



Robo-Plants

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- **Scientists from Singapore** are working on 'robo-plants' technology, which is being called a **fusion of 'nature and technology'**. For this, **using a 'thermogel', they attached film-like and soft electrodes on the surface of Venus flytrap** (an insectivorous plant). Thermogel is liquid at low temperatures but turns into a gel at room temperature.
- **These electrodes are capable of monitoring weak electrical pulses** naturally emitted **by plants**, which will be able to detect diseases in crops in early stage **and** their **health** in future. Thus, scientists have developed a high-tech system for communication with flora, which is helpful in monitoring plants using smart phone applications.
- This technique can be useful in **combating climate change hazards** to crops. It is noteworthy that plants have the capability to respond to chemicals, light, gravity, humidity, temperature, oxygen levels as well as parasitic infections, sound and touch.
- It is known that in 2016, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology team turned spinach leaves into sensors that can send an email alert to scientists when they detect explosive materials in groundwater.

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