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SCI & TECH

India's first landslide detection system developed

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Kochi: The Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University, with the support of the European Commission (EC), has developed India's first-ever wireless sensor network system for landslide detection. Talking to newspersons here today, Amrita University Vice-Chancellor Dr Venkat Rangan said the technological breakthrough system was developed as part of the research project "WINSOC" (Wireless Sensor Network with Self Organisation Capabilities for critical and emergency applications), which was co-founded by the INFOSODG of the EC.

He said the project, which has a financial outlay of 3.5 million euros, would address applications to landslide detection, gas leakage detection and large scale temperature field monitoring (forest fire detection).

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The initial deployment of the system was done at Anthoniar Colony at Munnar in Idukki district, which is an area prone to rainfall induced landslides, which had caused considerable damage to life and property.

Enumerating the functioning of the system installed in Munnar, Dr Rangan said the system has wireless sensors which would collect data and forward them to the data analysis station located at Amrita University campus.

Presently, the system consists of 50 geological sensors and 20 wireless sensor nodes, landslides could be detected 24 hours in advance, Dr Rangan noted. He said the data from the wireless sensor network in Munnar was transmitted over the satellite network using the Village Resource Centre (VRC) station provided by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Spelling out the advantages of the system, Dr Rangan said once fully operational, the system could be deployed in various parts of the country, which were prone to landslides, industrial sites prone to gas leakages and areas having regular forest fires.

"Within three months, the network will be extended to 150 geological sensors and approximately 25 wireless sensor nodes as part of the funding provided by the Department of Information Technology, Government of India," he said.

He noted that the DRDO has shown interest in the project for detecting avalanches and landslides in the Konkan region and the Himalayas.

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As part of the project, representatives from various European partners like Univeristy of Rome, Selex Communications, Intracom Telecom, Czech Centre for Science and Technology, Federal Institute of Technology-Switzerland, visited the University to learn more about the cutting edge technology, he added.

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