

Country's 1st climate change study centre in city completes a decade

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Bengaluru: Three years ago when there was fear that a growing glacial lake behind south Lhonak Glacier in Sikkim could touch off glacial outburst floods, it's the Divecha Centre for Climate Change (DCCC) at IISc that came to the rescue of the government of India.

Scientists at the centre held detailed discussions and undertook field visits before suggesting a siphon system to remove excess water. The simple solution that did not require any electrical power or complex equipment was not only successfully implemented in Sikkim, but is also coming handy at other potential glacial lake outburst sites in the Himalayas.

This year marks a decade of the establishment of the DCCC, which has turned into the go-to place for analysing and resolving many climate change issues in the country.

Established in 2009, the centre was dedicated to study climate change and was the first of its kind in India. It has since been researching melting glaciers, glacial lakes, photovoltaic panels for trains, renewable energy, changing monsoons and impact of global warming on fo-

CLIMATE OBSERVATORY

Focussed on region-specific and solution-oriented research, the centre is taking up new challenges in different areas of climate change that have immediate and direct impact on humanity.

A first-of-its-kind climate observatory, set up by DCCC with support from the ministry of earth sciences and department of space on IISc's second campus at Challakere in Chitradurga district, has been actively monitoring atmospheric parameters like aerosols, trace gases and clouds that are relevant to climate.

A South Asia regional office of the global science-cum-policy initiative, Future Earth was initiated at DCCC in 2016. This effort is supported by various UN agencies. A core project of Future Earth is 'sustainable water future programme', which is in the process of establishing a global network of 'water solutions lab', the first of which was established at DCCC a few months ago.

rests and biodiversity at Western Ghats.

Prof SK Satheesh, chairman, DCCC, said: "In disseminating climate-related information to members of Parliament and state legislative assemblies, and other government institutions, the centre has helped by providing region-specific climate change policy and suggesting suitable interventions to tackle cli-

mate change issues."

"We also have interactions with neighbouring nations and climate change experts from other parts of the world to share our knowledge on ways to mitigate climate change scenarios," he added.

The climate centre undertakes outreach activities as well to create awareness among citizens, students and policy makers regar-



GAME-CHANGER: Divecha Centre for Climate Change at IISc has turned into the go-to place for resolving many climate change issues across the country

LOOKING BACK

The DCCC came into existence with a financial contribution from Arjun Divecha and Diana Divecha, and the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment. It was established along the lines of the Grantham Institute, Imperial College London, which was instituted by Jeremy Grantham, a Boston-based environmentalist and investment banker.

ding climate change and its consequences.

Professor J Srinivasan, founder chairman and distinguished scientist at DCCC said, "We have regular outreach activities like climate change quiz, invited lectures, the annual Jeremy Grantham public lecture and interaction with school students to make the community around us aware of climate change and its impact."