

## National Science Day 2024

# National Science Day Celebrations at CSIR-IIIM, Receives applause from Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

*In a special video message, Hon'ble Union Minister of Science and Technology & Vice President CSIR, Dr Jitendra Singh, extended his best wishes on the auspicious occasion of National Science Day 2024 at CSIR-IIIM.*



CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, proudly hosted National Science Day celebrations on 28 February 2024, commemorating the invention of the Raman Effect by Nobel Laureate Sir CV Raman. The event brought together eminent scientists, academicians, innovators, startups, researchers, and

students to foster a spirit of scientific inquiry and innovation. During the event, more than 350 students from various academic institutions in the region. The event aimed to ignite curiosity among young minds while underscoring the pivotal role of science in shaping our society.



*Dr Jitendra Singh said this is the best time for science and scientists, where young innovators are getting suitable opportunities due to the supportive policies of the current government.*

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space and Vice President CSIR, in a special video message, appreciated the Director, CSIR-IIIM and his team for organising a vibrant open day on the occasion of National Science Day 2024. The Union Minister also said that this is the best time for science and scientists, where young innovators are getting suitable opportunities due to the supportive policies of the current government. This has led to an increase in the number of startups from 350-400 about a decade ago to more than 1.5 Lakh startups in the present time. The number of agristartups has grown significantly, especially in this region, which motivated youngsters to set up their own enterprises rather than remain dependent on government jobs.

India now ranks 40 in the Global Innovation Index. We have recently made history with a soft landing on the south pole in the Chandrayaan-3 space mission. He mentioned the COVID DNA vaccine was designed in India and was gifted to several nations around the globe.

Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, while addressing

the audience, underscored the significance of cultivating a scientific mindset. Delving into the illustrious history of CSIR-IIIM, Dr Ahmed shed light on the institute's cutting-edge research endeavour, societal programmes and startup incubators, which have provided fertile ground to young startups through scientific support and incubation assistance.

Dr Ahmed also recounted the inspiring story behind National Science Day, commemorating the revolutionary discovery of the Raman Effect by the eminent Indian physicist Dr CV Raman. Dr Ahmed emphasised how Dr Raman's work epitomises the transformative potential of the scientific approach, characterised by curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and evidence-based reasoning. Encouraging the audience to embrace this mindset, he highlighted the institute's role in challenging assumptions, fostering innovation, and driving societal progress. "Nowadays, Science is not a subject, but it is a way of thinking," said Dr Ahmed and urged everyone to celebrate National Science Day by nurturing a scientific outlook, paving the way for a more rational and enlightened future.

The students from various institutions in Jammu visited the institute, explored CSIR-IIIM's laboratories and engaged directly

with scientists and research scholars. Through informative posters, research scholars showcased their work, offering valuable insights into the ongoing research at the institute.

Another standout feature of the event was the lecture on “Modern Drug Discovery: A Rational Approach,” delivered by Dr Naveed Qazi, Head of the Natural Product and Medicinal Chemistry Division. Dr Qazi provided a clear overview of the intricate process of drug



discovery and its evolution from serendipitous and brute-force screening methods to a more systematic and targeted approach, emphasising recent advancements in artificial intelligence’s role in the field.

## CSIR-AMPRI Celebrates National Science Day



CSIR-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI), Bhopal, celebrated National Science Day on 5 March 2024. Captain Dr Om Prakash Sharma, Quality Assurance Officer (Warship Equipment), Indian Navy, Ministry of Defence, was the Chief Guest at the function.

In his welcome address, Dr Avanish Kumar Srivastava, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, highlighted the importance of celebrating National Science Day and talked about activities of CSIR-AMPRI,

with emphasis on technologies transferred in the recent past.

Addressing the gathering, Captain Dr Om Prakash Sharma appreciated the work done by CSIR-AMPRI. He further emphasised the indigenisation to enter into Amrit Kaal, the need for novel advanced materials to solve society problems and collaboration between the Indian Navy and CSIR-AMPRI in areas of mutual interest in the near future. Video film on DGQA was also played by him at the occasion.

*Dr Om Prakash Sharma from the Ministry of Defence emphasised the indigenisation to enter into Amrit Kaal, the need for novel advanced materials to solve society problems and collaboration between the Indian Navy and CSIR-AMPRI.*

Dr N Sathish, Principal Scientist, CSIR-AMPRI, gave a talk on Make in India Raman Spectrometer developed by CSIR-AMPRI. Other researchers also presented their research work covering piezoelectric nanogenerators and MXene-based materials. A video film by CSIR-AMPRI on Raman Spectroscopy was played on the occasion.

CSIR-AMPRI technologies-based Memento was presented to the Chief Guest by the Director, CSIR-AMPRI.

Dr Sarika Verma, Principal Scientist, moderated the programme, and Dr Mohd Akram Khan proposed the vote of thanks.

## **Celebrating National Science Day, CSIR-CDRI Transfers two Indigenous Technologies**

Aligning with this year's theme, "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat", CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow, celebrated National Science Day 2024 by transferring two indigenous technologies to industry partners and hosting a talk by clinician researcher Dr Vineet Ahuja, Professor of Gastroenterology and Human Nutrition at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

CSIR-CDRI transferred a novel ophthalmic formulation for fungal keratitis to Cipla Limited. The collaboration aims to leverage the combined expertise and resources of both organisations to develop a safe and efficacious drug for fungal keratitis.

Approximately 1.2 million fungal keratitis cases are reported yearly, with tropical countries recording a higher incidence. Fungal keratitis often occurs following ocular trauma and exposure to fungal pathogens from organic matter, thus putting agricultural workers at greater risk. Other risk factors include using local steroid



eye drops, injury, poor personal hygiene, and regular contact lens wear. Left untreated, the condition can result in corneal destruction, leading to a profound loss of vision. Existing therapies have limitations, such as the need for prolonged and frequent use of drugs and emerging drug resistance.

CSIR-CDRI has developed and transferred this formulation of an antifungal drug to optimise its delivery in the eye. In preclinical studies, this formulation supports faster resolution of the infection. Now, Cipla Ltd will scale up the product, conduct the required studies and seek regulatory approvals for commercialisation, ensuring accessibility for those in need.

*Dr Vineet Ahuja  
from AIIMS, during his  
talk on "Microbiome  
Manipulation  
Therapies in  
Inflammatory Bowel  
Disease" addressed  
the issue of Gastro-  
Intestinal (GI)  
diseases.*

Another indigenous technology that was transferred was phosphoramidite-based fluorescence quenchers to ESSCEE Biotech Private Ltd. ESSCEE Biotech commercialise these quencher reagents not only in India, but also in the US and European market.

The team leader Dr Atul Goel, informed that the narrow quenching range of commercially available individual quenchers restricts their combination with fluorescent dyes and thus limits multiplexing reactions in clinical diagnosis. CDRI's phosphoramidite-based quencher with a broad absorption property was designed to match the emission characteristics of a wide range of fluorophores, which can be used in PCR-based diagnostics and nucleic acid-based biomedical research.

While transferring two indigenous technologies to Industry partners, Dr Radha Rangarajan, Director, CSIR-CDRI, said, "Our research focuses on finding innovative, cost-effective solutions for India's unmet clinical needs". She further congratulated the teams behind the technologies.

On this occasion, CSIR-CDRI also initiated a new lecture series on translational research, which will provide a new approach for researchers to translate their basic



research into applied research or new therapeutics. In the inaugural talk, the eminent speaker Dr Vineet Ahuja, Professor of Gastroenterology and Human Nutrition, AIIMS, delivered a talk on "Microbiome Manipulation Therapies in Inflammatory Bowel Disease" wherein he addressed the issue of Gastro-Intestinal (GI) diseases. He said that Gut microbiota (microorganisms present in the intestine) regulates intestinal health as well as disease occurrence such as Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD), Crohn's disease, Ulcerative Colitis (UC), etc.

He further informed that Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) (i.e. transplantation of microorganisms from faeces/stool of healthy volunteers to patient's gut) may be a boon for treatment of Gastro-Intestinal (GI) Diseases. He added that while considering the practical complications of FMT, gut microbiota-derived metabolites may also be considered as potential new therapeutics for treating such GI diseases. He urged that the teams of CSIR-CDRI and AIIMS can work together to develop this metabolites-based translational therapeutics.

*Dr Radha Rangarajan, Director, CSIR-CDRI, said, "Our research focuses on finding innovative, cost-effective solutions for India's unmet clinical needs".*

## National Science Day Celebration at CSIR-CGCRI

CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI), Kolkata, celebrated National Science Day 2024 with its usual fervour on

28 February 2024 in a hybrid mode. Dr Suman Kumari Mishra, Director, CSIR-CGCRI, initiated the programme with a welcome address. The Chief Guest of



the event Dr Shyamal Kumar Bhadra, Former Chief Scientist of CSIR-CGCRI and Former CSIR Emeritus Scientist of IACS, delivered the National Science Day Lecture entitled “Fascinating Science in Colonial Bengal: Contributions of CV Raman and Meghnad Saha”. Dr Bhadra’s lecture took the audience through several decades of pre-independence India. He underscored the seminal role of Bengal’s institutions in shaping scientific progress at the national and international levels. The phenomenal contributions of CV Raman and Meghnad Saha were highlighted during the lecture.

The event included an interactive science quiz competition for students targeted at those graduating and above. Students were also invited to deliver a flash-talk

of around three minutes duration. They were nudged to speak on two given topics of choice: Atmanirbhar Bharat’s role in shaping the global landscape and the impact of India’s digital revolution on socioeconomic development. Both programmes received large acceptance amongst the participants. Students were given some token of appreciation for their participation.

During the day, CSIR-CGCRI hosted a group of science lovers as part of a Science Heritage Walk organised by an NGO Science Communicators Forum. The objective of the visit was to have an exposure to various science heritage institutes in the city. Around 30 people, mostly students, undertook a guided tour of the Atma Ram Memorial Museum & Archives and visited the institute’s speciality glass melting facility.

## CSIR-CLRI Organises National Science Day Lecture

The CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI), Chennai, observed National Science Day on 28 February 2024. The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) initiated the event to commemorate the Raman effect’s

discovery by Indian physicist Sir CV Raman, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

During the event, Dr KJ Sreeram, Director, CSIR-CLRI, spoke about the significance of science education for the welfare of

*During the day, CSIR-CGCRI hosted a group of science lovers as part of a Science Heritage Walk organised by an NGO Science Communicators Forum.*

society and the history behind the celebration of National Science Day. He also highlighted the institute's historical connection with Sir CV Raman during his presence at the institute's inauguration.

Dr Bhima Vijendran, Managing Partner at Redwood Innovation Partners, LLC, California, USA, delivered the National Science Day lecture on "Role and Challenges for Science and Technology in Solving Environmental Issues for a Sustainable and Circular Economy: Opportunities in Leather and Footwear Industry". He shared his extensive experience in working



on sustainability and highlighted the global focus on environmental sustainability. Dr A Tamil Selvi, Senior Principal Scientist at the Unit for Science Dissemination, CSIR-CLRI, provided an overview of the day's programme and thanked everyone at the event. Around 280 students participated through hybrid mode.

## National Science Day Celebration at CSIR-CECRI

CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi, organised several events to celebrate and popularise National Science Day, including competitions such as Essay, Poster, Oral, Science Photography, Graphical Abstract & Working Model exhibitions for AcSIR PhD Scholars, Project Assistants, BTech students, and other staff members of CSIR-CECRI. All these activities focused on the theme "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat", as designated by the Govt of India.

Distinguished Prof. Suresh Bhargava, Dean, Research & Innovative Research Partnerships (India), RMIT University, Australia, delivered the National Science Day Lecture at CSIR-CECRI on 26 February 2024. The event began with an invocation followed by a welcome address

by Dr Subbiah Alwarappan, Principal Scientist, CSIR-CECRI. Dr K Ramesha, Director, CSIR-CECRI, delivered the presidential address in which he recalled the struggles and perseverant efforts of Sir CV Raman towards his achievements in science, especially the Nobel Prize-winning work. In spite of all his intimidating issues, Sir CV Raman was inspired and determined to pursue his passion for finding solutions to scientific problems, he remarked.



*Prof. Suresh Bhargava, RMIT University, fondly remembered his active association with CSIR in various R&D and academic programmes, with a special mention of the signing of the MoU between the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) and RMIT.*

In his lecture on “Building with Bubbles: Creating Unique Nano Surfaces for Different Applications” Prof. Bhargava highlighted his group’s research outcome in this niche area and the exciting prospects of its multifarious applications. At the beginning, he fondly remembered his active association with CSIR in various R&D and academic programmes, with a special mention of the signing of the MoU between the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) and RMIT. He also recognised and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of his mentors, Prof. CNR Rao and Dr RA Mashelkar, to Indian Science and Society.

Prof. Bhargava also informed the audience, particularly the young



researchers, on the multiple options for pursuing their research career at RMIT, mainly on the student exchange programmes. At the end of his illuminating lecture, he divulged his RRR mantra for success [Recognise, Remember, Reciprocate] and answered the scholars’ queries with intrinsic details. The lecture was an eye-opener and ignited the scholar’s passion doing perseverant research.

The event ended with a vote of thanks by Dr P Murugan, Sr Principal Scientist, and AcSIR Coordinator, CSIR-CECRI.

## **National Science Day 2024 Celebrations at CSIR-IHBT Include the Signing of Agreements**

The CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, celebrated National Science Day on 28 February 2024 on the theme “Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat”. The programme started with a tree plantation by the dignitaries.

Prof. SK Sharma, Former Vice-Chancellor, CSK HP Agricultural University, Palampur, and Former Director, NBPGR, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest. He applauded the institute for its critical role and contribution to cutting-edge research, entrepreneurship development, and upliftment of the rural economy. Prof. Sharma emphasised that India is fast

progressing towards being a developed nation and is leaving a mark on the world. He cited the Corona Vaccine and Chandrayaan Mission as the latest examples of indigenous technologies having global implications.

Prof. Purnananda Guptasarma, Dean Faculty of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, was the keynote speaker who delivered the Science Day lecture on the topic “Enzymatic degradation of PET into recyclable terephthalate: A sustainability imperative”. In his address, Prof. Guptasarma apprised about the detrimental effects of plastic on the environment and lucidly explained



how plastic can be decomposed and recycled using enzymes. He emphasised adopting and promoting environment-friendly technologies for a better future.

Before that, Dr Sudesh Kumar Yadav, Director, CSIR-IHBT, in his welcome address, highlighted the importance of science day and briefed about the institute's indigenous technologies in the areas of bioresource management, traditional foods, waste valorization, etc. He congratulated the staff for putting their efforts into developing these technologies. While presenting the details of the major achievements and activities of the institute, he told how the institute is playing an active role in improving the livelihood of farmers in rural areas through science, technology, and innovation so that the country can become self-reliant.

On the occasion, the institute signed an MoU with Aerodyne India Ventures Private Limited for R&D cooperation in the area of Drone and Ground Based Multispectral & Hyperspectral Technologies for crop growth estimations.

Also, CSIR-IHBT signed a triparty agreement with M/s. Unised Research Consultants Private Limited (URCPL), Kanpur, and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), for transfer of technologies developed by the institute to combat malnutrition in India.

The function was attended by the CSIR-IHBT staff & scholars, school & college students, faculty from the nearby institutes, and press media persons. The day was also an open day for the general public.

*Prof. SK Sharma,  
Former VC, CSK HP  
Agricultural University,  
applauded the CSIR-  
IHBT for its critical role  
and contribution to  
cutting-edge research,  
entrepreneurship  
development, and  
upliftment of the rural  
economy.*

## National Science Day 2024 at CSIR-CRRI

CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi, celebrated National Science Day on 28 February 2024.

Dr Ravindra Kumar, Head (ILT) and Chief Scientist Transport Planning and Environment Division, CRRI, gave the welcome address and highlighted the significance of celebrating National Science Day in memory of the discovery of the Raman Effect by

Indian Physicist Sir CV Raman on the 28 February 1928.

On this occasion, Prof Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director NIT, Warangal, graced the event as the honourable Chief Guest. He delivered the inaugural speech and interacted with students. Justifying the theme of National Science Day 2024, "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat" during the interaction, Prof.



*An MoU between CSIR-CRRI and NIT Warangal, outlined boosting research exchange and student building through NIT Warangal and CRRI collaboration.*

Bidyadhar Subudhi stressed the need to produce technologies and equipment locally and reduce the dependence on foreign supply to accelerate the pace of research in India.

Prof. Manoranjan Parida, Director, CSIR-CRRI, also emphasised the indigenous technologies of CRRI and encouraged scientists to express their views by talking about their research. He also addressed students' queries regarding careers and the scope of research in India.

College students from MERI College with an engineering background were invited to join the student scientist network through the industrial visit. After interacting with Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi and all other scientists, they headed to various R&D divisions for their industrial visit.

An MoU between CRRI and NIT Warangal was also signed, which outlined boosting research exchange and student building through NIT Warangal and CRRI collaboration.

## National Science Day Celebrations at CSIR-NIScPR

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR),

New Delhi, organised a lecture on 4 March 2024 to celebrate National Science Day 2024. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr Shiv Kumar Sharma, National Organising Secretary, VIBHA. Dr Rajni Kant, Former and Founder Director, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur, delivered the keynote address.

During her welcome address, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director CSIR-NIScPR, spoke about the importance of harnessing indigenous knowledge and technology for achieving scientific



progress in India. She also talked about the importance of health communication for disease management such as during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the importance of science communication for health campaigns.

Dr Shiv Kumar Sharma discussed the importance of indigenous technology for Indian society and the need to identify indigenous knowledge and technology and integrate this knowledge into current science practices.

Dr Rajni Kant delivered the keynote address on “Understanding Health Communication and its Role in Disease Management”. He covered different aspects of health communication, its importance, the various barriers and challenges, the use of emerging platforms such as social media to communicate about health, and the need to tackle growing health misinformation on these platforms. He stressed using indigenous technology(s), especially during the recent COVID-19 pandemic, to tackle various aspects, such as developing vaccines and protective kits. He further highlighted the need for digital health literacy among the public and the need to train health professionals and scientists in communicating science while also training journalists and other media professionals in health reporting. Dr Paramananda Barman, coordinator of this session, delivered the vote of thanks.



The lecture session was followed by a brainstorming session on the “Use of Social Media in Health Communication” including various experts from different Indian organisations. The experts included Dr Rajni Kant, Dr Padma Rani, Manipal Institute of Communication; Dr Nancepreet Kaur, Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI); Ms Sophia Lonappan, Public Health & Risk Communications, WHO India; Mr Kaushik Bose, GHS; Dr Gita Bamezai, Indian Institute of Mass Communication; Dr Y Madhavi, Dr Sujit Bhattacharya, Dr Suman Ray, Dr Charu Lata & Dr Paramananda Barman from CSIR-NIScPR.

The session covered various aspects of the use of social media for health communication, such as its importance, the challenges, the spread of misinformation on social media, and the different ways to combat this misinformation through promoting digital health literacy, creating awareness at the grassroots level through the involvement of various stakeholders such as government organisations, scientists and science communicators, healthcare workers, policymakers, etc.

*Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director CSIR-NIScPR, spoke about the importance of harnessing indigenous knowledge and technology for achieving scientific progress in India.*

## National Science Day Celebration 2024 at CSIR-CIMFR



*Prof. Arvind Kumar Mishra, Director, CSIR-CIMFR, emphasised the need for innovation to propel India towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, encapsulated as 'Vikshit Bharat'.*

On the auspicious occasion of National Science Day 2024, CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR), Dhanbad, hosted a celebration of scientific knowledge and innovation. The event featured an inter school science quiz competition under the CSIR-Jigyasa Scheme and an interactive session with Prof. Arvind Kumar Mishra, Director, CSIR-CIMFR. The atmosphere was charged with excitement as students from various schools participated enthusiastically, showcasing their scientific acumen and passion for learning.

As a part of the CSIR-Jigyasa programme, students from VI to VIII from eight schools participated in an inter-school science quiz competition. The competition served as a platform for young minds to showcase their scientific knowledge and critical thinking skills.

The ceremony was inaugurated by lighting the lamp and garlanding the revered photograph of Sir CV Raman, paying homage to his contributions to science. The stage was graced by esteemed dignitaries,

including the Chief Guest Prof. ASK Sinha, Director of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, and Prof. Arvind Kumar Mishra, Director, CSIR-CIMFR.

Prof. Arvind Kumar Mishra warmly welcomed the attendees, highlighting the legacy of Sir CV Raman and the significance of the Raman effect. He elucidated the intriguing phenomenon of the blue appearance of seawater, captivating the audience with scientific insights.

Moreover, Director Prof. Mishra discussed India's forward momentum, stressing the role of research and technology in this journey. He emphasised the need for innovation to propel India towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, encapsulated as 'Vikshit Bharat'.

The National Science Day lecture commenced with Prof. ASK Sinha, who discussed opportunities for students and shed light on the legacy of Sir CV Raman. His lecture delved into the "Sustainable energy transition in India," addressing pressing issues such as food security,

water scarcity, and climate change. Prof. Sinha emphasised the need to reduce carbon emissions, referencing COP 21, and explored innovative energy sources, such as Carbon Capture Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS), as well as the hydrogen economy.

The occasion was further adorned by the prize distribution ceremony, where deserving winners of the competition were felicitated for their outstanding performance.

As the event drew close, the halls echoed with the collective rendition of the National Anthem,



symbolising unity and pride in the nation's scientific endeavours. The celebration was a testament to the spirit of inquiry and innovation, inspiring young minds to pursue excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM).

In conclusion, the National Science Day celebration was a resounding success, fostering a culture of scientific curiosity and knowledge sharing among students and educators alike.

### In the News

## CSIR-IIIM Aroma Mission Has Empowered Farmers for Sustainable Future: Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union S&T Minister

*Dr Jitendra said, "The agri-startup from the region is the outcome of CSIR-IIIM activities under Aroma Mission, which now takes root in Basohli thus empowering the farmers for a sustainable future."*

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space and Vice President, CSIR, on 25 February 2024, inaugurated an awareness, training and lavender Quality Planting Material (QPM) distribution programme. The programme was held under the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, Aroma Mission at Basohli. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra,

who was the Chief Guest, said, "The agri-startup from the region is the outcome of CSIR-IIIM activities under Aroma Mission, which now takes root in Basohli thus empowering the farmers for a sustainable future."

Appreciating the efforts of CSIR-IIIM achievement under the Aroma Mission, the minister said that the lavender cultivation has now been spread to Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other northeastern states. "Such initiatives not only promote sustainable farming practices but also create new

*Dr Jitendra said,  
"The agri-startup  
from the region is the  
outcome of CSIR-IIIM  
activities under Aroma  
Mission, which now  
takes root in Basohli  
thus empowering  
the farmers for a  
sustainable future."*



*“In the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the CSIR-IIIM assures full support and appeals to the farmers, who are real stakeholders of these missions, to effectively join with the institute to take forward the activities under such societal projects,” said Dr Zabeer Ahmed.*

income opportunities for the community,” he said. Dr Singh said that the successful launch of the Aroma Mission Awareness programme in Basohli, Kathua, signifies the institute’s commitment to sustainable agriculture and its collaborative approach with the government and farmers. “This initiative has the potential to create a ripple effect, inspiring other communities to adopt eco-friendly farming practices and contribute to a more sustainable future for the region,” he added. The programme aimed at promoting sustainable farming practices, drew a crowd of enthusiastic farmers and dignitaries, marking a significant step towards a greener future for the region. Prominent among others present were Col. Mohan Singh, Chairman, DDC Kathua, Tajinder Singh, Reeta Thakur and Narayan Dutt Tripathi (All DDC members).

Earlier, Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, in his welcome address, said CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, besides doing cutting-edge

Science, has been actively involved in the CSIR Aroma Mission and CSIR Floriculture Mission, which has far-reaching impact on the economic development and rural prosperity. “In the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the CSIR-IIIM assures full support and appeals to the farmers, who are real stakeholders of these missions, to effectively join with the institute to take forward the activities under such societal projects,” he said.

More than 750 farmers, including the women from self-help groups of NRLM from various areas of Basohli and Bani, participated in the event and received quality lavender planting material from the Chief Guest for cultivation in their fields. The technical sessions coordinated by Dr Suphla Gupta, Nodal Scientist Aroma Mission, and Dr Saurabh Saran, Principal Scientist, provided valuable guidance on cultivation techniques, timing, potential uses and practical insights into planting techniques and cultivation practices.

## CSIR-CIMAP Organises Kisan Mela-2024

*Hon’ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath said that farmers across the country are embracing agriculture diversification, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visionary approach, consequently doubling the income and highlighting the PM’s transformative vision.*

An annual event of CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP),

Lucknow, Kisan Mela-2024, was organised from 30 to 31 January 2024 at its campus at Lucknow.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, during Kisan Mela 2024 at CSIR-CIMAP

On the first day of the event, Dr Ajit Kumar Shasany, Director, CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, inaugurated the programme as a Chief Guest. While Dr Shasany and Dr Prabodh K Trivedi, Director, CSIR-CIMAP, addressing the farmers, students, and industry representatives, said that CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow, under its flagship programme 'Aroma Mission,' helped India become self-sufficient in producing lemongrass essential oil, which was earlier imported from other countries. During the inaugural ceremony, the Mentha Inspect crop calendar and herbal product kit, along with the essential oil kit, were released by dignitaries.

On the second day of the event on 31 January 2024, Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, was the Chief Guest; Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Finance, Agriculture, Agricultural Education and Agricultural Research, Government of Uttar Pradesh; and Dr N Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, Govt of India were Guest of Honours.

Director, CSIR-CIMAP Dr Prabodh Kumar Trivedi welcomed all the guests and apprised about institute's

R&D activities and major progress and said that by adopting the mentha variety developed by CSIR-CIMAP, farmers have taken India to the top level in the production and export of mentha. Today, 80% of the world's mentha is produced in India, and 80% of India's mentha is produced only in Uttar Pradesh. He further said that due to the efforts of CSIR-CIMAP scientists and farmers, India has exported more than 600 tonnes of lemongrass oil this year. In the end, Dr Trivedi said that CSIR-CIMAP will continue to make continuous efforts with the country's farmers to make the country self-reliant.

Welcoming everyone, Dr N Kalaiselvi apprised about the CSIR major programmes. She also highlighted CSIR Aroma Mission and Floriculture Mission activities organised by different CSIR laboratories in different states. She further mentioned how farmers benefit from these mission programmes.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Surya Pratap Shahi highlighted the importance of CSIR-CIMAP in producing medicinal and aromatic plants. He praised the contribution of CSIR-CIMAP to the farmers of

*Shri Yogi Adityanath said that farmers across the country are embracing agriculture diversification, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary approach.*

*During the event, Chief Guest and Guests of Honour also launched the Aroma Mission App for farmers and user industries, herbal product (Aloe Roma Gel), AUS Gyana Souvenirs booklet.*

Uttar Pradesh and said that due to the institute's efforts, the country had reached the top level in the production and export of mentha, increasing the income of more than 5 lakh farmers, and he is seeking collaboration with CSIR-CIMAP for further enhancement of farmer's income in the area of medicinal and aromatic plants. Furthermore, by adopting proper crop rotation, farmers should cultivate food grains and cash crops, including medicinal and aromatic plants, which will increase their income.

Shri Yogi Adityanath in his address, said that farmers across the country are embracing agriculture diversification, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary approach, consequently doubling the income and highlighting the PM's transformative vision. He further added that the state capital is lucky to have four CSIR labs, including CSIR-CIMAP and we should all strive together to tap their full potential. He added that four central laboratories are an opportunity for us as their scientists and staff are so proactive and ready to extend help to farmers.

Hon'ble CM addressed a crowd of over 5000 farmers hailing from 15 states, highlighting the fertile land and abundant water resources in UP and outlined the state's pivotal role in agriculture production, contributing over 22%

of the country's food grains despite having 11% cultivation land.

During the event, Chief Guest and Guests of Honour also launched the Aroma Mission App for farmers and user industries, herbal product (Aloe Roma Gel), AUS Gyana Souvenirs booklet. Hon'ble CM also visited the stalls and interacted with industry people and women entrepreneurs in the field of making incense sticks.

On this occasion, Dr Ajit Kumar Shasany, Director, NBRI; Dr Radha Rangarajan, Director CSIR-CDRI; and Dr Bhaskar Narayan, Director, CSIR-IITR and scientists, employees and researchers of CSIR-CIMAP were present.

In the rural technology gallery, stalls of CSIR-NBRI, CSIR-CDRI, CSIR-IITR, CSIR-CFTRI, CSIR-CCMB, SMPB, Horticulture and agriculture departments of UP, women entrepreneurs, different industries, entrepreneurs' were displayed in Kisan Mela. Besides, representatives from Aroma industries, the Essential Oil Association of India (EOAI) and herbal industries also participated in the Kisan Mela and interacted with the farmers in Kisan Gosthi, which was organised on both days.

Convenor of Kisan Mela-2024, Dr Sanjay Kumar, Senior Principal Scientist CSIR-CIMAP, concluded the event with a vote of thanks.

## DG CSIR visits to CSIR-NIO

The Director General of CSIR & Secretary DSIR, Dr (Mrs) N Kalaiselvi, visited CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-

NIO), Goa, in the last week of January 2024. The Director, Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh welcomed DG Dr N Kalaiselvi and also apprised



her about the major contributions of CSIR-NIO in the fields of science and research, such as identification of a mine-site for deep-sea minerals in the Indian Ocean, geophysical studies for exploring the gas hydrates from the seabed, as well as the services offered by CSIR-NIO towards the industry and society in terms of marine pollution, biotechnological research and EIA studies. She interacted with the scientific community during her visit, especially the recruits.

On 28 January 2024, DG CSIR launched C-Bot, NIO's technology and keenly monitored its track as it did its manoeuvres in the water column. DG was enthusiastic about understanding the coral ecosystem near Grand Island and even dived to assess its health. On 29 January, she inaugurated the state-of-the-art Clean laboratory at NIO for conducting metal-free experiments, a display site hosting Antiquities from the Seas, and an LED wall display depicting the various research activities NIO undertakes towards its mission of 'Understanding the seas to benefit society'. She also laid the foundation stone of the Research Hostel and Technology Development & Innovation Centre.

DG CSIR, Dr Kalaiselvi addressed the staff of NIO and complimented institute's endeavours by saying that the

country will celebrate and realise the impact made by NIO. She noted that NIO is the mother organisation to many oceanographic institutes, thus, we will have challenges as the more the legacy, the more the expectation to deliver. She mentioned that as the country is now going through understanding the happenings on earth, space and under the seas, NIO's role is important with its real-time data, which will help the country and the globe. She spoke on the global efforts towards climate-related issues and stressed a consorted effort to form a scientific chain to give a timely solution.

She emphasised that since at NIO, different branches of science contribute to the oceanographic study, be it metallurgy, biology, chemistry or archaeology, the scientists should work towards making NIO indispensable and that this must be the vision and mission of every staff member at NIO.

She mentioned the visionary leaders who established DSIR and further CSIR and how they envisioned the industrial revolution within the country.

DG CSIR, made a special mention about the Director, Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh, able guidance, leading the institute for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term and complimented his management and leadership qualities and was hopeful that the work done at NIO benefits the country.

*DG CSIR, Dr Kalaiselvi, complimented institute's endeavours by saying that the country will celebrate and realise the impact made by NIO. She noted that NIO is the mother organisation to many oceanographic institutes, thus, we will have challenges as the more the legacy, the more the expectation to deliver.*



C-Bot by CSIR-NIO



Dr Kalaiselvi inaugurating the screen display at CSIR-NIO

*Dr Kalaiselvi concluded by requesting the staff to “Feel proud to be a part of the CSIR Family.”*

She further stated that the Govt of India is always very supportive towards CSIR and provides the necessary funding for all scientific research and technology in the country. She emphasised that with the freedom given by CSIR, the scientific fraternity must demonstrate unity and work for the benefit of society, working towards technology and innovations for the use and benefit of society. She mentioned many examples of how society trusts and believes that CSIR is one of the primary institutes, and so is NIO.

She stated that we should take ownership in all good times, difficult times, and problems faced by the country by participating and demonstrating, and then the world will celebrate. Thus, working to make India Atmanirbhar by

realising the country’s requirements and working with dedication towards its goals.

She concluded by requesting the staff to “Feel proud to be a part of the CSIR Family.”

The DG CSIR, Dr Kalaiselvi and Director CSIR-NIO, Prof Sunil Kumar Singh, interacted with the media during a press conference organised at the institute on the Role of CSIR in contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat and the launch of C-Bot, NIO’s latest technology. During the press conference the DG answered the press on the role of CSIR and NIO in contributing to society. She clearly emphasised that CSIR is one of the premier organisations in the country, moving hand in hand to meet the needs of the country and its people.

## CSIR-NIO Celebrates 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day with Public Engagement

*CSIR-NIO Celebrated 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day with Public Engagement, Hon’ble CM of Goa delivered Foundation Day lecture, lauded CSIR-NIO for supporting Goa’s initiatives in strengthening marine sector-oriented research.*

CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), Goa, commemorated its 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 1 January 2024. The whole

event was filled with educational opportunities and insightful discussions, culminating in an illuminating lecture by the



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr Pramod Sawant.

The highlight of the evening was the Foundation Day Lecture, delivered by Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant at the CSIR-NIO Auditorium. Dr Sawant focused on the vital intersection of "Oceanography and Society," highlighting the profound impact of ocean sciences on our lives and the environment. He praised CSIR-NIO for its exceptional contributions to the field, lauding the institute's efforts in addressing environmental issues and supporting Goa's initiatives in strengthening marine sector-oriented research.

Dr Sawant also expressed his anticipation for CSIR-NIO's forthcoming 60<sup>th</sup> year celebrations and underscored the institute's increased responsibilities in disseminating scientific knowledge among students across Goa and beyond state boundaries. Emphasising the importance of engaging high school students in scientific programmes, he advocated for inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in science and oceanography.

Dr Sawant reiterated NIO's pivotal role as a premier institute and a guiding force for the nation.

An Open Day was also organised for visitors on 1 January 2024, to explore the wonders of oceanographic research. Guests were treated to an array of engaging exhibits, including a marine aquarium, models of research vessels, demonstrations of oceanographic research instruments, and displays featuring specimens of marine minerals abundant in metals such as iron, manganese, copper, nickel, and cobalt. Additionally, artifacts discovered by divers from ancient shipwrecks and marine archaeological sites were on view, captivating visitors with insights into maritime history.

Earlier, Director of CSIR-NIO, Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh, welcomed and commenced the event. was commenced by the. Concluding the programme, Dr Sanil Kumar, Chief Scientist and Chairman of the event, presented the vote of thanks.

-----  
Adapted from PIB

*Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa, praised CSIR-NIO for its exceptional contributions to the field, lauding the institute's efforts in addressing environmental issues and supporting Goa's initiatives in strengthening marine sector-oriented research.*

**Form IV****Statement about ownership and other particulars about the periodical  
CSIR News**

FORM IV (See Rule 8)

<b>1. Place of Publication</b>	New Delhi	
<b>2. Periodicity of Publication</b>	Monthly	
<b>3. Printer's Name</b> Mukesh Ambadas Pund	<b>Nationality</b> Indian	<b>Address</b> CSIR-NIScPR, Dr KS Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110012
<b>4. Publisher's Name</b> Mukesh Ambadas Pund	<b>Nationality</b> Indian	<b>Address</b> CSIR-NIScPR, Dr KS Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110012
<b>5. Editor's Name</b> Sonali Nagar	<b>Nationality</b> Indian	<b>Address</b> CSIR-NIScPR, Dr KS Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110012
<b>6. Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners of share holders holding more than one per cent of the total capital</b>	A Publication of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	
<b>7. I, Mukesh Ambadas Pund, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.</b>		
Dated: 1-3-2024 Sd/- Mukesh Ambadas Pund		

**Printed and Published by****Mukesh Ambadas Pund on behalf of CSIR-National Institute of Science  
Communication and Policy Research**

Dr KS Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110 012

**Phone:** 011-25843130**Editor:** Sonali Nagar**Design:** Abhinav Raj; **Production:** Ashwani Kumar Brahmi**E-mail:** sonalinagar@niscpr.res.in**Website:** <https://niscpr.res.in>**Please direct all Subscription-related queries to:**Sales & Distribution Officer, NIScPR; **E-mail:** sales@niscpr.res.in**Phone:** 91-11-25846301-07, **Extn:** 288**Annual Subscription:** ₹750; **Single Copy:** ₹75.00