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NEWS BULLETIN

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Manipur Governor interacts with farmers, distributes honey-bee boxes under CSIR project

CSIR-NEIST

04th April , 2024

The Governor of Manipur, Anusuiya Uikey distributed honey-bee boxes to the selected farmers of Manipur under a programme organized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) — North East Institute of Science and Technology at the Raj Bhavan on Wednesday. The programme on the distribution of Honey-bee boxes and quality planting materials of medicinal and aromatic plants to farmers was held under the CSIR — Floriculture and Aroma Mission Projects of the CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Branch Laboratory, Imphal.



During the programme, Anusuiya further said that beekeeping is an important venture for farmers in terms of additional income.

This biodiversity also promotes the extremely important role of bees in the ecosystem.

The Governor said that CSIR has been at the forefront of scientific innovation, research education, and support to private industries and farmers. Initiatives like Floriculture Mission and Aroma Mission projects under the mandate of CSIR have helped farmers and entrepreneurs alike through economic upliftment and development of the rich bio-resources of the region.

Farmers have benefited from the cultivation of medicinal plants and other economically important plants through these missions of CSIR, she said.

She continued that the need for alternative medicines was significantly realized during the COVID-19 pandemic for boosting immunity.

Dr. VM Tiwari, Director of CSIR-North East Institute of Science, and Technology, Jorhat, and Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Director, of CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru also graced the programme.

Farmer from Lakhimpur Grows 'Videshi Phool' and Reaps Significant Monetary Benefits

CSIR-NBRI

04th April , 2024

In the heartlands of Lakhimpur Kheri, where the pervasive sight of dark brown sugarcane once dominated the agricultural view, has now experienced a vibrant transformation. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) along with the local farmers, the landscape now boasts the bright colors of gladiolus and marigolds adorning the fields.

Traditionally known as 'Videshi Phool' (foreign flowers) by the farmers, the introduction of floriculture has not only brought economic prosperity but has also sparked a newfound enthusiasm for diversifying agricultural practices in the region.

One such farmer, Achal Kumar Mishra from Madai Purva block, has emerged as a pioneer in this colorful revolution. With the support of CSIR-NBRI's Floriculture Mission, Mishra received 60,000 tubers of gladiolus free of cost along with expert training from scientists like Sharad Srivastava. Additionally, 40,000 marigold plants were provided to him, enabling him to cultivate gladiolus on one acre of land and implement intercropping of marigold with sugarcane on an additional two acres.

Today, Mishra's farm has become a visual spectacle, boasting a myriad of gladiolus colors that captivate the eye. With the production of 80 to 90 thousand gladiolus sticks per acre, Mishra has not only reaped significant monetary benefits but has also expanded his market beyond India, reaching neighboring Nepal where the demand for this magnificent flower fetches higher prices.

Achal Mishra also owns an FPO, Jagdevpur U S Farmer Organization Producer Company Limited, that employs around 400 individuals, including women, becoming a beacon of employment opportunity in the village.

The impact of this floral revolution extends beyond economic gains. The flowers cultivated by these farmers are in high demand, gracing ancient temples in nearby areas and becoming integral components of Holi celebrations, further reinforcing the cultural significance of floriculture in the region.

Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) jointly organises the 2nd Leadership Development in Science & Technology (LEADS) Programme-2024 from 1-7 April 2024

CSIR

02nd April , 2024

The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) are jointly organizing the 2nd INSA-NCGG Leadership Development Program in Science and Technology (LEADS) at New Delhi from 1-7, April 2024. This pioneering programme seeks to nurture and empower future leaders in the field of science and technology, fostering visionary leadership and advancing scientific excellence in India. The



participants include professors/ scientists selected from various institutions, laboratories/ Universities, of DST, DBT, CSIR, ICMR, DAE, ICAR, NITs, IITs, IISERs, MoES, ISRO etc. The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) is an apex institution for governance-related training, research, and consultancy. It aims to enhance the capabilities of individuals and organizations involved in governance and public administration in India. The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) is a premier scientific organization that promotes and recognizes excellence in scientific research and fosters scientific cooperation within India and globally.

LEADS brings together the expertise and resources of INSA and NCGG, institutions dedicated to quality scientific pursuit and good governance, respectively. The programme will impart required leadership skills to the participants for the pursuit of excellence in leadership, administration, team building, infrastructure development, institution building, financial planning, innovation, incubation, HR management, addressing gender-related/diversity issues, understanding governance structure, international relationships, handling interpersonal relationships, etc.

The inaugural session of LEADS- April, 2024 was held on 1 April 2024 in the presence of Sh. V Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare and Director General of NCGG. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, President INSA and Prof. Indranil Manna, Vice-President, INSA along with distinguished experts, and scientists from various academic disciplines. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, during the program shed light on various components, intricacies, and objectives of the LEADS program, illuminating its potential benefits for the participants' future endeavours. He inspired the participants, instilling in them a heightened sense of anticipation and enthusiasm for the opportunities that lie ahead. Speaking at the event, Shri V Srinivas, highlighted the significance of cultivating effective leadership in science and technology, emphasizing the critical role it plays in driving societal progress and innovation. The participants expressed their enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity to engage with esteemed speakers and experts, as well as network with like-minded peers from various institution across the country. LEADS is a testament to the commitment of INSA and NCGG towards building a robust ecosystem for scientific leadership and governance excellence. The programme will conclude on 7th April which will encompass a series of sessions, workshops, and mentoring opportunities, equipping participants with the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to address complex challenges and drive transformative change in the realm of science and technology.

New technology unveiled at CSIR-NIIST conclave

CSIR-NIIST

02nd April , 2024

A new technology for biomedical waste management was presented at the Biomedical Waste Management conclave conducted by the CSIR-NIIST, Pappanamcode, under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

“The advanced technology converts 1kg of biomedical waste into a harmless soil additive, which can be useful for agricultural purposes, within just three minutes,” explained C Anantharamakrishnan, director of CSIR-NIIST.



M Srinivasan, director of AIMS New Delhi, inaugurated the conclave. The function was presided over by Kalaiselvi, secretary and director general of CSIR-NIIST.

The conclave also witnessed the participation of more than 250 delegates from the healthcare fraternity, including experts, policymakers, and technical experts from renowned medical colleges, hospitals, and NGOs. “Hazardous BMW (biomedical waste) can be disinfected and disposed off at its source at a very low cost. This technology would be a long-awaited relief for large and small hospitals, clinics, laboratories and the healthcare sector in general, who are facing challenges in the risk-free disposal of biomedical waste,” said Joshy Varkey, managing director of Bio Vastum Solutions, a startup for the commercialisation of the technology.

The conclave had expert panel discussions on topics including ‘Significance of Scientific Biomedical Waste Management – Focus on Pathogenic Waste, Pandemics, and Emerging Infections.

Effective and practical solutions for the disposal of hazardous biomedical wastes directly from their sources were the main focus of the panel discussion on biomedical waste management-related issues.

Storm surges cause severe damage in coastal Kerala

CSIR-NIO

01st April , 2024

Storm surges and high coastal waves caused heavy damage in various districts of Kerala on Sunday. The coastal areas of Alappuzha, Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kollam districts were hit by sea. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO) has warned that high and strong waves and storm surges are possible.

Strong waves were seen in Thiruvananthapuram at Pulluvila, Adimalatura, Puthiyathura, Poonthura, and Thumpa beaches. The storm surges at Pozhiyur destroyed fishing equipment and vessels, swept away coastal roads, and flooded houses along the coast.

Sea inundation continued in the Poowar Adimalatura sea-facing belt. The sea also hit the shores of Kovalam, a tourist destination. Authorities prohibited tourists from entering the sea. According to experts, such ocean invasions are seen in March and April and may last up to three days.

Around 50 houses in the section from Kollankodu to Neerody at the southernmost coastal tip of the Tamil Nadu state were flooded, and the roads were completely submerged in water. About ten families were evacuated from their homes after the flood in Pozhiyur.

In Alappuzha, the sea inundation was felt at the Purakkad, Cherthala, and Pallithode beaches. The sea withdrew several meters in the morning in Purakkad and muddied the beach.

In Thrissur, Perinjanam is flooded, and the waves hit the shore hard. Water and soil also damaged fishing nets. The sea inundation took place at Mundaikkal in Kollam. Strong waves and winds are also experienced here. A warning has been announced in the state after sea attacks were experienced in so many areas. The CSIR-NIO warned that high and strong

waves and storm surges are likely. Fishing vessels should be safely moored in the harbour. Keeping a safe distance between boats can avoid the risk of collision. Ensure the safety of fishing equipment. There are warnings that you should avoid trips to the beach and activities in the sea. Meanwhile, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, NDA candidate for Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha Constituency and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology said that today's sea inundation is the result of the neglect of the people of this region by the Congress and communist governments and their representatives. These regimes, which were alternately in power, are responsible for the current situation and the subsequent sufferings of the people. Rajeev questioned what work the Congress MP (Shashi Tharoor, MP since 2009), whom the people elected, did all this while. He added they did nothing to solve the misery of the coastal area.

The MP said this has resulted from the Congress-left rule of more than sixty years. Only a government whose humanity is completely frozen and people's representatives who lack sincerity can stand by and watch this suffering. The time is not far when the people will reject rulers who amuse themselves by keeping the coastal residents in perpetual misery. The Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka, born to Malayali parents in Ahmedabad, asked these compasses who look to the north and blame to consider what the ordinary citizens want. This torture cannot be withstood any longer and will not be allowed to continue. Rajeev promised he would provide a permanent solution to the sufferings of the coastal people.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Rajeev faces Congress candidate Shashi Tharoor and Communist Party of India (CPI) leader Panniyan Raveendran. LDF candidate Raveendran was in the news recently when he provided his personal Google Pay number and account information and requested that people vote for him. Meanwhile, Rajeev uses QR codes and Google Forms to understand people's needs. The less said about controversial Tharoor, the better. Will Thiruvananthapuram voters elect wisely this time around?

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Study finds women are more likely to develop long Covid

CSIR-IGIB

01st April , 2024

A recent study by the Dr D Y Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre and CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology in New Delhi has found several risk factors associated with long Covid, including alcohol consumption and SARS-CoV-2 reinfections.

The study, recently published in Scientific Reports, a journal from the publishers of Nature, found that women were more likely to develop long Covid as compared to men.

Of the studied 3,329 healthcare workers, 216 (6.19%) suffered from long Covid.

Dr Aayush Gupta, lead researcher from Dr D Y Patil Medical College, said, “Persistent weakness/tiredness lasting 12 weeks to 6 months was the most experienced long-Covid symptom. Loss of smell, myalgia, headache, neurotic symptoms, shortness of breath, loss of appetite, menstrual abnormalities, cough, joint pain, sore throat, sleeping troubles, difficulties in concentration/confusion and leg pain were other common long Covid symptoms. Some cases had rectal bleeding, weakness in eyesight and panic attacks.”

Almost 1,219 study participants were men and 2,110 were women. Of these, a total of 716 individuals had a history of drinking alcohol.

Dr Shahzad Mirza, hospital infection control officer, Dr DY Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, said, “Our analysis found that women were more likely to develop long Covid compared to men.”

The study had 25 cases of Covid reinfection and they were found in several vaccinated individuals — six partially vaccinated and 19 fully vaccinated. 14 individuals with reinfection also reported the presence of long Covid symptoms, they said.

Other studies found that alcohol use disorder might increase the risk of long Covid. “Alcohol is associated with compromised liver function, which can weaken the immune system and heightens the risk of long Covid,” Dr Gupta said.

According to a recent Census Bureau survey, nearly twice as many women as men are affected by long Covid.

Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman, National Indian Medical Association (IMA) Covid Task Force, told TOI, “This is an important research from India that shows the risk of developing long Covid among the relatively young and healthy. The findings of this study also have implications for the general population. The socio-economic aspects, in particular, require detailed study.”

Dr Ishwar Gilada, consultant in infectious diseases, Unison Medicare and Research Centre, Mumbai, and secretary general, People’s Health Organisation-India, said, “This is an important study. The findings related to alcohol being an aggravating factor concurred in other studies elsewhere. Women, especially in India are known to be disproportionately anaemic as compared to men and poor in nutrition and often neglected for healthcare if there are multiple patients in a family. Post-Covid and long Covid science is still unfolding and will keep evolving.”

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