

CSIR IN MEDIA



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The Innovation Engine of India

NEWS BULLETIN

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Director CSIR-IIIM Inaugurates AIC-IIIM Leather Training Centre

CSIR-IIIM

05th September , 2023

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, a premier R&D organisation of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), under Union Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India, today started the leather training course besides various others soft initiatives under Atal Incubator Centre (AIC-IIIM).



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu who is ex-officio Chairman of AIC-IIIM Bio-innovation Foundation, inaugurated the leather training centre at CSIR-IIIM Srinagar Branch. While speaking on the occasion, Director of CSIR-IIIM informed that the leather training programme is a part of Skill Development initiative in the Manufacture and Design of Leather Goods and Garments which would be pivotal to support the local economy and generation of livelihoods for many others. He also highlighted the importance of such events to promote the startup and entrepreneur ecosystem in the region. He further said that the mandate of Atal Incubation Centre has been envisaged in the areas like leather training, medicinal mushroom cultivation, food technology, aroma and natural products sector, keeping in view the richness of natural resources and expertise available here, so as to provide the idea incubation support to the innovators at their doorstep. The event organised coincided with the National Teacher Day thus Dr. Zabeer extolled the contribution of teachers in building the future of our nation.

Earlier, AIC-IIIM also organized Hackathon 3.0 competition under the aegis of AIC-IIIM Bio-innovation Foundation. Under the activity, participants from different institutes of Kashmir valley participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. The Hackathon 3.0 competition

offered a platform to the startups to share their business ideas which have potential to be converted into promising products / technologies. The official logo and brochure of AIC-IIIM were also released during the ceremony.

In a press handout issued here, it was told that in order to promote the startup ecosystem in the region, AIC – IIIM in this endeavour has formulated a series of events and skill development programmes which would be conducted in near future. As prelude to today's event, during last month, Entrepreneurial Road Shows were conducted in various Colleges / Universities of Kashmir including Cluster University Srinagar, Central University of Kashmir, Islamic University of Science and Technology and NIT Srinagar.

Er. Abdul Rahim, Head CSIR-IIIM (Br.) Srinagar and Vice Chairman, AIC-IIIM Bio-innovation Foundation emphasized on the role of the institute in mentoring the local entrepreneurs and connecting them with various funding opportunities offered by the Govt. of India.

Dr Saurabh Saran, Principal Investigator, AIC-IIIM, in his welcome address, informed that Hackathon 3.0 pitching session comprised of top 7 groups wherein 15 shortlisted participants pitched their innovative business ideas related to medicinal plants, aroma products, medicinal mushroom, eco-tourism etc. Based on the evaluation by jury, top five business ideas were recognized and awarded as winners of Hackathon.

On the occasion, an MoU for incubation support was also signed with 1Veda Biotech Private Limited, a startup involved in the manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines. This marked the first startup to be incubated under AIC-IIIM Bio-innovation Foundation.

Prominent among others present Dr. Muzamil Ahmed (Deputy Head), Dr. Fayaz A Malik, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Parry, Dr Parvez Qazi Hassan, Dr. Syed Riyaz -Ul Hassan (Senior Principal Scientist). Syed Abdul Basit Andrabi, Coordinator AIC-IIIM, conducted the proceedings whereas Er. Ankush Varma, Coordinator IIIM-TBI, presented the formal vote of thanks.

Quality journalism takes a lot of time, money and hard work to produce and despite all the hardships we still do it. Our reporters and editors are working overtime in Kashmir and beyond to cover what you care about, break big stories, and expose injustices that can change lives. Today more people are reading Kashmir Observer than ever, but only a handful are paying while advertising revenues are falling fast.

Pune: Exploring India's Path to Global Innovation at iRISE CxO Forum 2023

CSIR-NCL

05th September , 2023



iRISE CxO Forum 2023 was organized on August 29, 2023, at IISER Pune. This year's theme was 'Innovation as a Driver of Growth and Excellence'. It was chaired by Dr. Naushad Forbes, Co-Chairman of the Pune-based premier engineering firm Forbes Marshall, Past President of the Confederation of Indian Industry CII, and Chairman of the Center for Technology, Innovation and Economic Research (CTIER). The program included a talk session on 'Propelling Growth and Excellence through Innovation', a panel discussion on "How can India Lead Global Innovation?" and a 'photo exhibition' of the teacher-training workshops organized by project iRISE in different states of the country.

Prof. Sunil S. Bhagwat, Director, IISER Pune, in his welcome note, described IISER Pune's unique approach to science education which focuses on providing students exposure to the interdisciplinarity of science and technology and also providing them opportunities to do research at the undergraduate level. During his keynote address, Dr. Naushad Forbes emphasized the importance of combining research and higher education in India. He said universities and other institutions that bring both these components together can serve as a great source of skilled and talented human resources for various industries. Sharing examples of international statistics on Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development

(GERD), he further elaborated on how fostering a research and innovation culture in the industrial sector eventually leads to rapid economic growth of a country. A talk session entitled 'Propelling Growth and Excellence through Innovation' was moderated by Mr Ajit Sharma, Managing Director India and South Asia, Royal Society of Chemistry. The first speaker of the session, Mr. Naveen Kalappa, Chief Financial Officer, Tata Technologies Limited, provided an overview of research and innovation in the technology industry. He described how basic sciences are the backbone of technological innovation in the automobile sector. Next, Dr Ashish Lele, Director, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory Pune, talked about the role of the Government Research Laboratories in bridging the gap in translational research. How CSIR labs are the exemplars of publicly funded labs involved in the Research Development Demonstration and Deployment (RDD&D) of innovative technologies.

Dr. Naushad Forbes moderated the panel discussion entitled "How can India Lead Global Innovation?". Various panelists brought to the table different perspectives on the topic pertaining to their own domain. Mr. Arvind Goel, Chairman – Tata AutoComp Systems shared the importance of continuous innovation in the industrial sector to stay ahead of the competition in the market. Mr. Rajendra Tripathi, Head – Education Programmes – Public Policy/Government Affairs- British Council India, highlighted the significance of inclusion and diversity to promote innovation and productivity. Dr. Mayur Datar, Chief Data Scientist, Flipkart, elaborated upon the scope of applied innovation in IT, healthcare, and the Digital Public Goods sector in India. Ms. Namita Gupta, Adviser/Scientist 'G', DST shared information about the Inspire – Manak scholarship program established by the Government of India and has been designed to encourage school students, Ph.D. scholars, and Early career Researchers to pursue a career in research and innovation.

An exhibition of photographs taken during teacher training workshops in three states of India (Maharashtra, Bihar, and Uttarakhand) and pedagogical tools created by the Teacher Development Stand of iRISE program was also set up which was highly appreciated by all the participants of the event. The program was attended by distinguished leaders from academia and industry including Prof. Sunil S. Bhagwat, Director, IISER Pune, Dr. Ashish Lele,

Director, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory Pune, Prof. Jayant B. Udgaonkar, Department of Biology, IISER Pune, Mr. Arvind Goel, Chairman – Tata AutoComp Systems Limited, Mr. Ajit Sharma, Managing Director India & South Asia, Royal Society of Chemistry, Mr. Naveen Kalappa, Chief Financial Officer, Tata Technologies Limited., Dr. Mayur Datar, Chief Data Scientist, Flipkart, Mr. Rajendra Tripathi, Head – Education Programmes – Public Policy/Government Affairs- British Council India, Ms Savitha Balachandran, Chief Financial Officer, Tata Technologies, Mr Sujit Dixit, CSR Head, Tata Technologies, Mr. Milind Joshi, Head R&D, Forbes Marshall, Dr. Shridhar S. Shukla, Co-Founder, Chairman, KPOINT, Dr. Richard Lobo, Head Innovation, CQH and Chief Ethics Counselor, Tata Chemicals, Mr. Suneel Jagdale, Director – Software Engineering – PA Software, Siemens Industry Software (I) Pvt. Ltd. Senior government officials Ms. Namita Gupta, Adviser/Scientist ‘G’, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, and Dr. Sandeep Bansal, Scientist C, DST – INSPIRE-MANAK also participated in the event.

About iRISE: Inspiring India in Research Innovation and STEM Education (iRISE) is a collaborative programme between the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune, British Council, Royal Society of Chemistry, and Tata Technologies. The programme supports the Government of India’s objective of building a nurturing ecosystem that promotes research and innovation in schools and universities.

The programme started in October 2021 with four strands: Teachers Development Strand, Early Career Researcher, Thought Leadership Forum and CxO Forum.

The iRISE CxO Forum is a unique intervention under iRISE, where we bring captains of the industry and senior academics together to share the platform for setting the agenda for the partnership and recognizing excellence in the application of research and innovation at each level of the partnership.

Published in:

Punekarnews

Jayesh Ranjan commends CSIR-NGRI's OWOL program for bridging science and society

CSIR-NGRI

04th September , 2023

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Government of Telangana, lauded the innovative One Week One Lab (OWOL) campaign initiated by CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI). The program aims to bridge the gap between scientists, academia, industry, and the general public.

Speaking at the OWOL program's inauguration at CSIR-NGRI in Hyderabad, Jayesh Ranjan extended an invitation to NGRI to participate in the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) initiatives led by the Telangana government.

He emphasized the potential for NGRI to contribute to the state's sustained development, particularly in the fields of agriculture and information technology. Ranjan also offered a platform for NGRI to conduct scientific experiments.

Dr Kalaiselvi, Director-General of CSIR, conveyed her best wishes for NGRI's OWOL program. She expressed confidence that NGRI's research endeavors would address society-related challenges and hold significant relevance for the nation's sustainable development.

As the chief guest, Dr P S Goel, Former Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, shared insights and recommendations for CSIR-NGRI's future research endeavors. He emphasized the importance of demand-driven science and the fusion of various scientific methods to address the complex challenges of the Earth system.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged between NGRI and prestigious institutions such as IIT Madras in Chennai, SRTM University in Nanded, and Bundelkhand University in Jhansi, with the aim of fostering research collaboration.

Dr Goel also inaugurated the Research and Development Exhibition, which showcased NGRI's research accomplishments.

In his welcome address, Dr. Prakash Kumar, Director of CSIR-NGRI, outlined the week-long schedule of events from September 4 to September 9. He recounted the institute's successful 62-year journey and discussed NGRI's vision for future scientific advancements, emphasizing the incorporation of cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning in geosciences.

CSIR-NGRI does a drone survey at Ladakh

CSIR-NGRI

04th September , 2023

CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has successfully conducted a drone based magnetic survey in the Ladakh region in September last year for the first time for an area of about 45 sq.km and the data is currently being analysed by the scientists here, it was disclosed on Monday.

The premier scientific institute has used a five kilo payload capacity drone carrying an important sensor to record the data for sub-surface level area. It was also actually looking for a high payload capacity of about 500 kg for carrying sophisticated cameras and instruments, also to be developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) but there has been a delay in making the big drone.

Former Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) P.S. Goel told a gathering of scientists at the institute on the inaugural day of the 'One Week – One Lab' programme that several projects have been tied up with the higher payload drone, but pointed out that there are constraints as a government organisation.

Scientists said a drone capable of higher payload would help in studying deeper into the earth by 500 metres and larger area besides taking up geothermal studies in the tough terrain. Mr. Goel called for an industry demand-driven science so that the institute becomes an 'enabler'. Fusion of different scientific methods and developing applications of different aspects of science were important, he said.

CSIR-DG Kalaiselvi, through a video-link from New Delhi, said while it was great to have landed on the moon and send a spacecraft to study the sun, it was critical to know more about the earth's structure and sustainability. "NGRI has a great responsibility in the research for water, minerals, metals and minerals as there could be future fights for their sustainable or

divisive applications. And, we have to put the community needs first,” she said.

CSIR-NGRI Director Prakash Kumar said the institute is working in an integrated early warning system for natural disasters like earthquakes, landslides and has initiated geothermal studies of the Ladakh region with the help of a drone besides playing a role in providing key scientific seismological inputs for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayan Mission.

TS Principal Secretary for IT & Industries Jayesh Ranjan called CSIR labs to open up for collaborations with the start ups and industry for scaling up innovations taking a leaf from the Defence Ministry. He also offered the government infrastructure support if the scientists wanted to take up any major works on a pilot scale. The government with the help of the agriculture university had involved the industry, start ups and others to choose six technologies to be used for improving agriculture from about 80 plus technologies.

Mr. Kumar also signed three memorandum of understandings with IIT-Chennai, SRTM University-Nanded and Bundelkhand University-Jhansi to foster research collaboration between NGRI and these institutes. Later, Mr. Goel inaugurated the R&D Exhibition showcasing the research accomplishments of the institute.

125 people get green cracker manufacturing certificates

CSIR-NEERI

04th September , 2023

Pradesh Atasbaji Byabsayee Samiti — one of the largest organisation of firecracker manufacturers in the state — has set the ball rolling for manufacture of green firecrackers in the state by handing over training certificates of CSIR-NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) to 125 persons who have been trained in manufacturing of green crackers.

“Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wants the state to become self-reliant in manufacture of green firecrackers and accordingly, NEERI has provided hands on training in green cracker manufacturing. Around 250 manufacturers have been trained till date. Now if the state government issues requisite license to them, they can work on manufacture of green crackers which is permitted as per directions of Supreme Court,” Sukdev Naskar, general secretary of the Samiti said.

Around 100 manufacturers who received certificates on Sunday hail from Maheshatala-Budge Budge in South 24-Parganas and the rest are from different districts.

More than 1.5 lakh people in the state are associated with the firecracker industry.

The state government has initiated the process of developing clusters across the state so that manufacturing units can be shifted to such places. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already laid the foundation stone of five clusters across the state recently in virtual mode.

Published in:

[Millenniumpost](https://www.millenniumpost.com)

It's sunshine moment for India: Jitendra Singh

CSIR-NGRI

03rd September , 2023

As the ISRO's trusted workhorse, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle – Extended (PSLV-EL) launched India's first Solar Mission, Aditya L1 from Sriharikota Range on Saturday Union Minister Jitendra Singh described it as “sunshine moment for India”.

“While the whole world watched this with baited breath, it is indeed a sunshine moment for India,” a statement issued here quoted Singh as saying while addressing ISRO scientists and engineers at the Mission Control Room soon after the PSLV-C57 ejected Aditya L1 around 1 pm IST.

“Indian scientists had been working, toiling day and night for years and years together. But now comes the moment of vindication, the moment of redeeming the pledge to the nation,” said Singh, who is also the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions and Atomic Energy.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making this happen “by opening up new vistas for India's space sector and telling us that sky is not the limit”.

“Thanks also PM Modi for giving us the confidence, the courage, and the conviction to reach out to the stars and to discover the mysteries of universe beyond. And thanks also for making us realise the enormous potential of our space fraternity,” Singh said. “Coming close on the heels of successful Chandrayaan-3 landing, the successful launch of Aditya L1 is also a testimony to the ‘whole of science and the whole of nation’ approach in which we have sought to adopt in our world culture.” He said that while ISRO was credited in executing this vision, the science institutes across the country had come forward to contribute in one form or the other, in small way or big, to this vision.

“To name a few, The Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, the National Aerospace Laboratories, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, the NGRI Nagpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Mumbai, and the list is too long,” Singh said.

Calling it as a team effort, he termed the Aditya L1 launch as “a day of reckoning”.

“This day, September 2, 2023, is a day of reckoning when we move on into the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal and India pledges, with the collective will and collective effort of our 140 crore children, to reach and occupy the place of pride on the world pedestal,” Singh said.

In Baderwah, farmers shift to marigold cultivation, reap success

CSIR-IIIM

03rd September , 2023

More than 500 farmers in Jammu & Kashmir's Baderwah district who abandoned maize farming a decade ago have shifted to lucrative marigold production and are reaping the success of the cash crop which they said fetches much better returns than the traditional maize crop.



Ten years back, the farmers in Kellarh Valley were engaged in maize cultivation and later they turned their land into marigold production after the intervention of the government. Hind Bhushan, a progressive farmer of Gajoth in Kellarh Valley, is one of the farmers who was among the few who took the initiative back to grow marigolds in 2007 after shifting from conventional maize crops.

“Maize was the traditional crop cultivated by our forefathers for generations. Earlier, we did not know about marigolds but the agriculture department helped us a lot to shift to marigolds as we were provided seeds on subsidy,” he said. The national awardee farmer said after the seeds, they started producing the flower crop and tried to increase the land which also added to the marketing.

“I first started with 2 kanals of land and today I grow the marigold at some 40-50 kanals of land. We get better returns of the produce which is sent to many states,” he said. Bhushan, who is also a member of the J&K Kissan Advisory Board, said in 2007 the village was not motorable and they used to take the seed on their shoulders for 8 kilometres. “After the construction of the 8-km-long Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road from

Bhalla to Gajoth, the business of marigold flower growers flourished,” he said. “But now all the panchayats in our village are connected with roads that gave a boost to the produce. When the market increased farmers joined the framing and today more than 500 farmers cultivate marigolds,” he said.

Bhushan said there is a good market for marigolds in Jammu and the produce from Bhaderwah is sent to Kolkata, Delhi. “In Jammu, 80 percent of the flower demand is met by Doda district only,” he said. The farmers in Bhaderwah have also set up a Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) which has also helped to connect more farmers.

Rafakat Ali, another farmer from Gajoth is among the 300 farmers in the village who has been growing marigold over the past 13 years. “Earlier, we would grow maize and pea. When we shifted to the flower crop we got a good market and our income doubled and we have been continuing. Almost every family grows the flower,” he said.

Ali said when they started the marigold farming the neighbouring villages and areas also got encouraged and they also shifted their focus to the same crop. “Now we send our produce directly to the mandi and every farmer is happy,” he said. Director of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, K K Sharma said the marigold mission was a joint initiative of the Agriculture Department and the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu.

“The IIM Jammu had provided the seed and we identified the beneficiaries and distributed the seeds and cultivated the seed,” he said. Sharma said all the ten districts in the Jammu division now cultivate the marigolds at a massive scale and the cultivation has been further increased. “Now under the aegis of Floriculture Mission, we are taking it forward. After loose flowers, we would be focusing on cut flowers and other varieties. We are working in this regard,” he said.

Devil fish spreads to 65% water bodies in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh

CSIR-CCMB

02nd September , 2023

In a cause for ecological concern, the highly invasive armoured sailfin catfish, notoriously known as the devil fish, is now seen in 65% of water bodies in the Eastern Ghats in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

This has been revealed in a research study by the city-based Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES), a constituent lab of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).

First noticed in the river Krishna in Vijayawada in 2016, the devil fish with its origins in South America, has no commercial value and its sharp spines and sturdy body can tear fishing nets. There are instances of fishermen being injured while handling the species. Technically known as *Pterygoplichthys*, it can eat practically anything and is capable of surviving in depleted oxygen conditions.

It can also travel on land with the help of its strong fins.

Controlling its population is important as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana together are home to 152 different types of freshwater fishes, the study said, adding that the devil fish is known to devour native fish species.

The LaCONES team identified the presence of the devil fish in different water bodies in the Eastern Ghats using a non-invasive technique involving DNA. The team comprised Neeldeep Ganguly and Govindhaswamy Umapathy. The result of the study was published in the online research portal bioRxiv on August 27.

The alien fish was limited to a few pockets in the Godavari but entered Krishna after the rivers were linked to stabilise the Krishna delta.

The fish then made its way to the Prakasam barrage in Vijayawada and from there to the upstream of the Krishna and its tributary, the Musi. A few years ago, the devil fish was caught in a water body in Hyderabad, besides the Esi, a tributary of the Musi.

"Out of the 14 species listed as invasive by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India, six were introduced solely for the ornamental fish trade. Among those six listed species, four belong to Pterygoplichthys, remarking it to be one of the most invasive genera of fish," the study said adding that early detection of invasive species is crucial for effective control of the potential damage they can inflict on the ecosystems.

According to the researchers, the DNA assay-based technique provides a powerful alternative to traditional detection methods like visual surveys and netting.

"This non-invasive, highly sensitive, and user-friendly technique offers the advantage of detecting invasive species even in areas where direct observation is challenging, thus addressing the shortcomings of traditional techniques and enhancing overall accuracy in estimating distribution," they added.

Bits'n'bytes: Know about startup, business news in Pune

CSIR-NCL

02nd September , 2023

Venture Centre signs MoU with Ansys Software

Pune: Venture Centre, a not-for-profit technology business incubator hosted by CSIR's National Chemical Laboratory, is collaborating with Ansys Software to provide support for technology startups. As per the terms of the MoU, Ansys will provide simulation software licences to eligible startups, and Venture Centre will provide computing infrastructure and setup required. Ansys has extended support to Venture Center under its corporate social responsibility programme to support startups. Premnath Venugopalan, director, Venture Centre, said, "In 2023, Pune is ranked closely with Chennai and Delhi in terms of startup funding, and Ansys' software, coupled with high-performance computing, is the right technological push for early-stage startups." Rafiq Somani, area vice-president, India at Ansys, said, "Engineering startups in India have demonstrated strong potential to innovate and scale up for both India and the global market."

Airtel, FirebirdVR organise VR demo

Pune: Airtel and FirebirdVR, an immersive technology solutions startup, organised a 5G-enabled VR demo at Karve Road store recently. During the demo, students experienced education through the latest VR technology. Akshay Rathod, founder CEO, FirebirdVR said, "The collaboration will enable us to build technology of the future like virtual reality (VR) that rides on the foundation of network and connectivity. With AR-VR enriched education powered by Airtel 5G, students will be more engaged, entertained, and informed than ever before. Our aim is to establish libraries across 100 higher education institutes and universities in the next 18 months."

MyWays.ai secures ₹80 lakh in seed round

Pune: AI-driven HR-tech startup MyWays.ai has secured ₹80 lakh in a seed funding round. The funding was led by Realtime Angel Fund (RTAF) and the investment will help

MyWays.ai expand its user base and extend offerings to become a comprehensive software solution supported by dedicated services. Pranay Mathur, CEO, RTAF said, “MyWays.ai’s work in deployment of AI-based solutions is set to streamline the corporate training, hiring, and deployment process, significantly cutting down the timeframes from months to a few weeks. Within 12 months, RTAF has invested in 25 innovative startups.” Samyak Jain, CEO-co-founder, MyWays.ai, said, “By digitising complex business operations for tech businesses, MyWays.ai is catalysing India’s acceleration towards becoming a \$1 trillion internet digital economy.”

Invest India, DPIIT select 25 incubators for NICD programme

Pune: The National Incubator Capacity Development Program, a joint effort by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Invest India, announced selection of 25 incubators that will go through an intensive 3-month mentorship, advisory, and capacity-building programme. The initiative, in association with Villgro is a part of the startup India campaign, and is dedicated to nurturing social startups and entrepreneurs. The selected 25 incubators include AIC ADT Baramati Foundation and MOTION CoE from Pune region. The programme, over 12 weeks, adopts a cohort-based hybrid approach to enhance the skills and abilities of the incubators. Participants will gain access to Villgro Information Tracking and Learning System (VITALS), a technology-based information system designed to track enterprise incubation progress.

Avanti Bicycles organised launch ride for enthusiasts

Pune: Avanti Bicycles launched its experience centre spread over 1,200 square feet in Pune. The group is organising a launch ride on September 3 at 6 am, that will unite cycling enthusiasts, and athletes. Jaymin Shah, country manager, Scott Sports India, said, “It is a hub for cyclists and a centre that boasts a captivating demo station, offering cycling aficionados hands-on encounters with Avanti’s engineering excellence. The centre houses a comprehensive service station and top-end cycle rental service.”

Published in:

[Hindustan Times](#)

Indian company manufactures leather made from mango pulp

CSIR-CLRI

01st September , 2023

A company in India is producing an eco-friendly vegan alternative to synthetic leather by using mango fruits. One of the reasons for using this particular fruit is that India produces 20 million tons of mango a year, making it the world's largest producer of mango. This means it has a huge amount of raw material as in India up to 40% of mangoes are abandoned in the fields because they do not meet regulatory and market standards, so they can be used to produce this alternative material to leather.

The technology was developed by CSIR-CLRI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Leather Research Institute) in Chennai. The new material is made of 50% mango and degrades faster than polyurethane leather.

Mango leather also offers other advantages over animal products in terms of ease of production, lower carbon footprint, and ethical alternatives.

“We'll collaborate with fashion houses and brands to create eco-friendly handbags and wallets. Manufacturing it costs approximately 60% less than what it currently costs to make synthetic leather. By employing circular solutions, our company plans to act on the problem of mango waste, incentivize farmers, and make vegan leather sustainably,” stated Pratik Dadhanian, the founder of Aamati Green Private Limited.

Published in:

[Freshplaza](#)

Project to be launched for development of cotton markers, says Minister in Coimbatore

CSIR-NBRI

01st September , 2023

A project for development of cotton markers in order to promote DNA testing of cotton in the country will be initiated in collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), said Union Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industry and Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal here on Thursday.

Addressing the Textile Advisory Group on Cotton, he said the project aims to develop genetic markers for precise discrimination of both, inter-and intra-species cotton varieties, and to establish protocol for extraction of DNA from the different stages of cotton textiles i.e., short and long staple fibre, yarn, gray fabric, unbleached fabric, bleached fabric, printed fabric, finished dyed fabric, etc.

According to an official press release, the Minister also assessed the progress of the project on traceability, certification and branding of Kasturi Cotton India. The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, which is the implementing partner for the project, has finalised the branding strategy for Kasturi Cotton and it will be launched internationally.

ALSO READ

Branding of Indian cotton takes off

Operational area of 9,327 hectares has been covered under a special project to enhance cotton productivity. The Minister said the impact of the project should be studied so that it can be scaled up in next cotton season.

Published in:

[The Hindu](#)

Union Textiles Minister Shri Piyush Goyal holds seventh interactive meeting with the Textile Advisory Group in Coimbatore to review initiatives for Cotton Value Chain

CSIR-NBRI

31st September , 2023

The Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal presided over the seventh interactive meeting with the Textile Advisory Group (TAG) on Cotton, on 31st August, 2023, to review the progress of initiatives for cotton value chain in Coimbatore.

Smt. Darshana V. Jardosh, Minister of State for Textiles and Railways, Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary Textiles, Shri Suresh Kotak, Chairman, TAG, Senior Officials from the Union Ministries of Textiles, Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Commerce, Finance, O/o Textile Commissioner, Textiles Committee, CCI, ICAR-CICR, CSIR-NBRI, APEDA, BIS, other senior officials from related Ministries and stakeholders were present. The whole of textile value chain was represented in the consultations through lead associations and experts in the meeting.

Shri Goyal mentioned that India is hosting the 81st Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and called attention of industry and trade members to make it a success. The 81st Plenary Meeting of ICAC will be hosted from 2nd to 5th December 2023 in Mumbai with the theme "Cotton Value Chain- Local Innovations for Global Prosperity" and is expected to be attended by almost 400 delegates including 300 foreign delegates from 26 member countries. Further, it is proposed to showcase products made from Kasturi Cotton and also showcase best sustainable practices.

Hon'ble Minister highlighted that the project for development of cotton markers in order to promote DNA testing of cotton in the country will be initiated in collaboration with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI). The project aims to develop genetic markers for precise discrimination of both inter-and intra-species cotton varieties and to establish protocol for extraction of DNA from the different

stages of cotton textiles i.e., short and long staple fibre, yarn, gray fabric, unbleached fabric, bleached fabric, printed fabric, finished dyed fabric, etc. DNA testing facility would be a big step towards Atmanirbharta, since it will be first of its kind in the country.

Shri Goyal also assessed the progress of project on Traceability, Certification and Branding of Kasturi Cotton India and lauded that branding of premium Indian Cotton will add great value to the entire cotton value chain. TEXPROCIL, Implementing Partner for the project, has finalized the branding strategy for Kasturi Cotton. The Indian brand of cotton viz. Kasturi India cotton will be launched internationally and will help in placing the Indian cotton textile products on the global map.

Hon'ble Minister also noted the progress of the special project on cotton to enhance productivity and emphasized that increasing productivity of Indian cotton is the need of the hour, in order to provide a boost to the domestic industry. Operational area of about 9327 hectares has been covered under the project. He advised that the impact of the pilot project may be analyzed for scaling the project in the next cotton season.

Honourable Minister for State, Smt Darshana V Jardosh, appealed to all cotton value chain stakeholders to work together in a cohesive manner to regain supremacy in cotton to enhance value returns to farmers by adopting sustainable production methods and ensuring traceability in the value chain.

The industry and textile value chain stakeholders expressed their sincere gratitude for the prompt and pragmatic approach of the Minister to address their issues through consultative mode.

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