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CSIR-NIScPR Celebrates its 2nd Foundation Day

CSIR-NIScPR

14th January, 2023



CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi celebrated its 2nd foundation on 13th January 2023. NIScPR is one the constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). CSIR-NIScPR came into existence on 14th January 2021 with the merger of two internationally acclaimed CSIR Institutions namely CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR) and National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS). Since then, CSIR-NIScPR has been able to direct its activities towards becoming a globally respected institution in the domain of Science Policy research and Science Communication, using the rich legacy spanning around 100 years and a robust inherent capabilities of erstwhile institutions. Through its efforts the new institution has taken big strides to promote Science, Technology & Innovation (ST&I) Policy Studies and Science Communication among diverse stakeholders and act as a bridge at the interface of science, technology, industry and society.

In the Foundation Day Function, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR discussed the strength and rich legacy of NIScPR in her welcome address. She further added, “We must keep on accelerating our activities to make those tangible, visible and fruitful to the society”.

Prof. B. N. Jagatap, Senior Professor, Department of Physics, IIT Bombay & Chairperson, Research Council, CSIR-NIScPR delivered the Foundation day lecture. He illustrated evolution of the Indian education system from English Education Act 1835 to National Education Policy 2020. His lecture was thought provoking as well as inspiring.

On this special occasion, a number of scientific publications were released. Special Issue of the Journal of Scientific & Industrial Research (JSIR) focused on 'Industry 4.0: A Way Forward for Self-Reliance and Sustainability' was released. TRL Assessment Bulletin, a book titled 'Science & Technology Quiz: Celebrating AzaadiKaAmritMahotsav', a Flip-book titled 'Treasure of Indian Traditions' was also released in presence of dignitaries of the function. The names of winners of the SVASTIK Photography Contest were announced on the occasion. This competition was organized in the year 2022.

During the Foundation Day Celebration, Ph.D. students of CSIR-NIScPR showcased their research and findings through the poster presentation. Dr. YogeshSuman, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR proposed the vote of thanks.

CSIR-NIScPR Organised National Brainstorming Meeting to Discuss Science Communication in 22 Indian Languages

CSIR-NIScPR

14th January, 2023



CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi organised a national level brainstorming meeting on science communication efforts in all 22 Indian languages on 10th January 2023. This meeting was organised in hybrid mode.

The brainstorming meeting started with a welcome address by Shri Hasan Jawaid Khan, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR. He expressed the gratitude towards all experts for joining this important meeting. He explained many efforts of science communication being made by CSIR-NIScPR and other organisations. He also addressed the importance of science communication in untouched languages, far flunged regions, undiscussed topics and media of communication for dissemination of science, and said still we have miles to go.

Further Dr. Manish Mohan Gore, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR introduced the agenda and outline of the brainstorming meeting. Dr. Gore is the Principal Investigator of the project focused on science communication in the Indian languages for CSIR-NIScPR. He discussed the status, achievements, challenges and possible solutions for communicating science in respective languages. The framework for developing popular science literature in Indian languages, particularly those that have comparatively less literature was also discussed by him.

In this brainstorming meeting, experts of science communication in all the 22 Indian languages (Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu) were invited and they discussed and suggested plans for appreciation, promotion, and incentives for the development of science communication and popular science literature in these languages. These 22 official languages are listed in 8th schedule of the Indian constitution.

This meeting was a part of the project of CSIR-NIScPR which is focused on the analysis of science communication in Indian languages. Agenda of the meeting was to bring together the science communication experts of different languages to discuss the current status of efforts & contributions in science communication along with popular science literature and contemporary key challenges for communicating science in all official Indian languages. A number of valuable recommendations received as the outcome of the meeting.

Dr. Paramananda Barman, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR moderated an Open session for discussion among the invited experts. Dr. Meher Wan, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR proposed the vote of thanks to the experts and all concerned at the end of the meeting. Project staff Ms. Niyati Singh and Shri Mohabbat Singh were also present in the brainstorming meeting.

CSIR-NEERI organized IISF outreach programme

CSIR-NEERI

13th January, 2023

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), in association with Vigyan Bharati, organized a Public Outreach Programme on 13 January 2023 as a precursor event of India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022. Prof. Chetan S Solanki, Professor, IIT-Bombay, Founder, Energy Swaraj Foundation and Brand Ambassador Solar



Energy M P was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr. Atul N. Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI, Dr. Arvind C. Ranade, National Secretary, Vigyan Bharati, Shri Naresh Chafekar, Secretary, Vigyan Bharati, Vidarbha Pradesh Mandal, and Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar, Chief Scientist and Head, Energy Resource and Management Division, CSIR-NEERI were also present on this occasion.

The Chief Guest Prof. Solanki delivered the lecture on '5-Point Understanding of Climate Change and Corrective Actions' in the NEERI Auditorium. He said that energy literacy training is the need of the hour for climate change mitigation. He cautioned that we are on the verge of catastrophic climate change if earth's temperature rises to 1.5 degree Celsius. The climate is not changing, it has already changed, he added. He mentioned that every year climate change is worsening, national and international efforts to mitigate it are not proving enough. He pointed out that over 80% of the world's energy requirements are fulfilled through use of carbon-based fuels like Coal, Oil and Gas. These fuels are made from carbon and use of these fuels in the form of petrol, diesel, LPG, cement, materials, products results in carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions. These greenhouse gases remain in Atmosphere for 200-300 years and cause heating of the planet which is ultimately causing the change in

Climate, he added. He speculated that as per the world' Climate Clock, approximately 6 years are left before the global temperature touches the 1.5°C mark. He urged every individual to act now towards mitigation of climate change.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Arvind Ranade, National Secretary, Vigyan Bharti (VIBHA) gave an overview on the work carried out VIBHA and objective of the India International Science Festival (IISF-2022). Shri Naresh Chafekar, Secretary, Vigyan Bharati, Vidarbha Pradesh Mandal briefed about the different programs to be organized during the IISF-2022. Dr. Vaidya in his welcome address emphasized the need to ensure that science and technology reach the masses. IISF has shown us a way to promote science & technology (S&T) and demonstrate how S &T can lead India towards a developed nation.

Various programmes were organised to mark this occasion including competitions for students of schools, theme based briefing and practical demonstrations at CSIR-NEERI Laboratories, scientist-student interaction, etc. The quiz competition was organised for the students of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Vayusena Nagar, Nagpur under the Jigyasa, student-scientist connect programme. Vigyan Bharati also conducted the Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan Pariksha for the students of 6-11 standards. The prizes were given away to the winning students on this occasion. Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar, Chief Scientist and Head, Energy Resource and Management Division, CSIR-NEERI proposed the vote of thanks.

NML ignites young mind with 'Jigyasa'

CSIR-NML

13th January, 2023

A group of sixty students from the St. Joseph High School, Golmuri, Jamshedpur accompanied by two teachers, Vidya Murty and Rajesh Thakur visited the CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory on Thursday and interacted with scientists and research scholars this morning under the aegis of CSIR - jigyasa programme. The objective of the program is to provide exposure to a research environment and simultaneously motivate science among school students and further pursue a career in the science stream. The students were thrilled to visit the laboratory and interact with the working group.

The aim of organizing this laboratory visit was to create interest in scientific innovation and to encourage the participation of students in developing innovative scientific content on a virtual platform for the Jigyasa Virtual Laboratory project. Mita Tarafder, chief scientist & head, KRIT Division, CSIR-NML, and the Project Leader of the CSIR Jigyasa Virtual Laboratory project delivered the welcome address. In her address, she briefly talked about CSIR and the R&D and support facilities at NML, gave an insight into learning by knowing and learning by doing, and encouraged students to think from a practical point of view.

Dr. Aniket Dutt, Project Scientist from the KRIT Division team gave a short presentation on the CSIR-Jigyasa portal. The team helped the students and teachers who showed interest to subscribe to the Youtube channel of the CSIR-NML Jigyasa program. The organizing team expressed their gratitude to the Director of CSIR-NML for permitting them to conduct this program. The day-long program included a visit to some research laboratories, like Asia's second largest creep testing facilities working under the materials testing and evaluation division, workshops and NML Museum. The students and teachers were very happy with the overall experience.

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CLRI integrating natural fabrics with leather

■ Staff Reporter

VARIOUS institutes function under the umbrella of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). One of them, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), has been working on integrating natural fabrics with leather for making amalgamated products. In fact, its research is helping the local artisans in different parts of India.

CLRI has developed several interesting technologies and has trained local artisans in them. Some of the amalgamated products made using CLRI's research are purses combining banana fibre with leather, leather belt made using fish skin, use of chicken feet skin as potential raw material for leather industry to make exotic leather and products. Some of these products were showcased at the 'Pride of India' exhibition during the recently concluded 108th Indian Science Congress.

Dr Indrasis Das, Scientist, Environmental Engineering Department, CLRI, told 'The Hitavada' that CLRI only developed technologies after research. Later, the local artisans in various parts of the country are trained so that they can be empowered to make the amalgamated products. According to Dr Das, the amalgamated products made by way of integrating natural fabrics with leather fetched more value in market and also enhanced quality of products like purses, belts, shoes, footwear etc.

The CLRI came up with the idea of amalgamating banana fibre with leather as it found that there was lack of availability of good quality leathers and growing demand for products. This situation prompt-



Dr Indrasis Das, Scientist, Environmental Engineering Department, CLRI, informing a lady about the amalgamated products for which technology has been developed by CLRI.

ed the researchers to find alternative materials or to partially substitute the use of leather in products. They started scientifically studying the compatibility of various natural fabrics and design various leather lifestyle accessories based on market need. CLRI conducted some studies to find suitability of natural fabrics for making amalgamated products by combining with leather. This led to integrating banana fibres obtained from banana plant's pseudostem sheath, with leather.

Sustainability has become a great challenge for leather industry due to a variety of factors including high cost, insufficient supply, environmental issues, but growing demand for products. Already, leather is reserved for exclusive leather products and synthetic leather is being used in products. In such a situation, CLRI researchers thought of amalgamating leather with natural fabrics for making lifestyle products, as a

possible alternative.

Taking the idea further, chicken feet skin has been identified and screened as potential raw material for leather industry to make exotic leather products. Chicken feet skin is a by-product of poultry and is cost-effective.

CLRI has developed technology to process leathers from chicken feet skins with required properties. The technology has been successfully commercialised, albeit to a limited extent. As per the estimate, approximately 2 sq ft of leather panel can be produced from 1 kg of chicken feet skin. The processing of this leather takes seven working days, and panel-making takes two days. This is cost-effective as chicken feet leather panel costs around Rs 100/- to Rs 150/- per sq ft.

Through all these, and other initiatives, CLRI is contributing its bit in empowering local artisans and giving a boost to their participation in economy, said Dr Das.

CSIR-NEIST

12th January, 2023

'CSIR Floriculture Mission aims to conserve, promote indigenous orchid species'

IMPHAL, Jan 11

A naturally ventilated polyhouse for floriculture was inaugurated today at Mongjam Mamang Leikai Chingkhong in Imphal East district.

The polyhouse was established by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Jorhat, Branch Laboratory Lamphelpat, Imphal as a part of CSIR Floriculture Mission, said a press release by the Apunba Imagi Machasing (AIMS).

Dr H Birkumar Singh, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEIST, Lamphelpat inaugurated the polyhouse in the presence of Mayanglambam Khelendro Singh, AIMS president and Dr Homen Thangjam, faculty member of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University.

Dr H Birkumar Singh stated, "The objective of the mission is conservation and promotion of indigenous or-



chid species of Manipur. We expect the beneficiaries of the polyhouse to collect and grow indigenous orchid species of Manipur". Further, he added that when the Government of India undertakes any scheme, it examines the potential of the prospective beneficiary, feasibility of the space where the scheme shall be implemented and finally, the prospect of further expansion.

He said, "I am glad to know that Thongam Joysana has been already working for years in bee-keeping, producing organic honey. Moreover, he has been maintaining a

nursery for flowers. In appreciation of his sincerity, work culture and dedication, we decided to provide him this polyhouse".

Dr Homen Thangjam while speaking at the occasion expressed his gratitude to CSIR-NEIST for such a noble cause. He added that on account of climate change various plant species are disappearing from the face of earth.

Providing polyhouses to deserving beneficiaries shall go a long way to conserve and promote exotic species of Manipur's orchids. He also added that such a venture also

assures avenues for revenue generation to several unemployed educated youths of Manipur,

Mayanglambam Khelendro Singh maintained that Thongam Joysana has been living in this isolated hamlet along with his young wife and three kids for more than 10 years tending to bees and undertaking farming to sustain the family. He said, "Of all the many youths I have known, I have never come across such a brave and hard-working person like Joysana. He is someone who does not lose heart in the face of adversity and poverty".

After the inaugural function, Dr Birkumar Singh also presented to Joysana one bag of urea, one bag of SSP, one bag of MOP, wet coco peat, nursery poly bags, hose pipe, one battery operated spray, garden tools including khurpi, one five-litre water tank, one hedge cutter, one spade, one secateur and one bill hook and one roll of aluminium wire, added the release.

CSIR-CBRI

CBRI scientists plan makeshift houses that can last 25 years

Roorkee: Scientists at the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, who have been conducting damage and risk assessment of impacted houses in Joshimath, said they'd submit their proposal for planning, design, building material and other aspects of makeshift houses for "sustainable rehabilitation" of the residents affected by land subsidence within a week, reports **Tapan Susheel**.

The administration is meanwhile finalising the land where the pre-fabricated structures will come up for accommodating the affected people. "Our team has done a physical survey of the affected area and by next week, we will send a propos-

al for the makeshift houses, which will be constructed through vendors," said Ajay Chourasia, chief scientist (structure) at CBRI.

The houses would be safe for seismic zone 5 (highest level of seismicity) and will have a service life of 25 years, the scientists said. For now, 1-BHK and 2-BHK accommodation and a community dormitory have been designed.

The proposed pre-fabricated houses will be erected in a residential colony dedicated to rehabilitation of the affected families from Joshimath. They will be light-weight, safe, foldable with optimum space utilisation and appealing aesthetics, Chourasia said.



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