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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

Research on COVID-19

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, are working on rapid identification of COVID-19 biomarkers in blood plasma using Raman spectroscopy and artificial intelligence. According to the team, using artificial intelligence and deep learning, the COVID-19 detection process will be automated and rapid and there will be no requirement of any extraction procedure. The research is being conducted in collaboration with AIIMS, Bhopal, which will be providing patient samples and healthy controls.

Geophysical study of India's first under water tunnel under Brahmaputra

Jorhat-based Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST) will carry out site specific geophysical investigation of a strategic tunnel under the Brahmaputra. An official of CSIR-NEIST said the Centre has approved the construction of a four lane tunnel under the Brahmaputra river linking Gohpur (NH-52) with Numaligarh (NH-37) in upper Assam. This project is touted to be of great national importance given India's growing security concerns in the eastern Himalayas and Northeast in particular.

CSIR-NEIST starts second phase of 'Aroma Mission' in Nagaland

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Jorhat is going in a big way to popularise the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) in Northeast India under the 'CSIR Aroma Mission' programme. The CSIR laboratories have successfully completed the first phase of aroma mission, which is a flagship project of CSIR. The very reason to propagate MAP is to promote local rural entrepreneurship and augment the standard of living in the rural areas by encouraging this new alternative economic activity.

Preservation of original copies of the Constitution of India

The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 (Constitution Day). It is the longest Constitution of any sovereign country in the world. Both the original copies (in English and Hindi) of the Constitution of India are bound in first class Morocco leather embossed in Gold and are with the Parliament Library, New Delhi. The original copies of the Constitution of India calligraphed in Hindi & English are preserved by CSIR-National Physical Laboratory in specially fabricated glass cases. Positive partial pressure of Nitrogen, controlled humidity & temperature ensure that the document is not affected by moisture, temp. & pollutants.

India gets IMO nod for navigation satellite system

India has become the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS). The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the US, Russia and China. The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) was designed to provide accurate position information services to assist in the navigation of ships in Indian Ocean waters.

CSIR-CCMB's Dry Swab direct RT-PCR method for Coronavirus detection receives ICMR approval

The simple and fast method of Dry Swab-Direct RT-PCR, developed by CSIRs constituent lab Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad for scaling up of SARS-CoV-2 detection has now been approved by ICMR based on their independent validation. This method developed by CSIR-CCMB is a simple variation of the existing gold standard RT-PCR method and can easily scale up the testing by 2 to 3 fold with no new investment of resources. After evaluating this method and finding an overall concordance of 96.9%, ICMR has issued an advisory for the use of CSIR-CCMB dry swab method, considering its lesser cost and quick turn-around time.

Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata

The Institute was established in 1935 as the first non official centre in India for biomedical research and was included within the aegis of CSIR in 1956. CSIR-IICB today is engaged in research on diseases of national importance and biological problems of global interest, employing sophisticated state-of-the-art technology in keeping with the rapid and unprecedented momentum that life science research has gained globally over the last 50 years. The scientific staff has expertise in a variety of areas including chemistry, biochemistry, cell biology, molecular biology, neurobiology and immunology which promotes productive interdisciplinary interaction. CSIR-IICB is one of the major laboratories in India which initiated, right from its inception, multidisciplinary concerted efforts for conducting basic research on infectious diseases, specifically leishmaniasis and cholera, along with the development of technologies for the diagnosis, immunoprophylaxis, and chemotherapy of the diseases.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.iicb.res.in/>