' that emphasized judicial empowerment of women and the present status of their participation in various leadership roles as executives or as members of advisory decision making bodies. In her lecture, she recommended economic and social empowerment of women and stressed on the need for providing various support services to take care of the kids and elders at home. She projected various women empowerment schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Women Technology Park, the upcoming S&T program for women at CSIR-NML sponsored by Department of Science and Technology.

Rashmi Saha, an activist and Founder of Mukty Mission, an organization that works on women empowerment and helps them in tackling various issues including health and hygiene. She said that growth and empowerment could not be unidirectional and should be considered as collective responsibility of all for the betterment of society. The session was interactive and informative.

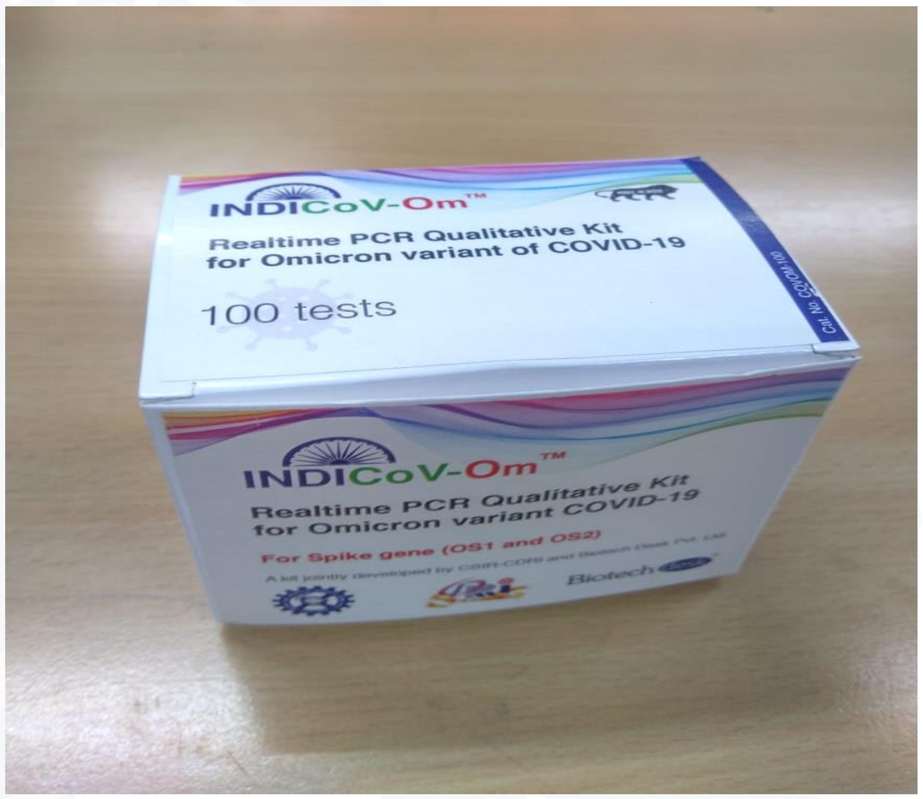
Published in:
Avenuemail

CSIR-CDRI scientists develop OM, the RT-PCR kit for Omicron

CSIR-CDRI

24th January, 2022

The CSIR – Central Drug Research Institute's scientists have developed an indigenous RT-PCR kit called 'Om' for testing the omicron variant. The kit, a first by any government institution for the omicron variant, will also make India self-reliant in RT-PCR diagnostics.



The team comprises Dr. Atul Goel, Dr. Ashish Arora, and Dr. Niti Kumar at CSIR-CDRI. The indigenous RT-PCR kit 'INDICoV-OmTM' is one of the very few specific kits for detecting Omicron in the entire world.

About "Om"

Om enables quick and cost-effective detection of omicron variant over genome sequencing for a large population. It was made within two months and will cost around Rs 150. Further, it will give the test results in around two hours. According to the scientists, it can also be aligned for the detection of other emerging variants of Covid infection and other respiratory infections.

Once the kit gets approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), it will be launched by mid-February. The kit has been referred to the ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) and is yet to be validated.

Current scenario

The diagnostic kit will specifically detect the omicron variant which will help in the proper diagnosis and treatment of the patient. Most RT-PCR-based diagnostic kits do not confirm by which covid variant the infection is caused. Currently, the detection of omicron variant

depends on tests like the S-gene dropout or by NGS (Nextgen sequencing) of the whole viral genome. The S-gene drop-out method is not specific and does not pinpoint the type of variant while the NGS (Nextgen sequencing) method too, has certain limitations such as expense, turnaround, and the number of centers that can provide such service.

Other Covid news: Schools reopen

Offline classes have resumed for students from standard 1 to 12 in Maharashtra on Monday following appropriate covid protocols. The decision was taken after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) assessment.

Meanwhile, the Haryana government was planning to open schools at 33% capacity on different days, however, no decision has been taken yet. Schools are to remain closed for physical classes till January 26 in the State.

Published in:
News On Air

CSIR-CIMAP

22th January, 2022

आय दोगुनी करने की दिशा में मील का पत्थर बनेगा किसान मेला

स्वदेश संवाद, लखनऊ।

केंद्रीय औषधीय एवं सुगंध पौधा संस्थान (सीमैप) में दस दिन तक चलने वाले किसान मेले की शुक्रवार को शुरुआत हो गई। कोविड के कारण, इस वर्ष 21 से 31 जनवरी तक किसान मेले का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। मेले में प्रतिदिन 200 किसान, उद्यमी और उद्योग जगत के प्रतिनिधि एवं सीमैप के वैज्ञानिक भाग ले रहे हैं। किसान मेले का उद्घाटन सीमैप के निदेशक डॉ. प्रबोध कुमार त्रिवेदी ने किया। कोविड के कारण पहले से पंजीकृत और डबल टीकाकरण वाले व्यक्तियों को ही मेले में प्रवेश की अनुमति होगी।

सीमैप के निदेशक डॉ. प्रबोध कुमार त्रिवेदी ने देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में सीमैप की किसान केंद्रित गतिविधियों के बारे में बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि कोविड के बावजूद, संस्थान के वैज्ञानिक और कर्मचारी, किसानों को ऑनलाइन प्रशिक्षण, रोपण सामग्री एवं सेवाएं प्रदान करते रहे हैं, जिससे उनको आय बढ़ाने में मदद मिली है। संस्थान द्वारा औषधीय एवं सगंध पौधों की किस्मों और प्रौद्योगिकियों में

उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले अनुसंधान को इन मेलों को आम जनता तक पहुंचाया जा रहा है। संस्थागत अनुसंधान के फल किसानों को उनकी आय में वृद्धि में मदद कर रहे हैं। डॉ. त्रिवेदी ने इस किसान मेले में भाग लेने वाले देश के विभिन्न राज्यों के किसानों एवं उद्यमियों का स्वागत किया। मेले के माध्यम से किसानों को सीमैप में विकसित औषधीय एव सगंध पौधों की उन्नत प्रजातियों एवं कृषि तकनीकियों तथा उनसे बने हर्बल उत्पादों के बारे में जानकारी मिलती है।

इस अवसर पर किसान मेले कि स्मारिका 'औस ज्ञान्या' का विमोचन किया गया।

मेले में मोरिंगा आधारित उत्पादों जैसे चाय, साबुन, तेल, पाउडर, कैप्सूल और टैबलेट को प्रदर्शित करने वाली मोबाइल वैन को भी सीमैप निदेशक डॉ. प्रबोध कुमार त्रिवेदी ने झंडी दिखाकर रवाना किया। उत्पादों को सीमैप के तकनीकी मार्गदर्शन में 'जेवीकेएस कंपनी' विकसित कर रही है। इस अवसर पर निदेशक ने देश के विभिन्न आईसीएआर एवं शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से एकत्रित गुलाब की 80 से अधिक किस्मों की नवविकसित रोजरी का भी उद्घाटन किया गया। सीमैप किसान मेले में डॉ. सौदान सिंह ने विशेष गोष्ठी का संचालन किया। इसमें अगेती मिंट तकनीकी व जिरेनियम की खेती के बारें में किसानों से जानकारी साझा की। डॉ. वी आर सिंह ने औषधीय एवं सगंध पौधों की पौध सामग्री संवर्धन के बारें में प्रतिभागियों को बताया। किसान गोष्ठी ने डॉ. सौदान सिंह, डॉ. राजेश वर्मा, डॉ. सुदीप टंडन, डॉ. राम सुरेश शर्मा, डॉ. राकेश पाण्डेय, डॉ. ऋषिकेश, डॉ. संजय कुमार आदि ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। मेले में औषधीय एवं सगंध पौधों पर उत्पादन से बाजार तक परिचर्चा गोष्ठी, उन्नत पौध सामग्री व प्रकाशनों का विक्रय, सीमैप प्रोडक्टस का प्रदर्शन, आसवन/प्रसंस्करण का सजीव प्रदर्शन, अगरबत्ती व गुलाब जल बनाने का प्रशिक्षण, मेंथा की अगेती कृषि तकनीकी का प्रदर्शन, औष फसलों का परंपरागत फसल प्रणाली में समावेश का विशेष प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। कार्यक्रम को वर्चुअल माध्यम से प्रसारण किया गया।

Published in:

Swadesh, Dainik Jagran, Rastriya Sahara, Amar Ujala, Navbharat Times

CSIR-CIMAP's ten-day Kisan Mela kicks off in Lucknow

CSIR-CIMAP

21st January, 2022

Ten-day Kisan Mela-2022 began at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) headquarters in Lucknow on Friday wherein farmers will be apprised about various researches and technologies to increase their income. The mela will be held for 10 days from January 21 to 31 except on January 26 and daily about 200 farmers, entrepreneurs and industry persons along with CSIR-CIMAP scientists will be in attendance.

The mela was inaugurated by CSIR-CIMAP director Dr Prabodh Kumar Trivedi following all Covid protocols. Only the pre-registered and double vaccinated people were allowed entry to the Kisan Mela. Dr Trivedi spoke about the farmer-centric activities undertaken by CSIR-CIMAP in various parts of the country.

"Despite the pandemic, scientists and staff of the institute have been able to provide online trainings, planting materials and services to the farmers, which has helped in increasing their income during these difficult times," he said. He said high quality research in medicinal and aromatic plants varieties and technologies by the institute are helping farmers to increase their income.

Kisan Mela souvenir "Aus Gyanya" was also released during this occasion. Alos, a mobile van displaying the Moringa (Sahjan in Hindi)-based products was flagged by Trivedi. The products are being developed by JVKS Company under the technical guidance of CSIR-CIMAP.

A collection of over 80 varieties of ornamental rose from various Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and academic institutes of the country was also inaugurated by the director. An interaction among the farmers, scientists and industry was also organised.

On the first day, 500 kgs of planting material of high-yielding newly released menthol mint variety 'CIM-Unnati' along with planting material for 'Kosi' and 'CIM-Kranti' was provided to over 150 farmers.

Published in:
Hindustan Times

CSIR-NIIST scientist elected Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences

CSIR-NIIST

21st January, 2022

Suresh CH, Senior Principal Scientist, Chemical and Technology Division, at the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, has been elected as Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Suresh's elevation is in recognition to his contributions in chemistry, particularly in the area of theoretical and computational quantum chemistry, an official spokesman said here.

Suresh is an alumni of the St. Dominic's college, Kanjirappally (BSc), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam (MSc) and Savitribai Phule University, Pune (PhD). He did his post-doctoral training from Nagoya University, Japan; Indiana University, US; and Marburg University, Germany.

The Senior Principal Scientist has published 210 research articles in international journals, the spokesman added. Founded in the year 1934 by Sir CV Raman, Indian National Academy aims at promoting the progress and upholding the cause of science in pure and applied branches.

Published in:

The Hindu Business Line

CDRI scientists working on two combinations of Covid-19 drugs

CSIR-CDRI 21st January, 2022

There may be another drug available for Covid-19 treatment in the future. After successful clinical trials of the antiviral drug, Umifenovir, for Covid treatment, scientists of the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) in the city are trying to develop another drug without any side-effects. A team of scientists led by chief scientist Ravishankar is working on two combinations to provide the safest medication to coronavirus patients.

“Experts say that a combination of antivirals with different mechanisms can be more effective to counter the viral pandemic. We are working on two combinations — Umifenovir with Molnupiravir (an antiviral) and Umifenovir with Niclosamide (anti-parasitic),” said Ravishankar

Molnupiravur drug has received only Emergency Use Authorisation in India and abroad. Though its usage showed reduced hospitalization during clinical trials, its biggest drawback are the side-effects, he added.

“Now, we are trying to keep a low dosage of Molnupiravir in its combination with Umifenovir which may weed out the side- effects such as the risk of cartilage and muscle damage. If successful, it will make Umifenovir more effective in Covid-19 treatment,” said the chief scientist.

The other combination is Umifenovir with Niclosamide. Niclosamide is known for its efficacy for Covid treatment but the biggest challenge is that its high dosage is required for treatment and that leads to side-effects. A safe and efficacious combination of Umifenovir with Niclosamide is being researched on and exact dosage in the combination that can give positive results, Ravishankar added.

CDRI director Prof Tapas Kundu said, “CDRI is working round-the-clock to develop drugs that can help in treating all variants of Covid-19 besides being economical and safe for people. We have achieved a major breakthrough with Umifenovir and are hopeful of developing a new drug to win the pandemic battle.”

Published in:
Times Of India

CSIR-NGRI

21st January, 2022

Online training course for students on seismology on 17th January 2022.

భూకంప శాస్త్రంపై ఎన్‌జీఆర్‌ఐ శిక్షణ

ఈనాడు, హైదరాబాద్: జాతీయ భూభౌతిక పరిశోధన సంస్థ(ఎన్‌జీఆర్‌ఐ) భూకంపశాస్త్రంపై విద్యార్థులపై ఆన్‌లైన్ శిక్షణ ప్రారంభించింది. జియాలజీ, జియోఫిజిక్స్, సివిల్‌ఇంజినీరింగ్ విద్యార్థులకు మాస్టర్స్ స్థాయిలో వర్చువల్ విధానంలో తరగతులను ఈనెల 28 వరకు నిర్వహిస్తోంది. నైపుణ్యాభివృద్ధిలో భాగంగా శాస్త్ర వేత్తలతో శిక్షణ ఇప్పిస్తున్నారు. ఆత్మనిర్భర్ భారత్ లక్ష్యాలను అందుకునేందుకు సాంకేతికంగా మానవ వనరులను అభివృద్ధి చేయడానికి ఈ తరహా శిక్షణ దోహదం చేస్తుందని ఎన్‌జీఆర్‌ఐ డైరెక్టర్ డాక్టర్ వి.ఎం.తివారీ అన్నారు.

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