



Embassy of India, Berne

INDIA SCIENCE AND INNOVATION WEEKLY

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*Ask the right questions, and nature will open the door to her secrets
- Dr. C.V. Raman, The Nobel Prize in Physics 1930*

Indian Scientists Developed Composite Paper Made of Carbon to Extend Shelf Life of Fruits

Indian scientists at Nano Science and Technology, Mohali, an Autonomous Institute of the Dept. of Science and Technology, developed a composite paper made of carbon (graphene oxide), which is loaded with preservatives that can be used as wrappers to help extend shelf life of fruits and also the wrapper can be reused, which is not possible with the present technology. The composite paper can benefit the farmers and food industry by extending the shelf life of fruits as using wrapper for the fruit would also ensure that the customer gets the fruits with healthy quality, as scientists also found improvement in the phenol content.

Indian Researchers Developed Nano-Structured Self-Cleaning Aluminium Surface

Indian Researchers at Department of Mechanical Engineering & Department of Physics of Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR developed a Nano-structured self-cleaning aluminium surface that reduces bacterial growth and it can be useful for biomedical & aerospace applications. The Nano-structured self-cleaning aluminium surface have showed immense mechanical, chemical, and thermal durability restricting the corrosion and leaching effects and is over a wide range of temperature, from -80 to 350 C.

National Seismological Network (NSN) to Increase to 150 by December 2021

National Centre for Seismology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, which is the nodal agency for monitoring and to study earthquakes in and around the country, at present maintains a National Seismological Network (NSN) consisting of 115 observatories spread across the country. Ministry of Earth Sciences announced that by Dec. 2021, 35 new Seismological Observatories would become operational making a total strength of National Seismological Network (NSN) to 150 by 2021. The Ministry of Earth Sciences also announced that around 100 seismic stations would come up in the next 5 years to increase the detection capability of earthquake up to M:2.5 throughout the country.

CSIR Inaugurated a New Polyhouse Technology for Horticulture Crops

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute inaugurated a New Polyhouse Technology 'Naturally Ventilated Polyhouse Facility' for Horticulture Crops in Punjab, which provides farmers to deal with the climate changes i.e. such as excessive or insufficient cold, heat, rain, wind, and other factors associated with insufficient transpiration and associated problems in the future. With installation of Naturally Ventilated Polyhouse and Retractable Roof Polyhouse side by side, scientists can get the required scientific data and by analyzing the results, so that it helps in enhancing productivity.

Special Update: STPI to Launch Five Centres of Excellence in 5 North East States

The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India to launch the following five Centres of Excellence in 5 North East States:

- i. Gangtok (IT Applications in Healthcare & AgriTech)
- ii. Itanagar (GIS Applications including Drone Tech)
- iii. Kohima (IT Applications in Graphic Design)
- iv. Aizawl (Gaming) and
- v. Agartala (Data Analytics)