

CSIR IN MEDIA



CSIR

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Dr. Jitendra Singh addresses the International Women's Day celebration of CSIR

CSIR

09th March , 2023



To mark the International Women's Day, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today announced an exclusive women's portal for research grants and funds. The portal will become functional with effect from 1st of April.

The Minister was addressing the International Women's Day celebration programme organized by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) here. He informed that the Council CSIR has decided to start exclusive Research Grants for Women Scientists under CSIR-ASPIRE and an exclusive portal in this regard will be available from April 1, 2023. The Special Call inviting proposals from Women Scientists will open the same day.

Pertinent to mention that the proposal for inviting research grant proposals from Women Scientists under Extramural Research Scheme, was approved during the 200th meeting of the Governing Body of CSIR on 17th December, 2022 under the chairmanship of Dr Jitendra Singh. Only women scientists across the country will be eligible to apply for research grants to carry out R&D in major disciplines of science and engineering viz Life Sciences, Chemical

Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering Sciences and inter/trans disciplinary sciences. The funds will be provided for staff (JRF/SRF/RA), contingency and minor equipment. The total budget of a research proposal including research fellow's stipend should generally not exceed the limit of 25-30 lacs.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, this initiative is aligned to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's initiative to empower women and promote 'Nari Shakti' in the country. "As we move towards Amrit Kal, this is another visionary step towards the Prime Minister Modi's efforts to put Nari Shakti at the forefront of India's development journey," he said.

CSIR has been taking several initiatives towards Women empowerment, including 15% discount on CSIR technologies for women entrepreneurs offered by CSIR- Central Leather Research Institute and a slew of training programmes across the whole spectrum of CSIR domain. In August last year, for the first time in the history of CSIR, senior electrochemical scientist Ms. Nallathamby Kalaiselvi became the first woman Director General to head the premier scientific R&D body that constitutes 38 research institutes across the country.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Modi considers women-led development a central dimension of India's progress and necessary for strengthening India.

"In the last nine years, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has launched numerous welfare schemes that have aimed to empower women and make them lead India's development journey. His efforts are enabling women to overcome social barriers and fulfil their aspirations," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said 68% of 2 crore PM Awas-Gramin beneficiaries are women and over 23 crore MUDRA loans have been granted to Women beneficiaries. For the first time, sex ratio in India has improved to 1,020 women per 1,000 men, according to the NFHS-5 survey, he said.

"PM Modi has made unshackling women and freeing them from the drudgery of everyday life

a key objective of policy making. Every flagship welfare scheme launched by the Modi government has improved the lives of women across the country,” he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, in the last 9 years, there has been a massive increase in Women Police Personnel. In 2018, PM Modi announced a landmark decision to allow Permanent Commission for Women in the Armed Forces. There are more than 10,000 Women Officers serving in the Armed Forces, the majority in the Medical Services.

“Now Women are breaking the glass ceiling in every sphere. Only recently, the Indian Air Force posted Group Captain Shaliza Dhami as the first woman officer to command a missile squadron in the Western sector facing Pakistan. Women CRPF combatants have been inducted into the elite anti-Maoist COBRA Unit. Women officers have also started taking command of various Army units. The Navy has also started inducting Women Officers on frontline warships,” he said.



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The Minister launches the “One Week One Lab” event at CSIR-IICT (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology) in Hyderabad

CSIR-IICT

09th March , 2023



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said in Hyderabad that the Industry should be ready to take up the responsibility of being equal stakeholder in Start-Ups, right from the moment the project is conceived. This, he said, is essential not only for sustaining the Start-Ups in the long run by linking them with livelihood, but also for bringing about value addition to the Indian Industry as per the contemporary global benchmarks.

Addressing an exclusive session of Industrialists, Start-Ups and Innovators at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) here and earlier during over one-hour one-to-one interaction with representatives of some of the leading Industrialist Houses, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Hyderabad is known to be a destination of Health and Wealth as well as the pharma capital of the region. Therefore, the specialized and skilled manpower developed by the IICT should find a naturally integral place in the pharma and biotech industry of Hyderabad in particular and India in general, he added.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, for the first time after several

decades, we have a political leadership and a ruling dispensation which are amenable to abandon the obsolete regulations of the past and to bring in enabling reforms for ease of Start-Ups as well as ease of business. He advised the Industry leaders to set up an institutionalized mechanism and come forth with precise and concrete proposals for doing away with unwarranted regulations and options to avoid procedural delays.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Hyderabad Pharma City (HPC) under making is the world's largest integrated cluster in Hyderabad for pharmaceutical industries with thrust on R&D and manufacturing. He said, the cluster has been recognized as National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) by Government of India, given its national and international importance. Developed at international standards, Hyderabad Pharma City will harness the true value of symbiotic co-existence across pharmaceutical value chain, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, each of the 37 CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) Labs spread across the country is dedicated to a different exclusive area of work and the ongoing "One Week, One Lab" campaign is offering an opportunity to each one of them to showcase the work being done by it so that others can avail of it and stakeholders learn about it. He said, keeping in tune with the transformations, the new tagline for CSIR is - "CSIR-The Innovation Engine of India". With a pool of over 4,500 scientists, CSIR can reorient and revitalize to emerge as Global Centres of Innovations in the Amrit Kaal, the Minister emphasised.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, with the active and constant support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for all scientific endeavors since May 2014, India is scaling new heights each day in Science, Technology, Innovation (STI) eco-system. He said, out of 130 countries, we were at number 81 in the Global Innovation Index till 2015, but we have jumped to 40th position in 2022. Today India is among the top three countries in the world in terms of PhDs and we are among the top three countries in the world in terms of start-up ecosystem", the Minister reiterated. Addressing the Heads of academic and research institutes, Leaders from various industries (pharma, biotech, agro, power), Scientists, Staff, Students and general public, Dr

Jitendra Singh said, we are celebrating International Women's day tomorrow and "I am very happy to see that now woman Director General, Dr. Kalaiselvi heading the CSIR for which we waited for 8 decades". Talking about CSIR-IICT, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the institute is almost 80 years of its formation, vigorously pursued basic as well as translational research, and is working towards sustainable development goals. He added that CSIR-IICT excelled in both basic and applied research areas of chemistry & chemical technologies. He also informed that the institute houses state-of-art pilot plant facilities to undertake industrial projects in a "concept to commercialization" mode.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the recent launch of the Hydrazine Hydrate plant by GACL by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is based on the novel technology developed at CSIR-IICT. He said, the Anaerobic Gas Lift Reactor (AGR) Technology-based plant set up at Bowenpally market yard was mentioned by Prime Minister in his popular monthly radio program "Maan Ki Baat".

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that CSIR-IICT developed several technologies for life saving generic drugs like the development of indigenous technology for AZT required in management of AIDS that brought down the cost of the drug in the world market. Anti-viral drugs and vaccine adjuvant for Caixin developed by the institute played a pivotal role in limiting the spread of COVID-19 virus. CSIR-IICT partnered with the industry during the pandemic to deliver solutions to common people at the shortest time, the Minister informed.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the institute's Fluoro & Agro Chemicals Department is the first of its kind in a national laboratory that was set up to address the Montreal Protocol resolutions in 1990, when CSIR-IICT was assigned the responsibility to develop indigenous and internationally competent technologies for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which are considered as well recommended substitutes for ozone depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

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Mangaluru: CSIR –IICT signs Research pact with MRPL

CSIR-IICT

09th March , 2023



Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) and Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, (IICT) a premier CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) lab under Ministry of Science and Technology entered into a Master Research Alliance Agreement for collaborative research on March 7 at Hyderabad in presence of Dr Jitendra Singh, minister of state (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology.

Sanjay Varma, director (Refinery) MRPL, Dr D Srinivasa Reddy, director, CSIR-IICT, other eminent scientists and industry leaders were also present on the occasion. Sathyanarayana H C Group general manager (Technical Services), MRPL and Dr D Shailaja, chair, Business Development Research Management (BDRM), IICT signed the Master Research Alliance Agreement.

Under this Master Research Alliance Agreement, MRPL and IICT will work towards a number of collaborative R&D areas such as valorization of low value refinery streams, CO₂ capture. This partnership is in line with India's ambitious environmental plans and its Panchamrita promises to the world, which include achieving Net Zero by the year 2070, reducing the country's carbon intensity and emissions and promoting clean energy. MRPL is

committed to developing competitive indigenous technologies for carbon capture and utilization, which will contribute towards achieving these promises and promoting sustainable development.

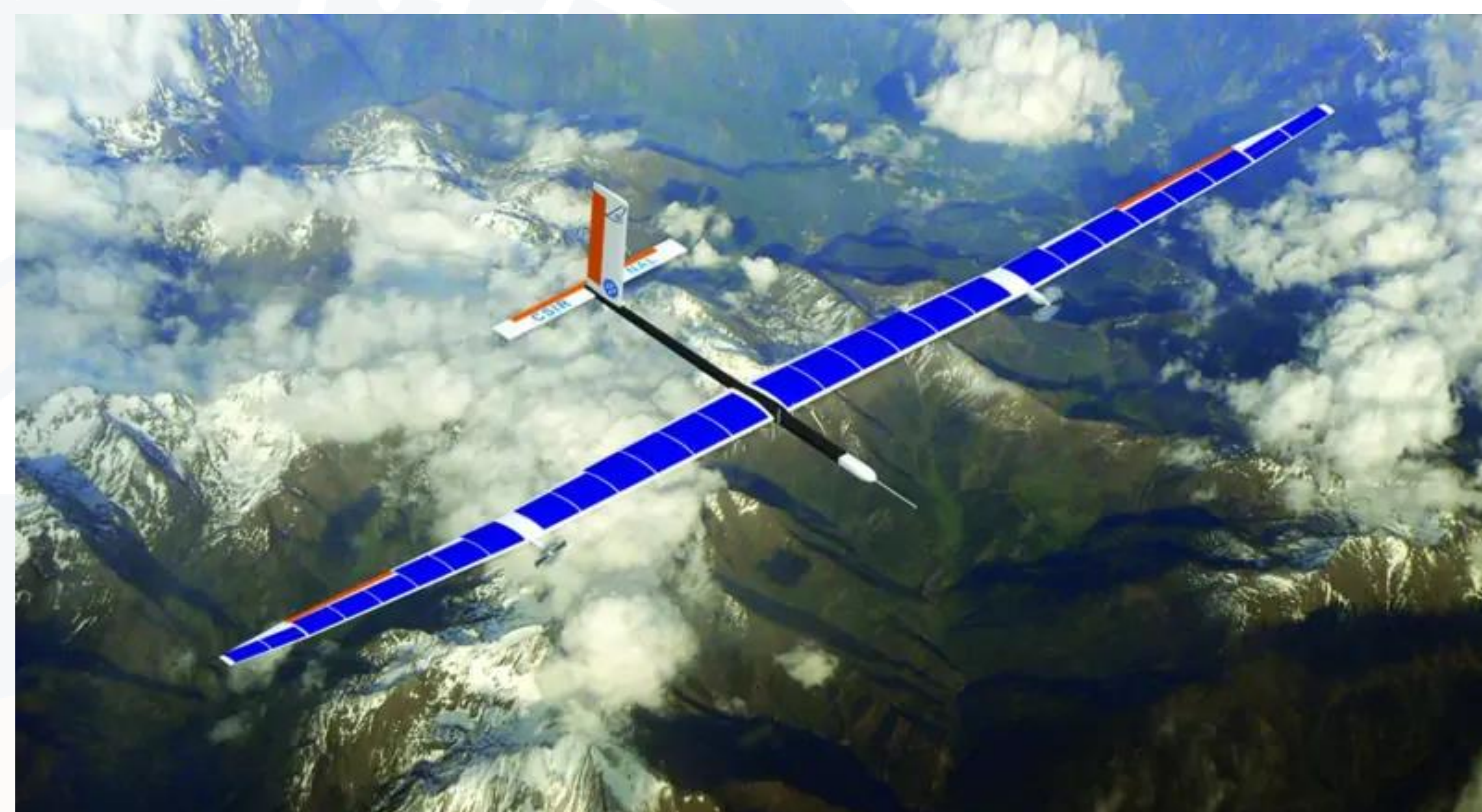
MRPL has taken major steps in the domain of sustainable fuel production. It is setting up feed-agnostic 2G ethanol plant of 60 KLPD capacity and is in the process of setting-up first in the country 20 KLPD bio-ATF plant integrated with the refinery. MRPL has recently signed a MOU with ministry of defence, Government of India for setting up Bio-ATF plant in its refinery complex.

India's first High Altitude Platform will be unveiled by NAL in May

CSIR-NAL

10th March , 2023

The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) is set to launch India's first High Altitude Platform (HAP) in May. The CSIR-associated institution will first try with the prototype device which will fly up to a range of around 3 km. The object is seen as a more evolved version of a drone that can fly up to the range of 18-20 km from the ground.



High Altitude Platform has a lot of applications, especially in communication like wireless access and emergency communication. The device can also help security agencies to keep a tight vigil at borders and prevent infiltrations and smuggling. The local administration can also use the device to check pollution and take a stock of development activities in the area.

The scientific agency informed that the full-fledged version of the HAP will be ready in around two-three years. As the air at the higher altitude is thin, the HAP is a lightweight device that will be powered by solar energy. The device also stores energy to work during the night and carries an ultra-high-energy dense battery to serve the storage purpose. The battery comprises high-end lithium-ion batteries with silicon nanowire electrodes.

The device is sometimes also called Low Altitude Pseudo satellite and the experts have pointed out that, a full-fledged HAP can provide various services that satellites provide at a much cheaper budget.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has also showcased an interest in building a High Altitude Platform (HAP). The organization is also collaborating with startups like NewSpace

Research and Technologies and has allocated INR 42 crore to develop a prototype of HAP.

HAPs are seen as a promising technology for providing broadband internet access to remote areas, supporting disaster response efforts, and monitoring the environment. However, there are also concerns about the safety and security of these platforms, as well as their potential impact on the aviation industry and the environment.

The full-fledged HAP would be ready in 2-3 years. Once India is HAP-ready, there are plenty of uses in waiting. Potential applications include guarding against external threats (border surveillance), piracy, smuggling, irregular migration, and pollution; search and rescue operations; wireless access; emergency communications; and rural communications.

A HAP would typically be stationed in the upper atmosphere for several months; since it can't carry its fuel, the energy must come from solar power. The solar panels must be flexible enough to adhere to the wings. They must also be high-efficiency to be able to generate enough power to not only run equipment such as control systems and the payload but also store enough for night-time. This would require carrying onboard an ultra-high-energy dense battery, which comprises high-end lithium-ion batteries with silicon nanowire electrodes.

CFTRI Research Scholar Bags Prize

CSIR-CFTRI

07th March , 2023

B. Rohini, a Doctoral research scholar of Food Engineering Department at the Mysuru-based CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), has won third prize under Ph.D category in the 'Augmenting writing skills for articulating research (AWSAR)' award.



AWSAR is a National level competition for Popular Science story writing organised at the National level by the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) division of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India under the coordination of VigyanPrasar, an autonomous institution of DST. It is conducted every year by DST to promote scientific writing among young researchers across the country.

The article written by Rohini has been bestowed the third best scientific writing and included a cash prize of Rs.25,000. She received the prize from Dr.Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space and Vice-President,CSIR, at the National Science Day celebrations held on Feb. 28 at VigyanBhavan, New Delhi.

Dr. K. VijayaRaghavan, former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt. of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor, Dr. M. Mohanty, Head NCSTC, and Dr. S. Chandrashekhar, Secretary, DST, were also present during the award ceremony.

She was awarded for her research writing titled “Nature’s Imitation: A Pollution-free Solution for the Ignition” which addresses the issue of agricultural waste (such as corn cob) burning in an open field causing air pollution by emission of greenhouse gases. Her research work involves the utilisation of this waste to obtain zero-calorie sweetener by adopting bio-mimic and environmentally friendly approach.

Rohini is currently pursuing research work for her Doctoral degree form Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR), under the guidance of Dr. H. UmeshHebbar, Chief Scientist & Head, Food Engineering Department, CSIR-CFTRI.

Workshop By CSIR-NIScPR To Promote Science Communication In Assamese

CSIR-NIScPR, NEIST

09th March , 2023

Promoting science communication in Indian languages is important to break the language barrier and make the process inclusive. With an aim to promote science communication activities in Assamese, CSIR- National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) organised a workshop on ‘Engaging and creative ways of communicating science in Assamese: Popular stories, videos, podcasts and social media’ on 6th March, 2023. The major aim of the workshop was to train the budding science communicators and create a network of communicators to strengthen science communication activities in Assamese. The workshop was conducted in hybrid mode.

The workshop began with an introduction by Dr Paramananda Barman, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, which outlined the importance of communicating science in Indian languages and the use of modern platforms like social media in addition to popular science writing.

Prof Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, welcomed the experts and participants joining the session. In her address, Prof Aggarwal elaborated the importance of communicating science in regional languages and the benefits of having workshops that focus on a specific language such as Assamese. She also described the role of CSIR-NIScPR and the mission SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge) in providing a platform for communicating the traditional knowledge of India in 16 regional languages including Assamese. Prof Aggarwal also mentioned CSIR-NIScPR’s collaboration with CSIR-NEIST to promote science communication in Assamese.

Dr Bornali Sarma, University of Delhi, delivered a lecture on “Popularisation of Science Communication in Assamese Language: Evolution-Efforts-Effects”, which covered the basics of science communication, the need for science communication and the ongoing efforts to communicate science in Assamese.

Subhra Priyadarshini, Chief Editor, Nature India, discussed the growth of new tools and platforms such as social media and AI to communicate science. However, she also emphasised the importance of science writing as a foundation. She also pointed out how the use of regional language to communicate science can make the content more relatable to the audience and how efforts such as translations can be used to take these local stories to a global audience.

The Technical Session I of the workshop was on “Science Filmmaking” and included a talk by Shri Vivek Kannadi, Science Media Centre, IISER Pune, on the importance of a visual medium like film to communicate science. He also covered important aspects of filmmaking such as the script and how it should be structured.

The Technical Session II on “Popular Science Writing” included talks by leading Assamese science communicators Shri Abhijit Sarma Barua, Dr Dinesh Chandra Goswami and Dr Mantu Bhuyan. Abhijit Sharma Barua outlined the various strategies of science communication to attract readers. He highlighted the key points for writing a popular science article and added examples of how science comics, scitoons and science fiction writing can be effective in attracting science readers as well as disseminating scientific findings to a lay audience. Dr Dinesh Chandra Goswami discussed the need of science communication in light of recent scientific advancements such as genetically modified crops, among others. He also noted the significance of science communication in fostering a scientific mindset in the common people and winning over the public’s confidence in scientific advancements. Dr Goswami also mentioned the value of skill development in helping science communicators to overcome challenges. Dr Mantu Bhuyan emphasised the importance accuracy and relevance to the current developments in science writing and used the example of the book Silent Spring by Rachel Carson which raised awareness about DDT and its effect on the environment.

The Technical Session III on “Social media, Reels, Shorts and Podcasts for SciComm” included talks by Dr H S Sudhira, Director, Gubbi labs, on “Social Media for Science Communication”, and Dr Charu Lata, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR and Dr Paramananda Barman on “Reels, Shorts and Podcast: SVASTIK as a case study”. Dr H S Sudhira spoke about the

benefits and importance of social media for scientists and how having a good online footprint can be helpful in reaching a wider audience. Dr Charu Lata provided glimpses of SVASTIK (a project on disseminating scientifically validated traditional knowledge), its objective, and its footfall in the digital space. Dr Paramananda Barman and team members demonstrated the creation of digital content such as infographics, videos, and podcasts using free tools available online.

The technical sessions were followed by a discussion with Shri Hasan Jawaid Khan, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR and Editor, Science Reporter and the participants on the various aspects of science communication and saw some interesting questions from the participants on the challenges of creative writing and science communication.

The Valedictory Session included remarks from Dr Sujit Bhattacharya, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, Dr Kalyani Medhi, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEIST, and Shri Madhurjya Saikia, CSIR-NEIST, on the various topics discussed during the course of the workshop followed by a vote of thanks by Dr Manish Mohan Gore, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR.

Authorities sitting on key CSIR-NIIST report on frequent fires at Brahmapuram

CSIR-NIIST

07th March , 2023

A key recommendation by the CSIR-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) to carry out a detailed study on food chain contamination triggered by frequent fires at the dumping yard of the Kochi Corporation at Brahmapuram has been gathering dust since 2019 for want of follow-up action.

The Environment Technology Division of the CSIR-NIIST in Thiruvananthapuram, which had studied two major fire incidents in February 2019 and 2020, had found that the average dioxin levels in the ambient air after the fire were higher by up to 50 times than the reference and field blank data.

In its reports submitted to the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (PCB), scientists had recommended an in-depth study on soil, sediment, water, and air in the buffer zone of the dumping yard as “it is evident that the surrounding environment would have been contaminated with higher levels of dioxins and furans.”

“An extremely important aspect to be addressed is the assessment of ingestion exposure via food chain, which was recommended in the 2019 report as well. More than 90% of human exposure to dioxins and furans occur via food chain, especially through animal origin food samples due to the highly lipophilic nature of these contaminants. The decade-old history of fire breakout incidents must have resulted in the contamination of nearby vegetation and human settlement areas,” according to the final report submitted by the agency in December 2021 after investigating the major fire outbreak at the site in February 2020.

The report said the contamination would definitely result in exposure to free ranging hens, cows and other animals grazing in the area, besides impacting the fish population in nearby streams or ponds. Human exposure mainly occurs through the consumption of bio-magnified

animal origin products like egg, milk, fish, and meat, it said.

The NIIST had also recommended setting up a modern waste treatment plant to manage the incoming waste in its reports prepared after the fire in 2019 and 2020. While recommending biomining to separate combustible and inert material in a phased manner, the agency had made it clear that the contaminated ash separated during biomining should be removed to sanitary landfill. The PCB authorities, who failed to initiate follow-up action on the recommendations, said that they had asked the NIIST to study the emissions five days after the latest fire on March 2.

“TECHNO-TRAIN : Training Wshgs With Csir-immt’s Rural Technologies For Women Empowerment” Conducted On 6th March In CSIR-IMMT

CSIR-IMMT

06th March , 2023

In celebration of International Women’s Day, CSIR-Institute of Minerals & Materials Technology conducted a one-day training and demonstration program, Techno-Train, on relevant technologies for WSHGs, in association with the NGO Bijay Kalinga Bikash with its intervention program – TREE (Technologies for Rural Entrepreneurship and Empowerment), under the aegis of CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative. As part of our Scientific Social Responsibility, our laboratory developed a few products like disinfectant surface cleaner, herbal hand sanitizer, soap bar and handwash formulations that can be mass produced by Women’s Self Help Groups, and boost the State Government’s livelihood mission.

Total 20 women from Self Help Groups of different blocks of Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Kendrapada and Keonjhar districts across the state of Odisha have participated in this program. With the support and encouragement of Director, Dr. G.N.Sastry, the program was co-ordinated by Dr. Sony Pandey, and mentored by Dr. N.K. Dhal, Dr. L.D.Besra and Dr. Ashok Sahu. Ms. Nibedita Nayak, Odisha State Govt. Advisor, Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), Ms. Abha Mishra, Head of the Odisha Office of United Nations Development Program, and Prof. Yashodhara, Director NISWASS, addressed the gathering to encourage WSHGs to become self-reliant and gain financial freedom. They advised about the various government support programs, importance of gender equality, personal rights, psychological, social, and domestic issues faced by women. In a message to the WSHGs, CEO of ORMAS, Smt. Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, IAS, has extended her support in marketing their products.

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CSIR-CFTRI

08th March, 2023

'Women sacrificing careers for unpaid jobs'

At the International Women's Day celebrations in Mysuru, CFTRI Director Sridevi Annapurna Singh hails the contribution of women scientists to scientific discovery and innovation but says their achievements are often not given credit

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

CSIR-CFTRI Director Sridevi Annapurna Singh on Wednesday said it is sad that many women who study science do not continue with it as a career. The demanding years of career and home coincide and women often sacrifice their career for carrying out the unpaid jobs in the world that sadly go unnoticed. Of the 40 percent girl enrolment in schools, hardly 13-16 percent go on to a career in India, she stated.

Speaking at the International Women's Day celebrations organised at the institute, she said, despite facing numerous obstacles and barriers, women scientists have made remarkable contributions to scientific discovery and innovation. From Marie Curie, the pioneering physicist and chemist who discovered radioactivity, to Rosalind Franklin, the X-Ray crystallographer who made crucial contributions to the discovery of the structure of DNA, women scientists have played a vital role in advancing our



Nagamma, a farmer from H.D. Kote taluk, being felicitated by CSIR-CFTRI Director Sridevi Annapurna Singh at CFTRI in Mysuru on Wednesday on the occasion of International Women's Day. M.A. SRIRAM

understanding of the world around us, she explained.

However, the world does not credit women for their achievements. "It is said that Pierre Curie insisted that he would only accept the Nobel Prize if Marie Curie was announced as the co-winner. She was still not treated as an equal though and when the prizes were awarded, Henri Becquerel was given 70,000 gold francs while Marie and Pierre received a single sum of the same

amount to share," Dr Singh said, in her address.

"Although she never complained, the experience made it clear to Marie and everyone else that she was seen by many in her community as a little more than a lab assistant and that without Pierre as her advocate, she might have been a footnote in history," the CSIR-CFTRI director said.

Work with no credit

However, many other women were not given the

credit for their scientific contributions. Physicist Lise Meitner led ground breaking work on the discovery of nuclear fission, the splitting of an atomic nucleus into smaller nuclei. However, the discovery was acknowledged by the 1944 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, which was won by her male co-lead, Otto Hahn. Lise Meitner was nominated no less than 48 times by different people between 1937 and 1965 for prizes in Physics and Chemistry but she never got.

(She died in 1968 having never been awarded a Nobel).

Applauding Indian women, Dr. Singh said women in India in all spheres have had extraordinary success depending on which strata of society they belong to.

This year, the women's day event was marked by the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality."

Gender equality

Saying that women's day is also a day to raise awareness about gender equality and women's rights, she said celebrating women's day provides an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contributions of women in various fields and to inspire future generations of women to pursue their dreams and aspirations. It is also a day to acknowledge and address the challenges faced by women and to work towards creating a more equal and just world for all.

Bina Joe, Director, Centre for Hypertension and Precision Medicine, University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life

Sciences, United States, an alumnus of CSIR-CFTRI, who took part in the celebrations on virtual platform, spoke on "Celebrating the pursuit of happiness through womanhood" as the chief guest at the event.

On the occasion, Nagamma from H.D. Kote taluk, who is engaged in the conservation of traditional varieties of amaranth, millets and vegetables, was felicitated in recognition of her contributions. Ms. Nagamma has established a farmers' market in Mysuru and formed three women's groups. She is the leader at Norralakuppe community seed bank. Nagamma is a marginal farmer from Antharasanthe hobli in H.D. Kote taluk.

Ms. Nagamma has supported Sreenivas of Ramehalli to establish Amaranth Diversity Bank, which consists of 23 amaranth varieties and developed tuber recipes for popularising roots and tubers besides introducing drumstick pickle and recipes of other neglected crops. She is making efforts to set up a farmers' producer company.



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