

## CSIR's One Week, One Lab

### CSIR-IIIM Celebrates “One Week, One Lab”



CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, launched the “One Week, One Lab” campaign with the inauguration of the Lavender Festival at Baderwah in the Jammu region by Hon’ble Minister of Science & Technology (I/C) and Vice President CSIR, Dr Jitendra Singh.

The Hon’ble Minister said that it is a moment of pride for all of us that Baderwah has emerged as the Lavender capital of India and Agri StartUp destination. The Minister further described Baderwah as the birthplace of India’s Purple Revolution and the destination of Agri-StartUps. He said, “Farmers had been engaged in

traditional maize cultivation for decades, but some farmers thought of doing something different and turned to floriculture. Today, around two and a half thousand farmers are cultivating Lavender here. They have also been handheld through the Aroma Mission of the Central Government. This new cultivation has greatly increased the income of the farmers.”

The two day Lavender festival involved hundreds of farmers, agri-industrialists, entrepreneurs, etc. The farmer-industry meet, Agri-startup expo and cultural programme were the significant highlights of the festival.



**Curtain raiser**

Earlier, CSIR-IIIM organised a curtain raiser event for its “One Week, One Lab,” programme marked by the release of the brochure of the programme. Interacting with the media, Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, provided insights into the CSIR’s nationwide theme-based campaign. CSIR-IIIM celebrated the seven-day mega event from 4-10 June 2023, covering the diverse themes related to researchers, farmers, industrialists, and academicians.

On the second day, the Student-Scientist Connect programme under Jigyasa at its branch laboratory in Srinagar was organised. The event was inaugurated by Dr Geetha Vani Rayasam, Head CSIR-HRDG & Coordinator CSIR Jigyasa Programme. During the event, 130 students and accompanying faculties from different Schools of Srinagar and adjoining areas enthusiastically participated. Various activities were undertaken during the event including hackathon, science model competition, DIY activities, painting competition and visit to various science labs of the institute.

The third day marked the initiation of a one-day Symposium

on Drug Discovery at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu. Dr Sunil Kumar Dubey, General Manager, Medical Research, R&D Healthcare Division Emami Ltd, Kolkata, was the Chief Guest in the inaugural session and delivered a plenary lecture on "Pharmacokinetic P h a r m a c o d y n a m i c Modelling and Simulation of Phytopharmaceuticals." Lauding the role of CSIR-IIIM in the drug development from natural resources, he emphasised that while developing phytopharmaceutical as a drug, we need to make actual costing involved and the availability of standardised raw material.

Earlier, introducing the Chief Guest to the audience, Dr Zabeer Ahmed in his welcome address, described Dr Dubey as an acclaimed scientist having more than 16 years experience in teaching, research and administration. The symposium was attended by more than 350 participants in hybrid mode. It aimed to foster collaboration, exchange ideas, and promote advancements in pharmaceutical research. There were three major technical sessions and an interactive poster session as a part of the day programme.

The fourth day of the campaign consisted of a skill development

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programme on high-end research. It was attended by about 200 participants drawn from various divisions of different institutions such as AIIMS Jammu, Central University of Jammu, IIT Jammu, University of Jammu, SKUAST Jammu, Cluster University of Jammu and various Government Degree Colleges of Jammu district.

Dr Zabeer Ahmed while interacting with the students said that the skill development session was aimed to enhance the skills of researchers and professionals in the field of advanced research, providing them with valuable insights and knowledge to advance their work. The participants were given hands-on training on the operation of sophisticated instruments like HPTLC, HPLC, GC-MS/MS, LC-MS/MS, and NMR.

On the fifth day, CSIR-IIIM organised two parallel programmes i.e. "Young Researcher Meet (YRM)" event at its main campus in Jammu and the "Awareness Programme for Farmers" at its Chatha Experimental Farm, Jammu.

At the Chatha farm, more than 300 farmers from Rajouri, Jammu, Kathua, Samba, and Udhampur districts attended the awareness programme. During the programme, they were apprised of the cultivation, processing, value addition, product development, and marketing of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs). Farmers appreciated the efforts of IIIM and showed enthusiasm to associate with the programme. Chief Guest of the Programme, Dr Sushil Kumar Gupta, Registrar and Dean, College of Horticulture and

Forestry, SKUAST, Jammu, urged participants to fully benefit from the programme and adopt cash crops like MAPs. Guest of Honour, KK Sharma, Director of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, apprised about various welfare schemes of the department and appreciated the effort of CSIR-IIIM under the Aroma Mission.

Dr Zabeer Ahmed said that after the remarkable success of CSIR-Aroma Mission Phase-I and II, CSIR has launched Phase-III of this mission project which would focus on establishing clusters where end-to-end solutions would be provided to farmers.

At the Jammu campus, YRM witnessed the participation of over 100 aspiring researchers from various universities. A poster session followed by a brainstorming discussion on cutting-edge research was conducted. The scholars provided live demonstrations of research and analytical facilities, showcasing laboratory techniques unique to the institute. This was followed by an interactive session where participants engaged with the scientists from CSIR-IIIM.

CSIR-IIIM organised an Awareness Programme for farmers on "Cultivation, Processing and Marketing of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants" at Leh on the sixth day.

More than 100 farmers, entrepreneurs and students from different areas of the UT of Ladakh attended the programme where scientists of CSIR-IIIM presented the detailed introduction of selected medicinal and aromatic plants in UT of Ladakh.

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Dr Zabeer Ahmed in his message stressed on sustainable development of the Ladakh region through precision agriculture and the development of region-specified protocols for the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants.

Chief Guest of the programme, Adv. Tashi Gylson, Hon'ble Chief Executive Councillor, acknowledged the role of CSIR-IIIM in establishing a new Experimental Farm in the region. Guests of Honour, Mr Gulam Mehdi, Executive Councillor, Minority/Forest and Mr Stanzin Chospheh, Executive Councillor, Agriculture Information, while speaking on the occasion complimented Director CSIR-IIIM for choosing Ladakh as one of the venues for "One Week, One Lab" celebrations.

The finalevent of the programme was a two-day Start-Up conclave, organised by the CSIR-IIIM at Udhampur. The conclave was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister Dr Jitendra Singh who said that the Start-up movement promoted by Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi is now reaching every part of India, including the B-Towns and the 2-day "Young Start-up Conclave" at Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir



offers an opportunity to explore new avenues for the industry as well as entrepreneurs in the region.

Dr Zabeer emphasised people of district Udhampur and other nearest districts must visit this 'Start-up Conclave' so that they will be informed and counselled about the benefits of startups which are the engines of economic growth.

The conclave experienced an overwhelming response of visitors, as more than 800 visitors visited the exhibition and witnessed the demonstration of innovation-driven ideas, some startups and the products and technologies developed by a few of them. In this Young Startup Conclave, 54 Startups participated from across the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

At the valedictory of Startup Conclave, Udhampur, Mr Ghan Shyam Singh, JKAS, Additional DDC, Udhampur, was the Chief Guest and Dr Zabeer Ahmed presided over the closing ceremony and felicitated the startups.

## "One Week, One Lab" Campaign at CSIR-NCL

CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune, organised the "One Week, One Lab" programme during 22-27 May 2023. It aimed to showcase the laboratory's cutting-edge research, expertise, and facilities to its diverse stakeholders.

The highlight of this programme was an exhibition gallery that showcased the excellence of scientific contributions and the relevance of the technological contributions of CSIR-NCL. A start-up expo was also organised in which 30 start-ups

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incubated at Venture Centre exhibited their cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions.

Chief Guest Dr Pramod Chaudhari, Executive Chairman, Praj Industries Limited, inaugurated the campaign and addressed the gathering on 22 May 2023. The programme was graced by distinguished guests like Dr RA Mashelkar, Dr Shekhar Mande, Dr S Sivaram, Shri Ranjeet Singh Naik-Nimbalkar (MP) and Mr Jitendra Wagh (Addl Commissioner, PCMC).

The week-long campaign included thematic talks, panel discussions, symposium, four skill development programmes, open day for general public, and science outreach programme for school students. The campaign focused on six key themes of the laboratory's roadmap: C1 Chemistry, Sustainable Chemical Industry, Clean Energy, Biomass, Agritech, Biotherapeutics, and Circular Economy.

The theme for the first day was C1 Chemistry, which focused on technologies for converting four important one-carbon atom molecules namely, carbon dioxide, methane, methanol and carbon monoxide into valuable chemicals and materials.

Dr Sebastian C Peter, Associate Professor, JNCASR, Bengaluru; Dr Dev Kumar Gupta, Thermax Global; Dr KA Subramanian, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi; presented keynote lectures. Besides, Prof. Sanjay Mahajani, IIT Bombay; Dr Thipse, Sr Deputy Director, ARAI; Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, IUCAA, Pune; and Dr Alok Pandit, CEO, Equinox; also participated in the panel discussion.



In the Sustainable Chemical Industry theme, a series of lectures were conducted to discuss innovative research and developments in flow chemistry and process intensification. Emphasis was placed on reducing the environmental footprint of chemical processes by adopting of cleaner and more efficient technologies.

The session was enlightened by lectures from Prof. JB Joshi, DAE-Homi Bhabha Distinguished Chair; Mr Ravi Raghavan, Editor at Chemical Weekly; Mr Karunanidhi Gnanavelu, Anthem Biosciences Pvt. Ltd; and Mr Lanka Srinivas, a key opinion leader. CSIR-NCL scientists including Dr Amol Kulkarni, Dr Sanjay Kamble, Dr Nilesh Mali, also presented their work at NCL.

A parallel fun-filled event 'Avekshan' was organised by research students from 'NCL-TEC & SciLogy' clubs. The major attraction of this programme was 3MT (3 Minute Thesis) event where the participants made attractive presentations of their doctoral research in three minutes.

The fourth day outlined two themes viz., "Clean Energy" and "Biomass" which address environmental challenges and climate change. The Clean Energy session revolved around enhancing the efficiency and scalability of green hydrogen technologies and biofuels. Dr Mahesh Murthy, Thermax, delivered a keynote talk on "Partnering with Industries in their Energy Transition Journey:

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New Developments.” CSIR-NCL scientists including Dr CS Gopinath, and Dr K Selvaraj, threw light on green hydrogen production and the hydrogen economy.

The Biomass theme was centred on utilising biomass as a valuable resource for energy production and value-added materials. Dr Pramod Kumbhar, Praj Industries; Dr Rajesh Date, Primove Ltd; and Dr Narendra Mohan, National Sugar Institute; presented key lectures. CSIR-NCL scientists including Dr Kadiravan Shanmughnathan, Dr Paresh Dhepe and Dr Mahesh Dharne spoke about R&D in ‘Biomass to value-added materials’. The session highlighted the potential of biomass conversion technologies. The importance of integrated biorefinery concepts and the role of biomass in a circular economy were also discussed.

A student outreach programme “Jigyasa” was also organised which included a fun-filled activity with hands-on experimental demonstrations. More than 100 students along with their teachers attended the programme.

On the fifth day, the Agritech session had an array of interesting lectures dedicated to revolutionising the agricultural landscape. Dr Narendra Kadoo, CSIR-NCL, summarised the research activities being carried out in CSIR-NCL under the Agritech Theme.

Experts like Dr Purushottam Lomate, Ajeet Seeds; Dr Sachin Joshi, BAIF; Dr Santosh Chavan, Govt-Social Partnership; gave excellent exposure to the expected future developments in this theme. This included innovative approaches to improve crop productivity, enhance

agricultural practices, and ensure food security. Experts also discussed precision farming techniques, smart sensors, data analytics, and the use of biotechnology in agriculture. CSIR-NCL scientists Dr Udaya Kiran Marelli, and Dr Dhanasekaran S, discussed the current research activities being undergone in their groups and their importance.

Under the Biotherapeutics theme, experts and researchers gathered to unveil cutting-edge advancements in medical treatments, therapies, and biotherapeutic innovations. Dr Rajesh Karyakarte, BJ Govt Medical College; Dr Mayur Giri, Assistant Professor, MUHS RC; Dr Sanjay Nene, Innovation Biologics; Dr Sindura Ganapati, Office of PSA GoI; Dr CS Yajnik, KEM; Dr Chaitanyan and Koppiker, Prashanti Cancer Care Mission; touched diverse topics ranging from genomics and diabetes to public health.

The theme for the concluding day was ‘Circular Economy.’ Dr Sameer Chikkali, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-NCL, delivered a lecture on ‘Plastic Pollution to Sustainable Solution.’ Dr Swapan Kumar Ray, ICPE; Dr Medha Tadpatrikar, Rudra Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd; Dr Venkataraghavan R, Unilever R&D; delivered insightful lectures focusing on promoting a sustainable and resource-efficient economic model.

During the campaign, CSIR-NCL also organised four short skill development programmes on X-ray diffraction, Food Safety and Quality Assessment, Gas Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry in which the participants got a flavour for each of these areas and were enticed to enrol in longer versions of these courses.

The campaign at CSIR-NCL provided a comprehensive platform for industry experts, entrepreneurs, think-tank leaders, policymakers, students and citizens at large to learn about the work being done in the laboratory, exchange knowledge and explore opportunities for collaborations in the seven key themes, which focus on important challenges such as climate change, energy security, pollution, affordable healthcare and supply chain disruptions. The campaign's success was exemplified



by nearly 2900 registered visitors and significant media coverage.

During the campaign, the institute also signed several MoUs with different organisations.

## CSIR-SERC Organises “One Week, One Lab” Programme

CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC), Chennai, organised “One Week, One Lab” campaign during 5-9 June 2023.

On 5 June 2023, the first day of this campaign, the Society Connect event was organised at CSIR-SERC, with the aim of providing a platform for knowledge sharing, technical demonstrations and identifying the gaps between research outcomes and societal needs through focused discussions. The event had participation from diverse departments/areas such as public works, rural development, roads & highways, railways, Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Chennai metro, Chennai Corporation, power infrastructure, port & coastal management, etc.

The Chief Guest, Mr Desh Ratan Gupta, Principal Chief Engineer, Southern Railway, in

his address, mentioned that CSIR-SERC's services are being widely used by the Indian Railways and various public & private sector organisations for decades. He also stressed the vital role played by CSIR-SERC in the structural health monitoring and assessment of old railway bridges, load testing of the Pamban railway-bridge, etc. during the last few decades.

The Guest of Honour, Mr Yadav, Deputy Director General (Southern Region), Bureau of Indian Standards emphasised the importance of giving back to society without which any organisation cannot sustain. He mentioned that CSIR-SERC contributes to almost 70-80% of the structural engineering Standards brought out by BIS and is the major contributor to the National Building Code. Chief Guest flagged off the mobile campaign and the Guest of Honour inaugurated the exhibition stalls on CSIR-SERC technologies at the campus.

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India – CSIR.*

Stakeholder's connect was organised on 6 June 2023 with the purpose to connect with the stakeholder and to lay down a future roadmap. There were around 180 participants with a balanced representation from public and private sector industries, MSMEs and start-ups. Chief Guest Shri UK Bhattacharya, Director (Projects), NTPC, applauded CSIR and CSIR-SERC for this campaign and said that NTPC Ltd, India's largest power generator, is attending this event to connect with the innovation engine of India – CSIR. He said that CSIR-SERC is involved in the inspection of structures of almost all NTPC plants and pointed out that with the timely intervention of CSIR-SERC, NTPC was able to solve critical issues within a short span of time.

Guest of Honour Dr V Govindaraj, Head-R&D, Larsen & Toubro, mentioned that there is a strong need to focus on the massive requirements of these ongoing/upcoming projects, forecasting the nature of requirements, leveraging all available technologies, identifying the grey areas and to prepare ourselves with feasible solutions. Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between CSIR-SERC and Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), New Delhi, for carrying out performance appraisal and certificate of competency for the construction chemical and waterproofing applicators and Memorandum of Understanding between CSIR-SERC and Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T), Mumbai, for the industrial partnership to facilitate deployment

of the technology/knowhow being developed for Precast textile reinforced concrete U-drains for stormwater infrastructure (TRC U-drain) were exchanged.

Student Connect event was organised on 7 June 2023 to connect with the school students with the aim to inculcate the scientific temper in students. About 48 students and 20 teachers from 17 government schools in Tamil Nadu participated in the event. Apart from them, 8 schools (32 students & 11 teachers) who were the prize winners of Technovation 2022-23 (JIGYASA Competition) also participated in the event to give their presentations.

Chief Guest, Prof. Usha Natesan, Director, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai, in her address referred to Benjamin Franklin's quote – *An investment in knowledge pays the best interest*, she said that investing in knowledge will give everything to students. Presentations were made by Technovation prize winners followed by a talk by Dr Anandavalli, Director, CSIR-SERC, on World Environment Day and its significance, consequences of plastic pollution, urgent need to reduce plastic usage, and practising zero waste.

The talk was followed by video presentations of finalists of the *Students as Scientists for Budding Scientist award*, a competition announced as a part of the Student Connect event. Build the Right (Smart Bridges & Smart Buildings) – wherein each student team carried out a demonstration and

evaluation of two structural models: Building & Bridge structural system.

Future Entrepreneur Connect was organised on 8 June 2023 to connect with young people and college students to motivate them to take up entrepreneurship and also to provide a platform for them to know about the research activities at CSIR-SERC and discuss their ideas with the scientific community at the campus. About 35 final year B.E./B.Tech. (Civil Engineering) students from 6 colleges from across Tamil Nadu and neighbouring states participated in the event. Shri Suresh Krishn, Managing Director, Isha Homes (India) Pvt. Ltd, Chennai, and Shri J Udayanand, Managing Director, Niketa Constructions, Coimbatore, were the Chief Guests of the function. Students Innovative/Start-up Competition was organised as a part of this event.

The Public Connect event was organised from 5 to 9 June 2023 with a road show & exhibition with a team from CSIR-SERC travelling about 1500 km over 5 days to 6 cities (Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, and



Flagging off Public Connect Road

Vellore) across Tamil Nadu to share the contributions of CSIR-SERC with the public through interactions at public places and educational institutions.

CSIR-SERC's Foundation Day was celebrated on 10 June 2023. Prof. V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, was the Chief Guest. Dr Nagesh R Iyer, former Director, CSIR-SERC and Dr N Gopalakrishnan, former Director, CSIR-CBRI were Guests of Honour. Prof. V Kamakoti, in his address, spoke on the old paradigms vis-a-vis trends and growing demands in the construction industry and digital technologies relevant to structural engineering. Dr Nagesh R Iyer mentioned the glorious contributions of Prof. GS Ramasamy, Founder Director of CSIR-SERC. Dr Gopalakrishnan delivered a lecture on his journey as a scientist in CSIR-CBRI.



Student Innovative Idea Presentation

## CSIR-IMTECH's "One Week, One Lab" Programme

CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh, celebrated "One Week, One Lab" programme during 19-24 June 2023. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of Punjab & Administrator of Chandigarh Shri Banwarilal Purohit. During the event he also inaugurated, Good Manufacturing

Practice (GMP) facility, which is a 'National Repository of Microbial Cell Banks for Biopharmaceutical products' in CSIR-IMTECH.

The facility is envisioned to provide globally recognised cell banks and expression systems used for development and production of biopharmaceuticals, vaccines, biotherapeutics, and

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biosimilars to the industries, start-ups, entrepreneurs, MSMEs as well as research organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Governor Shri Banwarilal Purohit indicated that there is a strong need that public health research in India should prioritise its focus on disease burden in the Indian context. The multi-disciplinary research programme of CSIR-IMTECH supports both basic research and applied research in the broad areas of microbial biotechnology. He also applauded the efforts of CSIR-IMTECH which has excelled in frontier areas of modern microbiology and provided the biotech industry with the highest quality of services and innovative solutions in microbial biotechnology.

Dr (Mrs) N Kalaiselvi, DG-CSIR & Secretary DSIR, who joined the event online welcomed and thanked the Governor for gracing the event. She exhorted the scientists to take the path of integrated research and development for microbial technology by amalgamating basic and applied research programmes with the vision to translate the research outcomes into products for the unmet needs of society in general and medical fraternity, in particular.

Dr Sanjeev Khosla, Director, IMTECH, while welcoming the Hon'ble Governor, apprised Shri Banwarilal Purohit about the various events that are being organised under the "One Week, One Lab" programme.

CSIR-IMTECH organised different Skill Development programmes during the "One



**Hon'ble Governor, Shri Banwarilal Purohit inaugurating "One Week, One Lab" programme at IMTECH along with Dr Sanjeev Khosla, Director, IMTECH**

Week, One Lab" – Skill Vignyan Training Program in Life Science & Biotechnology, Summer Research Internship Program, Shadow A Scientist program, Workshop on Advances in Bioprocess Technologies and programmes under Jigyasa. International Yoga Day was also celebrated on 21 June.

On 23 June 2023, CSIR-IMTECH in collaboration with Punjab Biotechnology Incubator organised a Life Sciences Startup Meet to ensure necessary convergence and synergy in various Central and State programmes for promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and startup-driven research ecosystem. More than 50 startups participated in the event from different regions of the Tricity and Punjab.

Dr Ajit Dua, CEO of Punjab Biotechnology Incubator (PBTI), gave an overview of the startup support ecosystem available at PBTI that will help connect entrepreneurs with a global network of venture capital, angel funds and mentors. Dr Ajay Srivastava, Director of STPI, shared his views on the facilities available for startups in the domain of Artificial Intelligence & Data Analytics at STPI Mohali. Mr Deepindar Dhillon, Joint Director, Department of Technology, Govt of Punjab, shared his views with startups on initiatives of the

Punjab Govt to support startups and strengthen entrepreneurship culture in the region.

During the event, success stories and entrepreneurial journeys were also shared by founders of different startups. Additionally, they also applauded the efforts of PBTI & IMTECH to give them a platform to network with peers, and leaders and discuss ideas, issues, mentoring and opportunities with scientists. Senior leaders from BIRAC & Startup India also shared their views on the efforts taken by the Government of India to provide funding opportunities for startups during different stages of their progression. A distinguished panel of speakers from the industry and angel networks suggested the different mechanisms under which startups should work and raise funding.

CSIR-IMTECH concluded its weeklong celebration of the campaign on 24 June 2023 in the presence of the DG of CSIR Dr N Kalaiselvi. She congratulated scientists and researchers from IMTECH for conducting a well-coordinated week-long programme that brought a paradigm shift in looking for scientific solutions as per the needs of the society. Dr Kalaiselvi said, "IMTECH has also fulfilled its Scientific Social Responsibility by organising different Skill Development programmes during the programme." Later, she presented certificates to students who participated in Jigyasa and skill development programmes conducted during the week.



**DG-CSIR interacting with students in IMTECH**

An MOU was also signed during the event with Punjab Biotechnology Incubator (PBTI) for giving a thrust to the startup ecosystem in the region. Institute also signed two more MoUs, one with Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM) & the other one with Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU) to facilitate the exchange of ideas, training, internship and boost skill development initiatives.

Dr Sanjeev Khosla, Director CSIR-IMTECH, presented the summary of the week-long programme to the audience and lauded the efforts of all IMTECH staff for their efforts in making it a success. He termed "One Week, One Lab" as a milestone in IMTECH's glorious history of 39 years in terms of networking and taking Science to the common man.

Dr S Karthikeyan, Chief Scientist and Chairman of "One Week, One Lab" as part of his valedictory address thanked the efforts of the organising committee and the support staff who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth execution of this programme.

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## Gujarat State Minister Hon'ble Shri Jagdishbhai Vishwakarma visits CSMCRI



**S**HRI Jagdishbhai Vishwakarma, Hon'ble Minister for Cooperation, Salt Industry, Printing & Stationery, Protocol (All Independent Charge), Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Cottage, Khadi and Village Industries, Civil Aviation, Government of Gujarat visited CSIR-Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSIR-CSMCRI), Bhavnagar, on 30 June 2023.

During the visit, he showed interest in the research being carried out at CSIR-CSMCRI. CSMCRI's Senior Scientist and PRO, Dr Kanti Bhooshan Pandey informed that the Hon'ble Minister also discussed the R&D being carried out by the institute towards environmental pollution assessment & proper disposal of waste generated by the industries, and called upon the scientists of the institute to develop sustainable technologies on these subjects. He also inspected the water purifier mobile bus developed by the institute and understood its working. All the departmental heads of the institute were present on this occasion.

## Visit of CSIR DG Dr N Kalaiselvi to CSIR-CBRI Laboratory

**O**n the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, Dr N Kalaiselvi, the Director General of CSIR, along with joint secretary, CSIR, Mr Mahendra Kumar Gupta visited the CSIR-CBRI (CSIR-Central Building Research Institute), Roorkee.

Dr PKS Chauhan welcomed the guests on this occasion. Director CSIR-CBRI Prof. R Pradeep Kumar formally welcomed Dr N Kalaiselvi and expressed his deep gratitude for her visit, emphasising the importance of her presence and the positive impact it had on the entire CBRI team. The Director

acknowledged the unwavering support and guidance provided by CSIR under the vibrant leadership of Dr N Kalaiselvi.

Dr N Kalaiselvi addressing staff members of CSIR-CBRI expressed her admiration for the exceptional contributions made by CBRI in various significant areas. She highlighted key initiatives that particularly impressed her: the technical contribution for newly constructed Parliament House, the disaster management efforts in Joshimath, and the

“One Week, One Lab” programme organised by CBRI. She mentioned that the nation is profoundly affected by CSIR-CBRI's role in ensuring the preservation of India's architectural heritage the Parliament House with ability to deliver high-quality solutions with its technical expertise within strict timelines, which strengthened the public's perception about CSIR labs. She recognised the significant role played by CSIR-CBRI in providing disaster management solutions and rehabilitation efforts for the calamity that struck Joshimath and praised the CBRI team for their dedication and commitment to helping the affected community. She also appreciated the “One Week, One Lab” program organised by CSIR-CBRI.



After the inspiring talk, Dr N Kalaiselvi visited the newly inaugurated exhibition hall of CSIR-CBRI, which showcased the institute's achievements, ongoing projects, and cutting-edge research in various fields related to building materials, structural engineering, and disaster management. She took keen interest in the exhibits and interacted with the researchers, appreciating their efforts and advancements.

### Collaborations/Agreements

## DCGI grants Permission for Phase-I Clinical Trial of Levormeloxifene, developed by CSIR-CDRI and Cipla

**T**HE Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted permission to Cipla to conduct a Phase-I clinical trial of Levormeloxifene. The investigational drug is being developed as a joint collaboration between Cipla and CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow, as an oral, non-hormonal contraceptive. The permission granted by DCGI is based on the recommendations of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) which carefully reviewed the data generated by CSIR-CDRI and Cipla.



Ormeloxifene is a non-hormonal oral contraceptive pill developed by CSIR-CDRI. It has been in the market since the 1990s under the brand name “Saheli” and is included in the National

Family Planning programme of the Government of India under the brand name “Chhaya”.

Ormeloxifene is a mixture of two enantiomers, i.e. compounds with the same chemical composition but mirror image 3-dimensional structures. In preclinical studies, the efficacy of Ormeloxifene was found to be driven by the levo form. Therefore, CSIR-CDRI and Cipla Ltd entered into an agreement

to develop Levormeloxifene for contraceptive use.

Dr Radha Rangarajan, Director, CSIR-CDRI said, “The rationale for developing the pure enantiomer is to reduce the overall chemical burden for the user, in this case, women of reproductive age.”

Cipla and CSIR-CDRI have a longstanding partnership in the development of affordable drugs, both within India and globally.

## Memorandum of Cooperation between CSIR-NIO and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University

CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), Goa, and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University, Dhaka, Bangladesh (BSMRMU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Scientific Cooperation in Ocean

Sciences. The MoU effective for a period of five years was signed on 7 July 2022, by Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh, Director, CSIR-NIO and Rear Admiral Mohammad Musa, Vice-Chancellor, BSMRMU.

The MoU will establish a framework for activities in the area of Ocean Sciences, which in turn will contribute to the advancement of research and development for the benefit of society at large and the outputs will contribute towards the blue economy mission between both countries. In addition, this MoU will strengthen cooperation in terms of capacity building and human resource development.



### Lectures/Trainings

## CSIR-CDRI Celebrates “Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav”

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations, the DSIR/CSIR in collaboration with Department for Promotion

of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), O/o Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM), NRDC and Protection of

Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority (PPVFRA), proposed to celebrate the campaign as "Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM)" (National Intellectual Property Festival) from 1-31 July 2023.

This initiative aims to raise awareness about various types of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and encourage the registration of patents, Geographical Indications (GI), trademarks, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property protection.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) coordinator at CSIR-CDRI, Dr Sripathi R Kulkarni briefed about the genesis of the Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav and informed that this campaign is a focused and time-bound initiative and is designed to create a targeted approach in increasing the registration of intellectual property rights. CSIR recognises the significance of intellectual property in fostering innovation, protecting the rights of inventors, and promoting economic growth. Throughout the month of July, CSIR-CDRI is organising a series of events, seminars, workshops, awareness campaigns to educate researchers, inventors, entrepreneurs, and the public about the importance of safeguarding their intellectual property. These activities will aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of various IPR types and their role in facilitating research and development, promoting entrepreneurship, and enhancing competitiveness in the global market.



A workshop cum training programme was organised on 14 July 2023 by an IPR expert under the aegis of the "Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav". Director, CSIR-CDRI, Dr Radha Rangarajan presided over the event and extended a warm welcome to esteemed guest speaker, Dr Indra Dwivedy, Former Chief Scientist & Group Leader-Patents CSIR-IPU, New Delhi. Further she expressed her enthusiasm for the Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav, stating, the celebration of this festival demonstrates our commitment to nurturing a culture of innovation and protecting intellectual creations. By increasing awareness about intellectual property rights, we aim to empower individuals and organisations to protect their inventions, creations, and unique traditional knowledge. The programme, which took place at the CDRI Auditorium, witnessed an overwhelming response with nearly 200 attendees.

Guest speaker, Dr Indra Dwivedy, a renowned expert in the field of intellectual property, shed light on the pivotal role played by IPR in fostering innovation and protecting valuable information. During her insightful address, she delved into various patent-related laws and elucidated the process of filing a patent application in India. She further mentioned, by promoting a culture of innovation,

*Dr Indra Dwivedy, a renowned expert in the field of intellectual property, shed light on the pivotal role played by IPR in fostering innovation and protecting valuable information.*

fostering collaboration, and enhancing the understanding of IPR, we can collectively contribute to India's growth as a

knowledge-based economy. The attendees were enlightened about the benefits and rewards that come with patenting one's inventions.

## CSIR-CSMCRI Organises Training on Intellectual Property Rights for Academics & Research

**D**URING National Intellectual Property festival in the country during 1-30 July 2023 under the banner of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, CSIR-Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSIR-CSMCRI), Bhavnagar, conducted a training on Intellectual Property Rights for Academics & Research on July 20 & 21. During the programme, Dr Seema from IPU of CSIR, New Delhi, was the invited guest who delivered a talk on IP awareness with a special emphasis on patents.

Dr Seema explained different aspects of IPR and answered the



queries of participants. Dr Shibaji Ghosh, the coordinator of the event told that IPR is playing very vital role not only in research but also in our daily life. The function was graced with the auspicious presence of Dr Kannan Srinivasan, Director.

## CSIR-NIScPR Organises NIScPR-SVASTIK Lecture on “Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”

**C**SIIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi, organised a lecture on 25 July 2023 under its SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge) initiative. SVASTIK is a PMO-monitored initiative coordinated by CSIR-NIScPR. This was the fourth session of the NIScPR-SVASTIK lecture series. The topic of the lecture was “Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”.

The CSIR-NIScPR SVASTIK lecture session witnessed the convergence of eminent scholars, researchers, yoga practitioners, and enthusiastic participants, who came together to explore the profound philosophy of Yoga and its relevance in fostering a global family. Shri Hasan Jawaid Khan, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, delivered the welcome address and gave insightful introductory remarks on SVASTIK, setting the tone for



the enlightening sessions that followed.

The highlight of the event was the captivating keynote address by Padma Shri Dr HR Nagendra, Chancellor of S-VYASA University, Bengaluru. Dr Nagendra's vast knowledge and expertise in the realm of yoga enthralled the audience as he eloquently expounded on the

transformative power of yoga in uniting humanity and realising the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. His address left the attendees inspired and motivated to integrate yoga into their lives for personal and collective well-being. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Charu Lata, Principal Scientist at CSIR-NIScPR.

## Events

### Student-Scientist Connect Programme

CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi, organised a “Student-Scientist Connect Programme” on 14 July 2023 at Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS PVTG) & EMRS Gurukulam, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Two Principal Scientists from CSIR-NIScPR, Dr Suman Ray and Dr Kasturi Mandal visited the school and conducted the programme. The programme aimed to inculcate scientific temper among students and to create a strong relationship between science and students, emphasising the vital role of science in addressing global challenges. Approximately 200 students from grades 9 to 12 participated in the event.

Dr Suman Ray commenced the session by introducing the students to CSIR-NIScPR and the concept of JIGYASA. She emphasised the profound impact of scientific research in fostering positive global transformations. During the interactive session, Dr Ray delivered a talk on “Achievements of CSIR technologies”, shedding light on the organisation's contributions to various scientific advancements for the society.

In addition, a talk on “Herbs and Utility” was also delivered by Dr Ray wherein she discussed the importance and utility of herbs correlating the surrounding environment and health. This interactive session was further enhanced through the inclusion of a quiz, providing the students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the subject matter. As an incentive for their participation and excellence, the winners of the quiz were generously rewarded with prizes, encouraging their enthusiasm for learning.

During the session, a short movie on “Adventures of Artificial



*The programme aimed to inculcate scientific temper among students and to create a strong relationship between science and students.*



Distribution of the popular science magazine “Vigyan Pragati” and “Ayur-Vatika Bulletin” at the EMRS School, Indore

Intelligence (AI)" further motivated & generated curiosity among the students towards this emerging field. The video aimed to grab their attention and spark their interest in AI, which is a fascinating field with lots of potential to solve big problems in the world.

To foster scientific curiosity among the students, the young learners were provided with a copy of the popular science magazine *Vigyan Pragati*. In addition, the students were also delighted to receive

the *Ayur-Vatika Bulletin*, which displays an impressive collection of 80 varieties of medicinal plants known for their therapeutic properties, and "JIGYASA" brochures containing details about all the activities, aims, and mandate of the JIGYASA programme. This thoughtful distribution of valuable resources aimed to empower the students in their pursuit of knowledge, encouraging them to explore and deepen their passion for science.

## CSIR-HRDC Organises various Programmes

### *Awareness Programme for ICC members and Administrative staff on Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace: Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal*

CSIR-Human Resource Development Centre (CSIR-HRDC), Ghaziabad, organised a two days Programme for ICC members and Administrative staff on Awareness of Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (POSH Act): Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal, during 13-14 June 2023.

Twenty seven members of ICC from different CSIR labs joined the programme covering the legal framework of the POSH Act, such as handling complaints, functions of committees, duties of employers, punishment and jurisdiction, and case studies. The programme also provided a platform to deliberate on how to create a conducive and harmonious work environment through experience sharing and panel discussions.

### *Annual Meet-cum-Refresher Programme for Senior Officers of Stenographic Cadre*

Two Days "Annual Meet cum Refresher Programme for Senior Officers of Stenographic Cadre" was organised on 23 & 24 June 2023. Forty-four participants of the stenographic cadre from different CSIR labs have participated in this programme.

The inaugural session was graced by the address of DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR, Dr N Kalaiselvi and

*To foster scientific curiosity among the students, the young learners were provided with a copy of the popular science magazine Vigyan Pragati.*



the presence of eminent dignitaries including Shri Mahendra Kumar Gupta, Joint Secretary(A), CSIR; Shri Chetan Prakash Jain, FA, CSIR; and Shri Roop Kishor, CVO,CSIR. Newly renovated guest house of CSIR-HRDC was also inaugurated by the dignitaries. Prof. Manoj Dhar, Director, AcSIR, were also present to grace the occasion.

### ***Workshop on Annual Capacity Building Plan (ACBP)***

Distinguished Guest and delegates from DSIR, CSIR, Capacity Building Commission and CSIR-HRDC attended a one-day Workshop on Annual Capacity Building Plan(ACBP) held on 4 July 2023 at CSIR-HRDC, Ghaziabad. Dr N Kalaiselvi, DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR joined the workshop online.

### ***Workshop on Rules, Regulations and Ethics in Sports***

One-day workshop on Rules, Regulations and Ethics in Sports was organised on 14 July 2023. Dr RK Sinha, Head, CSIR-HRDC & Secretary, CSIR-Sports Promotion Board welcomed the guests. Dr Sanjeev Khosla, Director, CSIR-IMTECH & President, CSIR-Sports Promotion Board, gave the inaugural address. Twenty general secretaries of staff clubs of different CSIR labs participated in the programme. CSIR-SPB Rules, Regulations, Ethics in Sports and the Importance of physical fitness and an active lifestyle for working professionals were the key topics of interest. Shri Sujit Panigrahi, Founder & CEO of Sequoia Fitness & Sports Technology Pvt. Ltd shared his experience and knowledge amongst the participants.

### ***Induction Programmes for Newly Recruited Scientists***

The 44th Induction Programme for Newly Recruited Scientists of CSIR was organised during 17-26 July 2023. Twenty nine scientists from 11 different labs of CSIR joined and participated in the programme. Chief Guest Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, Gautam Buddha University, Noida; Guest of Honour, Dr Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR and Dr RK Sinha, Head, CSIR-HRDC graced the occasion.

The ten-day programme covered every nuance of CSIR's vision, mission & culture, national & global S&T and industrial scenario, societal application in S&T, IPR, procurement, administrative matters, financial system of CSIR, preventive vigilance, gender sensitisation, etc. The programme also covered contemporary aspects of social & economic impact assessment of R&D outcomes, various aspects of technology commercialisation as well as better team management and interpersonal skills to upgrade soft skills such as interpersonal skills, team building & group dynamics, S&T communication, etc.

Dr N Kalaiselvi, DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR interacted with the newly recruited scientists.





She shared her expectations from the young minds and motivated them to do their best & take CSIR to greater heights. Participants visited the Metrology lab of CSIR-NPL, New Delhi, on 24 July 2023. Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta, Director, CSIR-NPL, interacted with the young scientists.

The valedictory session was joined by Dr Sanjay Kumar, Former Director, CSIR-IHBT & Visiting Professor, IIT, Mandi; Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta, Director, CSIR-NPL; and Prof. Manoj Kumar Dhar, Director, AcSIR as Guest of Honour. The eminent guests graced the occasion and shared their rich experience & knowledge. Participation certificates were also distributed to the participants.

### *Programme on Excellence in Leadership for Newly Joined Directors of CSIR Labs*

Two days Programme on Excellence in Leadership for newly joined Directors was organised in the CSIR-HRDC campus from 28-29 July 2023. Dr N Kalaiselvi,

DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR, joined online and with her inspiring and motivating words, inaugurated the programme. Seven Directors of CSIR labs including Dr Naresh Chandra Murmu (CSIR-CMERI), Dr Souvik Maiti (CSIR-IGIB), Dr Sudesh Kumar Yadav (CSIR-IHBT), Dr Zabeer Ahmed (CSIR-IIIM), Dr Ramanuj Narayan (CSIR-IMMT), Dr Abhay A Pashilkar (CSIR-NAL) and Dr Ajit Kumar Shasany (CSIR-NBRI) participated in the programme.

Dr RK Sinha, Head HRDC, welcomed all the directors and the dignitaries. Shri Mahendra Kumar Gupta, JS, CSIR, addressed the directors and shared his experience and knowledge with them. Dr R Balasubramaniam, Member-HR, Capacity Building Commission also graced the occasion. HODs of CSIR HQ divisions interacted with directors and shared the activities and responsibilities of their divisions. The programme was highly appreciated.

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