



CSIR IN MEDIA

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New Indian tech reduces cancer risk in petrol, might attract global refineries

CSIR-IIP

The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Reliance Industries Ltd have developed new technology that significantly reduces benzene levels in petrol, a major factor that causes health risks such as cancer for refinery workers and motorists

The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) at Dehradun and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) have developed an indigenous technology to reduce cancer-causing benzene levels in petrol.

The World Health Organization has already identified the chemical as a risk for petrol pump workers and vehicle users. Therefore, the technology is likely to get global attention, sources said.

“We are getting a few inquiries on [the] new technology,” senior IIP scientist MP Garg said.

IIP officials said the petrol supplied in India carries 1% benzene and the new technology can bring down its levels down to 0.2%. In fact, RIL has already begun using the technology at its Jamnagar refinery, which primarily exports petrol to the United States, where there are ‘tough’ guidelines on benzene levels.



As per the global standards, the presence of benzene shouldn't exceed 0.62% to reduce health risk. However, the petroleum ministry has standardised benzene presence to 1%, which all 21 refineries are adhering too. IIP director R Vishwakarma said the benzene levels in petrol in India used to be around 5% before 2000.

Garg, who has also served as director general of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) MP, suggested that India should meet the global marker and the refineries should adopt the technology, considering the health risks of benzene. However, he said, "Any new technology involves investment. We also understand that."

RIL group president (research and technology) Ajit Sapre said his team approached the IIP in 2011 to know whether it had a technology to remove benzene from gasoline, popularly known as petrol. And after years of research, they were able to develop the technology.

Besides petrol, benzene is used in paint, plastic and related industries. However, petrol is a potential threat because it is a highly used fuel.

According to a World Health Organization document, "Automobile exhaust accounts for the largest source of benzene in the general environment... benzene has been measured in air inside vehicles at levels higher than those in residential air." It further states that "human exposure to benzene has been associated with a range of acute and long-term adverse health effects and diseases, including cancer".

The risk is manifold especially for millions of workers at petrol pumps who have direct exposure to petrol fumes. "The new vehicles have catalyst converter but [there are] still many old vehicles running on Indian roads," Vishwakarma said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/new-indian-tech-reduces-cancer-risk-in-petrol-might-attract-global-refineries/story-sZcFjoO6fnaoj76ua6PmZL.html>

Anupam Trivedi | Dehradun | June 22, 2016

TAS ties with NGRI scientists to locate ground water resources in state

CSIR-NGRI



The Telangana Academy of Sciences (TAS) will join hands with scientists at the city-based National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) to scientifically locate ground-water resources in the state to help farmers among others for digging of borewells in such areas.

"Using scientific methods, the Academy with NGRI scientists will initiate the process to identify the places with availability of more ground-water resources and help farmers and people to take up digging of borewells in **Telangana**," TAS Honorary Secretary Prof Katta Narasimha Reddy said

For this purpose, TAS is in the process of establishing a laboratory which will have advanced equipment and efforts are on to procure them to meet the needs of the scientists.

"We are trying to take their (NGRI scientists) services to scientifically identify the areas with more ground-water availability to help the farmers in digging borewells in such places so that they do not lose money putting borewells where water is not available," he explained.

Once this programme is successful, TAS will give a report to the government also to take up activity in other places, Reddy said, adding the programme will be initially started in Hyderabad and followed up in other districts.

"We are trying to collect the data which is already available with NGRI and we will ask them to prepare a booklet in Telugu which can be given to farmers," Reddy added.

The Academy, established with the objective of promoting science, is also planning to start mobile laboratories which will be stationed in mandal headquarters to enable students from rural areas to carry out practicals.

"Most government and private schools at mandal levels do not have scientific equipment with them for conducting practicals. So, TAS has planned to start mobile laboratories and vans will be stationed for 10-days in each mandal. We will approach the Telangana government for funding and once approved mobile labs will be launched by December end," Reddy said.

Set up after bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, TAS has about 250 fellows and it has five regional centres in the districts of Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Warangal, Karimnagar and Hyderabad to increase the regional participation.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/tas-ties-with-ngri-scientists-to-locate-ground-water-resources-in-state/articleshow/52863584.cms>

PTI | June 22, 2016

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http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tas-unites-with-ngri-scientists-to-locate-ground-water-116062200206_1.html

Press Trust of India | Hyderabad June 22, 2016

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<http://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/tas-unites-with-ngri-scientists-to-locate-ground-water/ar-AAhql0o>

PTI | Hyderabad | Jun 22, 2016

National seminar on science and technology on June 23

CSIR-NGRI

Scientists in the city will provide assistance in identifying places where a borewell can be sunk to get water. This help will be extended to farmers who, as of now, suffer heavy losses, when a borewell does not yield water.

The Telangana Academy of Sciences (TAS) which has scientists with the expertise with it, will also buy the necessary equipment required to provide the help.

TAS was formed after the bifurcation of the state into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Earlier, it used to function only as one unit - A P Akademi of Sciences.

At a press conference on Tuesday, TAS president Ch Mohan Rao, former director of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), vice-president B Sesikeran, former director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and honorary secretary Prof K Narasimha Rao, former vice-chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University explained the various plans of the Academy in taking science and technology closer to the people in Telangana.

On June 23, a national seminar will be organized on "Frontiers in science and technology" at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI). Prof Aushutosh Sharma, secretary, department of science and technology, Government of India will deliver the "Prof Y Nayudamma memorial lecture". The keynote address on "Whiter science and technology" will be delivered by B M Hegde, former vice-chancellor, Manipal Academy of High Education University, Manipal and the "Dr S Balakrishna Memorial lecture" will be delivered by Dr K Sri Krishna, chief scientist, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa. He will speak on "Sediment pathways and emergence of Himalayan source material in the Bay of Bengal".

While this is an annual programme, the Academy will also hold, for the first time, a Telangana Science Congress on the lines of the National Science Congress. Chief minister K Chandrasekhara Rao is being invited to inaugurate the meet which may take place in August or later.

TAS president Mohan Rao said to tide over the water crisis, it is necessary to provide for percolation of water where there are faults in the earth. It is through these cracks that water can percolate and borewells would be able to yield water.

Mohan Rao said the Andhra Pradesh government had made use of the services of NGRI to do an aerial survey to detect the faults in the earth in the Amaravathi capital region.

Mohan Rao said TAS would take up programmes to popularize science across the state, among students. "It is not just about getting into engineering or medicine. Students will be encouraged to develop interest in science," he said. TAS will also give awards to toppers in science in SSC and Intermediate.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/National-seminar-on-science-and-technology-on-June-23/articleshow/52867158.cms>

Ch Sushil Rao | TNN | Jun 22, 2016

Science academy to help ryots find borewell-drilling points

CSIR-CCMB

Scientists in the city will provide assistance to farmers in identifying borewell-drilling point. This will go a long way in helping farmers avert huge losses in case of their failure to strike water while drilling bores.

The Telangana Academy of Sciences (TAS), which has scientists with the expertise, will also buy the necessary equipment required to identify water-bearing stratum.

TAS was formed after Telangana was created. Earlier, it used to function as one unit - AP Akademi of Sciences.

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