



CSIR IN MEDIA

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Idling cars: CRRI to study loss

CSIR-CRRI

Increasing traffic on roads has prompted the government to quantify the monetary loss from vehicles idling at intersections. As part of the 12th Five-Year Plan, CSIR-CRRI is carrying out a study -Evaluation of Economic Loss Due to Idling of Vehicles at Signalised Intersection and Mitigation Measures -across various cities, including Delhi. The pilot project will be conducted at Bhikaji Cama Place from Thursday .

Mukti Advani, who is undertaking the study for CSIR-CRRI, said, "The Bhikaji Cama Place intersection has an estimated traffic load of 2.5 lakh. We will conduct an awareness campaign asking people to switch off their engines if the wait is longer than 20 minutes."

"We will also estimate the fuel saving potential if engines are switched off when the traffic signal is red," added Advani.

As part of the study , a "before scenario" data was collected on July 26 for 24 hours. The data collected included a survey of classified traffic volume count, switching-off behaviour, speed delay and emission. Around 5% of the 2.5 lakh vehicles were surveyed. The "after scenario" data is planned to be collected later this month.

"The awareness campaign will be on from August 4 to August 10 through the day .We will also distribute pamphlets on-site, through newspaper distributors, in parking areas, banners, boards, etc," Advani added.

Not only will the study quantify the loss from idling of vehicles at intersections, but CSIR-CRRI will also list mitigation measures.

Delhi government has been experimenting with cutting down carbon emissions with the odd-even schemes.

आईआईटी-सीडीआरआई कर रहे आस्टियोपोरोसिस पर रिसर्च

CSIR-CDRI

आईआईटी कानपुर का बायलोजिकल साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग विभाग ऑस्टियोपोरोसिस (हड्डियों का कमजोर और खोखला हो जाना) बीमारी पर लखनऊ के सेन्ट्रल ड्रग रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (सीडीआरआई) के साथ मिल कर काम कर रहा है। इसके अलावा आईआईटी घुटने के घिसते कार्टिलेज को बचाने के लिये भी रिसर्च कर रहा है। आईआईटी कानपुर के बायलोजिकल साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रो. अमिताभ भट्टाचार्य ने बुधवार को कहा कि वयस्कों में हड्डी पुंज (बोन मास) के उचित देखभाल के नहीं होने से ऑस्टियोपोरोसिस बीमारी होने की आशंका बनी रहती है। तथा रजोनिवृत्त (मेनोपाज) के बाद महिलाओं पर इसका अधिक प्रभाव पड़ता है। फिलहाल ऑस्टियोपोरोसिस के इलाज में हड्डियों के विकृत होने से बचाने पर ध्यान दिया जाता है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में इस बीमारी के लिये बोन रिजनरेशन में सहायक ड्रग्स का प्रयोग किया जाता रहा है जिसका प्रतिकूल असर पड़ा है। द भाषा

CSIR-NEERI named nodal agency for cleaning of Chandrabhaga River

CSIR-NEERI

THE ambitious project of cleaning Chandrabhaga river by Government of Maharashtra will be launched soon. CSIR-NEERI has been identified as the Nodal Agency for the project called 'Namami Chandrabhaga'.

Namami Chandrabhaga is an initiative taken to revive and rejuvenate the river Chandrabhaga and to restore its historic glory. Considering the religious, social and economic importance of the river Chandrabhaga, the Government has decided to prepare a comprehensive plan for cleaning of the river on the lines of 'Namami Gange'.

In this context, the Government has identified CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) as 'Nodal Technical Expert Agency' the project. Bhima river originates in Bhimashankar in Pune district. But when it reaches Pandharpur, it appears like a crescent moon, thus deriving the name Chandrabhaga. It flows in a 370-km stretch between Pune and Solapur districts. CSIR-NEERI was already involved by the Maharashtra Government to provide technological solutions for sanitation and sewage treatment at important cities and pilgrim centers like Nashik and Pandharpur. Furthermore, is retained CSIR-NEERI for technological interventions during the execution of the Project 'Namami Chandrabhaga'.

Director General, CSIR, New Delhi has also directed CSIR-NEERI to act as 'Nodal Technical Expert Agency' in the Namami Chandrabhaga Project. Accordingly, CSIR-NEERI has proposed to undertake a comprehensive technical study on sewerage and sanitation; industrial pollution and solid waste management with regard to water quality of Chandrabhaga river.

The proposed study would lead to rejuvenation of the river with respect to water quality and its ecology.

CSIR-NEERI has prepared the related comprehensive technical and financial proposal in this regard, which would be submitted to the Government shortly.

The Maharashtra Government intends to cleanse and make the holy river Chandrabhaga pollution free by the year 2022.

<http://thehitavada.com/Encyc/2016/8/3/CSIR-NEERI-named-nodal-agency-for-cleaning-of-Chandrabhaga-River.aspx>

The Hitavada | August 3, 2016

Environment ministry holds green clearance for Odisha iron ore mines

CSIR-NEERI



The government has reduced the time required for environment approvals from 600 days to 190 days.
Photo by Reuters.

In what may affect India's iron ore production, the ministry of environment, forest and climate change has kept on hold new environment clearances for Odisha's iron ore leases until it reviews an ongoing study.

The joint study is being conducted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

The ministry had ordered this capacity study for environmentally sustainable iron ore mining activities in Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha in 2014.

However, the final report is still awaited and the ministry has stated that it will only take a look at environment clearances for all iron ore leases in the state once it goes through the report.

This comes in the backdrop of the National Democratic Alliance government's plan to nearly halve the time for green clearance for infrastructure projects to 100 days. Former Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar recently said the government has reduced the time required for environment approvals from 600 days in 2014 to 190 days.

“We have received a communication from Odisha government that on account of NEERI’s report, the environment ministry has decided that green clearance will not be given to any iron ore mine, until and unless the ministry goes through the broad contours of the report,” said a senior government official requesting anonymity.

As a result of this, green clearance for the newly auctioned iron ore mine in the state as well as other leases for iron ore are stuck, the official added.

The entire matter has been referred to mines minister Piyush Goyal who may later take up the issue with environment minister,” said a second government official who also didn’t want to be identified.

India’s mineral production for financial year 2015-16 increased by 9% to 495 million tonnes (MT). However, the overall growth in terms of value decelerated by 11% to Rs.39,767.3 crore during the same period.

A senior Odisha government official aware of the development requesting anonymity said that pending mining lease cases under section 10A (2) (C) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act are stuck due to environment ministry’s stand.

“There are around 57 cases related to section 10A (2) (C), out of which 17 pertains to iron ore mining leases. We have also written to the environment ministry in this regard so that clearances should be expedited on an urgent basis,” the state official quoted above said.

Queries emailed to the spokespersons of the environment ministry, mines ministry, NEERI and Odisha government's mining department on 2 August remained unanswered.

Experts think that the region has had some issues due to certain illegalities and the study will take time.

“Given the realities of the past, NEERI will definitely take time in doing the baseline study in order to propose environmental risk mitigation measures,” said Dipesh Dipu, partner at Jenissi Management Consultants, a Hyderabad-based energy and resources sector consulting firm.

India's iron ore production for financial year 2015-16 rose to an estimated 135MT compared with 129MT the previous year due to a slew of measures taken by the National Democratic Alliance government to revive domestic production.

<http://www.vccircle.com/infracircle/environment-ministry-holds-green-clearance-odisha-iron-ore-mines/>

Deepak Kumar Sahu | August 3, 2016

Ahead of WIPO meet, Scientist & IPR experts' plea to CM for TK protection

CSIR-NIIST

Ahead of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) meet in Geneva this September, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) experts and scientists from Kerala raise concerns over the need for Traditional knowledge (TK) protection and had also written to the Chief Minister to introduce TK Protection Law based on Kerala IPR policy 2008. The scientists call for a stringent TK protection law to check bio-piracy and private appropriation of TK through its patenting.

Traditional knowledge (TK) refers to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment. TK include agricultural practises, Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha, Unani and tribal cures, among others. Indigenous communities and TK practitioners all over the world are concerned about the increasing bio-piracy and commercial appropriation of TK through its patenting.

Seeking the State government to introduce a TK Protection law based on Kerala IPR policy 2008, a senior scientist and IPR expert Praveen Raj at CSIR- National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) here has made a plea to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. In his letter to the CM, he indicates that the LDF government in 2008 had announced the IPR policy and placed in the legislative assembly in July 2008. Later, the UDF led government had constituted a committee that released a draft Traditional Knowledge Protection Rules on July 1 2014, which calls for creating 'Biodiversity Registers' and to check the monopoly of TK by certain sections.

"Without classifying under IPR, TK protection can be ensured by creating 'Knowledge Commons' or with those holding their rights under a 'Common License'. The right holders shall permit others, the use of knowledge in their possession for non-commercial purposes. But, in case of path-breaking discoveries, it can be separately patented and need not be listed under Knowledge Commons," Praveen Raj said.

While, a senior IPR expert who had attended the WIPO meet in Geneva in 2012, former director of TBGRI and Kerala State Biodiversity Board senior programme coordinator Dr. S. Rajasekharan told TOI that existing IPR policies have no adequate provisions for TK protection and it should be ensured by the government. "Creating Knowledge Commons for TK cannot check its bio-piracy and misappropriation. Even if someone procures TK from the original TK holder by claiming initially that it is for non-commercial purpose, later it could be diverted for commercial purpose," he said.

"TK protection laws can have common guidelines in terms of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) principle, but ABS should not be misconstrued. The TK holder, say a tribal healer uses some herbal cure to treat an ailment, ABS need not be limited to sharing the cost of raw material say a plant used to prepare a drug for commercial purposes. It should also involve an appropriate percentage sharing of the proceeds from the scientifically validated product," Rajasekharan said.

While, former Law Minister M Vijayakumar had proposed for TK protection and had written to the Union Minister Jairam Ramesh in 2010, indicating that TK can be protected through Knowledge Commons and that it can help check bio-piracy.

The scientific experts and activists have called for empowering the TK holders such as the tribal community to negotiate their right over TK with the support of IPR experts and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at panchayat level.

Science circuit may soon power city's tourism growth

CSIR-NAL



Though Bengaluru is home to a sizeable number of premier science institutions, a majority of these are high security zones, disallowing public access.

The Tourism department, however, wants to turn things around. In a bid to harness Bengaluru's tourism potential to the maximum, it hopes to showcase these institutions on a broader canvas to domestic and international tourists.

Tourism Minister Priyank Kharge told Deccan Herald that the department had envisaged creating a 'Science Circuit' as part of the 'Brand Bengaluru' concept.

He said that the idea was to link all these institutions under one forum, thereby facilitating public access and interface, to better the tourist's experience of Bengaluru. Kharge said that the department would work closely with the Science and Technology department to devise an integrated plan.

"Most people would love to get a closer look at how satellites are launched or how an aircraft is manufactured. All emerging technological innovations are happening right here in Bengaluru. We would like to create a space where these innovations and technologies can be showcased together," he added.

Noting that he had already spoken to the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chairman, Kharge said that he would shortly hold discussions with other institutions, including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL). He said work on the much-awaited aerospace museum at Jakkur would be expedited.

Isro enthused

Enthused by the department's proposal, Isro has decided to create a separate space on its premises to give guided tours to visitors. Isro chairman Kiran Kumar said that though the facility already housed a small segment for public interface, it had decided to throw open the organisation to the public in a bigger way.

“We have been thinking about showcasing our activities and mechanisms in a better way for some time now. When the tourism minister proposed the concept, we decided to go ahead with it. We want to create a space where visitors can take a walk through the whole space and learn how satellites are built using 3D technology and animation,” he said, adding that visitors will not be allowed inside the labs. The government, however, has to address the security issues, he added.

Welcoming the proposal, Chairman and Managing Director of HAL T Suvarna Raju said HAL already had an aerospace museum and heritage centre, which was a tourist landmark in the city.

“The concept of science circuit seems good. HAL has been preserving the rich science heritage of the city with focus on aerospace and aviation in a way the common man can understand and enjoy. A few months ago, HAL upgraded the museum as part of the institution's platinum jubilee celebrations.”

DH News Service

Which are the institutes?

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/562162/science-circuit-may-soon-power.html>

Ashwini Y S | August 4, 2016