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Posted on: 12 Jun 2009

Network system to detect landslides installed at Munnar

Kochi: India's first ever cutting edge wireless sensor network system, designed to detect landslides at least 24 hours ahead of its occurrence, has been set up at Munnar in the high range Idukki district of Kerala where eight persons had lost their lives in 2005 landslides. The early warning system was developed by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University as part of a research project, 'WINSOC' (Wireless Sensor Network with Self Organisation Capabilities for Critical and Emergency applications).

The project has a consortium of 11 partners from eight countries including Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University and ISRO's commercial arm Antrix, Dr Venkat Rangan, the University vice-chancellor, and Paolo Capodiecici of Selex communications, Italy, the overall coordinator of the project, told reporters here today. The total budget of the project is 3.5 million Euros, 60 per cent which has been contributed by the European Union and the rest by different partners, Capodiecici said.

WINSOC's goal is to develop a general purpose innovative wireless sensor network having the distributed processing capabilities and to test applications on environmental risk management where heterogenous networks, composed of nodes having various degrees of complexity and capabilities are made to work under realistic scenarios. 'This is India's first cutting edge wireless network system,' Rangan said.

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