Therapeutics for tongue cancer

A team of researchers from IIT Madras, Sree Balaji Dental College and Hospital, Chennai and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru have identified a specific microRNA called miR-155, that is overexpressed in tongue cancer cells and tongue tumour tissues. By restoring the functions of certain proteins, like 'programmed cell death 4' or pdc4, through molecular manipulation, the research team has shown that miR-155 levels can be manipulated and thus lead to potential therapeutic developments for cancer, especially tongue cancer.

Saffron and Heeng (Asafoetida) to be cultivated in large-scale

The Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh have forged strategic partnership to increase production of Saffron and Heeng (Asafoetida) in Himachal Pradesh. A state-of-the-art tissue-culture lab will be established for large-scale production of quality planting material of these crops.

CIMAP announces photography competition on medicinal plants

In an effort to create awareness about the usefulness of herbal plants, the Central Institute of Medical and Aromatic plants (CIMAP) has announced a photography competition on medicinal and aromatic plants, in order to convey a message of conservation of said plants. The photograph should have correct Latin and vernacular name of the plant and its medicinal and aromatic importance.

Special Update: National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram

The National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, is a constituent Laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Initially established in 1975 as a CSIR Complex, it was named as the Regional Research Laboratory in 1978 and later renamed as NIIST in 2007. Its mandate is to conduct research and development activities of the highest quality in areas related to effective utilization of resources of the region and of fundamental importance to the country.

Currently, NIIST is engaged in R & D programmes in areas related to Agro-processing and technology, Chemical Sciences and technology, Materials Science and Technology, Microbial processes & technology, Environmental Technology. The institute has established state-of-the-art facilities for conducting advanced research in the areas of interest. Pilot plant facilities for research training and process/product development in the areas of spices and oilseeds have been established. The institute has also been playing a significant role in Human Resource Development by training post graduate/graduate students, with over 252 Ph.D degrees awarded till date, based on research conducted in the institute.

Further details can be found at: https://www.niist.res.in/english/