

CSIR IN MEDIA



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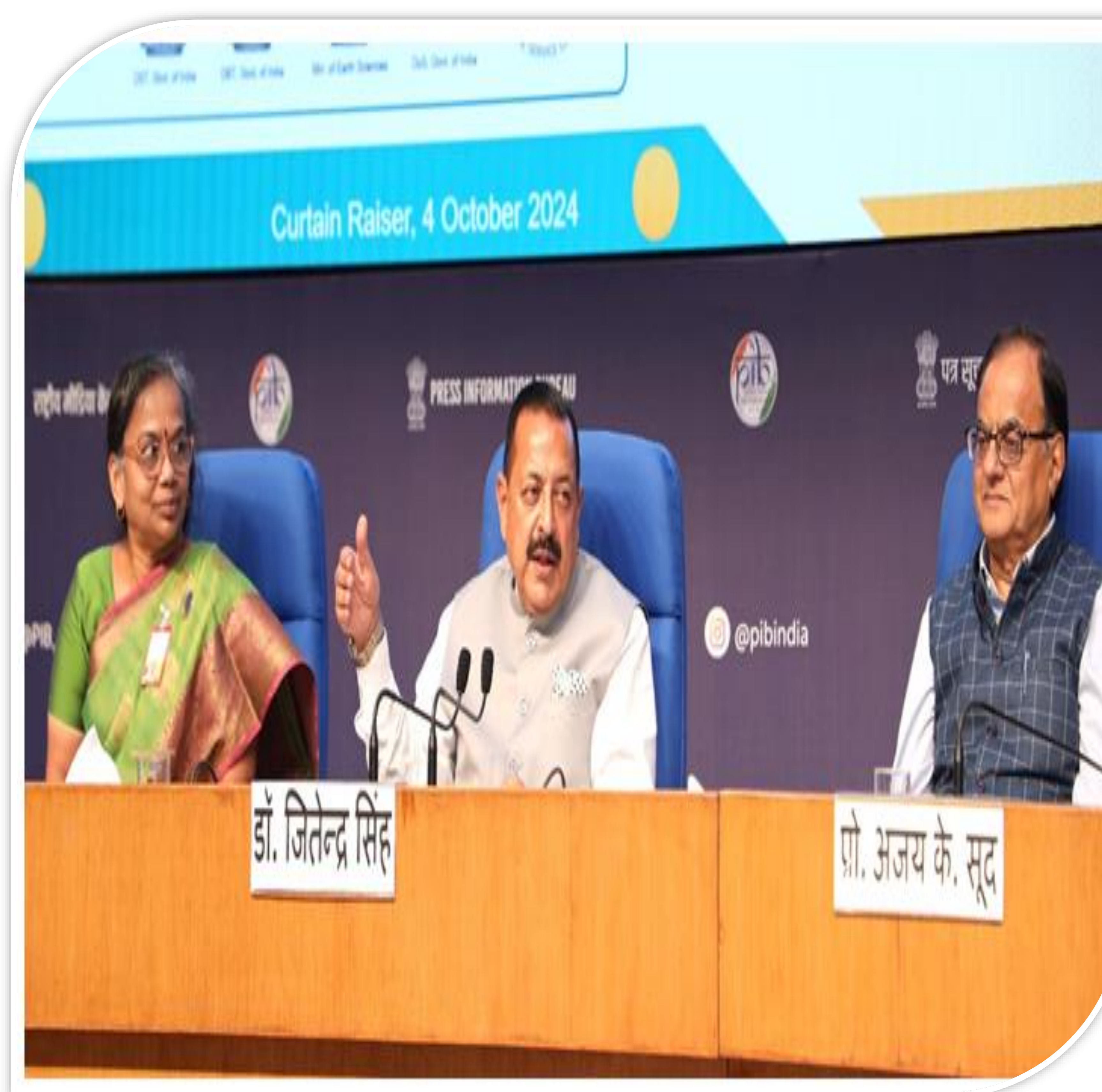
CSIR

भारत का नवाचार इंजन

The Innovation Engine of India

NEWS BULLETIN

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Northeast to hold first ever India International Science Festival showcasing Prime Minister's vision for the Region, says Dr Jitendra Singh

CSIR

04th October , 2024

At a press briefing at National Media Centre, Dr. Jitendra Singh disclosed that the 10th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held at Guwahati, marking a significant milestone in the region's journey towards becoming a hub for scientific and technological innovation. The festival, to be hosted at IIT Guwahati from November 30th to December 3rd 2024, is a testimony to the Government's commitment to the



Northeast and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the region as a key player in India's growth story.

Highlighting the unique importance of the venue, Dr Jitendra Singh said, "IIT Guwahati is not only one of the leading institutes of the country but also a symbol of how the Northeast is emerging as a focal point of India's scientific advancements. Hosting IISF 2024 in the Northeast is not just about celebrating science; it's about placing the region at the heart of India's scientific future."

The decision to host the festival in Guwahati reflects the Government's broader strategy to promote inclusive development, particularly in regions that have been historically underrepresented. Prime Minister Modi has consistently underscored the importance of bringing the Northeast closer to the rest of India and creating opportunities for it to play a critical role in the country's progress. "The Northeast is rich in natural resources and talent, and this festival is an opportunity for the rest of the nation to recognize and engage with the potential that lies here," Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

The 10th edition of IISF carries the theme "Transforming India into an S&T driven Global Manufacturing Hub" reflecting the government's ambition to merge science and technology with industrial growth, propelling India towards self-reliance and global leadership in manufacturing. The theme aligns closely with national initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat,' and will spotlight emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and biotechnology, says the Minister.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also emphasized the role of science in driving India's economic future, stating, "The next wave of India's economic growth will be fuelled by advancements in biotechnology, bioeconomy, and space technology. This festival is a chance to highlight how science will shape the future of our economy, environment, and employment."

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that IISF-2024 will not only celebrate the country's scientific achievements but also create opportunities for collaboration and innovation. "This platform will bring together scientists, industry leaders, students, and the public to explore the transformative power of science. IISF-2024 will fuel discussions that will shape India's future as a global leader in science and technology."

In addition to its core emphasis on science-led industrial growth, IISF-2024 will serve as a key platform for engaging young minds nationwide. The festival will provide students with the chance to connect with top scientists, take part in science competitions, and experience groundbreaking innovations up close, the Minister stated.

Reflecting on India's scientific progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted the significant advancements the country has made in areas such as space exploration, biotechnology, and digital technology. He reiterated that IISF-2024 will reaffirm India's commitment to becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse, driven by scientific innovation.

The IISF-2024 is being coordinated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

(CSIR) and involves all the major scientific departments and ministries of the Government of India in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati. The event will feature a range of exhibits, panel discussions, and international collaborations aimed at addressing pressing global challenges like climate change, food security, and sustainable development.

With 30% of the festival's registrations reserved for participants from the Northeast, the event will offer a unique opportunity for local talent to engage with some of the brightest minds in the scientific community. This, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted, is part of a broader effort to bring India closer to the Northeast by creating more platforms for exchange and collaboration.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by urging more people from across the country to visit the Northeast and experience its vibrant culture, vast resources, and innovative spirit. "It's time we bring the rest of India closer to the Northeast. The region has so much to offer in terms of natural resources, sustainable practices, and progressive culture. This festival will showcase that to the nation."

Prof. A.K. Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India; Dr N Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR; Dr M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences; Dr Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology; and Dr Shiv Kumar Sharma, National Organising Secretary, Vijnana Bharati; along with senior officials, participated in the event.

CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre celebrates 83rd CSIR Foundation Day

CSIR-SERC, CECRI, CEERI, CSIO, NEERI, NML

04th October , 2024

The 83rd foundation day of CSIR was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the CSIR Campus in Taramani, Chennai, by CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC) and CSIR Madras Complex (CMC). Open Day was observed on the occasion of the 83rd Foundation Day celebrations of CSIR, on 26 September 2024, at CSIR Campus, Taramani, Chennai, by CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre



(CSIR-SERC) and CSIR Madras Complex comprising the regional units of CSIR-CECRI, CSIR-CEERI, CSIR-CSIO, CSIR-NEERI and CSIR-NML. All laboratories in the CSIR Campus were kept open for the general public between 9:30 AM and 3 PM. Elaborate arrangements were made to receive the visitors. Technologies, products, and state-of-the-art facilities were showcased and demonstrated for the benefit of the visitors. A record number of 9200 visitors, including school and college students, teachers, professionals from the industry, entrepreneurs, and the general public, visited the CSIR campus and the Tower Testing & Research Station (TTRS) campus of CSIR-SERC with great enthusiasm. They had a first-hand glimpse of multifarious and multi-discipline R&D programmes currently going on in the laboratories and the technologies developed. The visitors showed keen interest and passionately interacted with the scientific staff.

The foundation day function was held on 4 October 2023 at 3 PM and was presided over by Dr. N. Anandavalli, Director, CSIR-SERC and Coordinating Director, CMC. Shri M.S. Unnikrishnan, Chief Executive Officer, IITB-Monash Research Academy Mumbai was the chief guest of the function.

In her Foundation Day address, Dr. Anandavalli, in brief, talked about the genesis, history, legacy, and transformation of CSIR in the eight decades of its existence. She also highlighted the contributions and significant achievements of CSIR and its pivotal role in nation-building and in shaping the growth of science and technology in the country since its inception on 26 September 1942. She also highlighted the significant technologies of CSIR that had hugely contributed to the society, such as indelible ink, baby food, tractors, cold-formed bars, Hansa, biofuel, and waste-to-wealth technologies. She said that CSIR had placed itself as a contemporary R&D organization with a pan-India presence covering a wide spectrum of scientific and industrial research and has been marching towards global leadership since 2020. Dr. Anandavalli also spoke on the six thrust areas of CSIR-SERC – structural health monitoring and life extension, disaster mitigation, advanced materials for sustainable structures, special and multi-functional structures, energy infrastructure, and offshore structures, and the research being done in these areas. She also spoke about the significant research contributions of the laboratories under CSIR Madras Complex – energy storage devices, environmental assessment, energy audit system, column flotation technology, plastic sorting system, etc.

Dr. J.Rajasankar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-SERC, introduced the chief guest to the audience. Shri Unnikrishnan delivered the CSIR Foundation Day lecture. In his lecture, he highlighted the significance of research organizations such as CSIR and the vital role they are going to play in the growth and sustenance of our economy. He pointed out that technology is the key in facing the critical constraints and challenges faced by our economy – mainly the limited availability of energy and land. He highlighted on the need for an innovation economy – often characterized by rapid technological advancements and digitalization – a shift from traditional industries to more knowledge-based ones, where ideas, innovation, and intellectual capital drive economic growth. He said that scientists and technologists have a critical role to play in achieving an innovation-based economy. He remembered the technological contributions of CSIR in the past when India was deprived of the technologies by the developed nations and said that CSIR is much more relevant now to achieve the goal/need of an innovation/technology-driven economy. He also stressed on the need for real partnership

between the academia and said that the industry is also greatly realizing the importance of science. Every year, during the foundation day function, Dr. M. Ramaiah Prize is presented for the best technical papers published by the scientists of CSIR-SERC. For the year 2023-2024, two papers were selected by the Committee as best papers and two papers were chosen for certificate of merit. The Director congratulated all the authors of the papers selected, and the chief guest presented Dr. M. Ramaiah Prize to the winners. The selected papers are as follows:

Best technical papers:

A novel retrofitting strategy for restoring railway masonry arch bridge undergoing failure by settlement due to scouring, published in Engineering Failure Analysis, authored by Arun Sundaram B, Aravindan M, Srinivas Voggu, Kanchana Devi A, Parivallal S, Prathebha Padmanaban

Experimental validation of optimal TMD for wind turbines using real-time hybrid simulation, published in Journal of Vibration and Control, authored by Yadukrishnan A, Subbulakshmi A, Verma M

Certificate of merit papers:

Mixing approach for 3D printable concrete: method of optimisation of superplasticiser dosage, published in Magazine of Concrete Research, authored by Ambily PS, Senthil Kumar K, Shilpa Sebastian, Deepadharshan Shekar

Segmental instability failures in transmission line towers, published in Journal of Constructional Steel Research, authored by N. Prasad Rao, R.P. Rokade, R. Balagopal, G.S. Palani

As a part of the function, Director, CSIR-SERC and Coordinating Director, CMC, honoured the employees of CSIR-SERC and CMC, who have superannuated during the past year. The employees who have completed 25 years of service in CSIR were also felicitated. A brief report on open day was presented by Dr. P. Kamatchi, Chairperson, Common Core Committee. Dr. Alok Kumar Ramkrishna Paul, Chairman, Open Day Committee, CSIR-CMC proposed

vote of thanks at the end of the function. Every year, as a part of CSIR foundation day celebrations, an inter-school quiz programme, Eureka, and CSIR open day science competitions for the wards of employees of CSIR-SERC and CMC are organized. This year, Eureka 2024 was organized on 23 September 2024 at the CSIR Campus, which turned out to be a success. Twenty-four schools from in and around Chennai participated in the event. CSIR open day science competition was held on 8 September 2024 at the CSIR campus and more than 100 students participated. Prizes were distributed for the winners of the competitions on 4 October 2024, during the foundation day function by Dr. Anandavalli.

National Conference on Circular Economy organised in Jamshedpur

CSIR-NML, IICT

04th October , 2024

A two-day National Conference on “Circular Economy Conference-Industrial By-Product Utilisation and Value Creation” was organised on October 3 and 4 at SNTI auditorium. The focus area of the conference was geopolymers technology, steel slag usage, fly ash valorisation, red mud utilisation, refractory waste recycling, critical metal recovery from by-products, and uses of by-products in cement and concrete



The event was organised by Tata Steel, Indian Ceramic Society, Jamshedpur Chapter and CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory. The focus area of the conference was Iron & steel slag usage, fly ash valorisation, red mud utilization, geopolymers technology, refractory waste recycling, critical metal recovery from by-products, and uses of by-products in cement and concrete.

Dr. L. P. Singh, Director General NCCBM Haryana, Dr. Sandip Ghosh Chowdhary, Director CSIR-NML, Jamshedpur, Dipankar Das Gupta, EIC IBMD Tata Steel and Chairman CIRCONE-2024 Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NML, Jamshedpur inaugurated the Conference. Dr. Singh delivered inaugural address on “Role of Cement/construction industry circular economy framework”. Dr. Sandip Ghosh Chowdhury emphasised the importance of circular economy approach. Dipankar Dasgupta motivated participants through his inspirational talk. He also emphasized the need of such Conferences for updating knowledge of different by-product generating during the iron and steel production and there is a need of emerging technology/ research in this fields.

Dr. Atanu Ranajan Pal ,CTO Process Tata Steel , Dr D.K Singh, HoD, Materials Group, Mr. Ulhas Parlikar, Former Director, ACC Ltd , Dr. Sanchita Jindal, Former Adviser (MoEFCC) and others speakers from different academia and industry has emphasized the circularity in each and every by-product generated at plant. Dr Sanjay informed that more than 15 experts and 35 contributory paper from different industry and reputed Institutions i.e. HIL, Resustainability , TRL, RHI, Refratechnik ,HZL CSIR-IICT, IIT Kanpur, IIT KGP etc. of India deliberated on utilisation of by-product and value creation in two days of conference.

The Conference was attended by more than 150 PG Students, Research Scholars and technocrats, and industry professionals.

CFTRI senior scientist gets Kalpana Chawla award

CSIR-CFTRI

04th October , 2024

Pushpa S. Murthy, senior principal scientist and head, Plantation Products, Spices and Flavour Technology (PPSFT) Department at the Mysuru-based CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) has been conferred Dr. Kalpana Chawla Young Women Scientist State Award-2022, instituted by the State government. The award was given in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of Science and Technology in the State.



To encourage female scientists and engineers in the State, the Karnataka government instituted the award in the name of Dr. Kalpana Chawla in the year 2003. This award is given to a female scientist/engineer who has made outstanding contributions in her field for the development of Science and Technology in the State. The criteria for the award is, any eminent and senior scientists of the State who has contributed towards the development of science and technology in the last few decades, a press release said here.

Pushpa S. Murthy has been bestowed with the award which included a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a memento and a citation. She received the award from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the awards function in Bengaluru recently, in the presence of Bharat Ratna C.N.R. Rao, who is honorary president, JNCASR, Science and Technology Minister Boseraju, and other dignitaries. Govindan Rangarajan, director, Indian Institute of Science and A.S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, Awards Selection Committee and former Chairman, ISRO were present.

Ms. Pushpa S. Murthy has over 25 years of experience with a combination of applied and basic science in the areas of food and applied biotechnology. She has guided more than 70 students in Postgraduate research investigation/ dissertation and PhD. She has over 77 publications in peer-reviewed research journals, eight popular articles, eight book chapters, 100 research posters/proceedings, the release added.

She has developed eight technology/processes, transferred to more than 25 industries, and has three patents to her credit.

Navika Sagar Parikrama voyage to help NIO to further research in marine microplastics: Navy chief

CSIR-NIO

03rd October , 2024

Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi said on Wednesday the Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition will contribute towards progressing national scientific research in collaboration with National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) for study on marine microplastics and ferrous content across the seas. “I am pleased to note that Navika Sagar Parikrama will contribute



towards progressing national scientific research in collaboration with NIO for study on marine microplastics and ferrous content across the seas; Wildlife Institute of India for exploration on MegaFaunas or large sea mammals; Sagar Defence for their drones that promise us spectacular visuals of the voyage; and Defence Food Research Laboratory towards providing customised precooked Indian meals so that our valiant warriors always feel at home,” Adm Tripathi said.

Speaking at the flagging off ceremony of the expedition, the Navy chief lauded the Navy women officers - Lieutenant Commander (Lt Cdr) Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, who will be circumnavigating the globe on the sailing boat INSV Tarini.

“Dilna and Roopa, you are the flag bearers of this resurgent India. You are embarking on a national mission, and not just a naval endeavour. Your story will be an inspiration to every Indian woman to break barriers and redefine ‘Nari Shakti.’ You will prove to the world that the possibilities in life are in fact infinite, like the oceans itself, limited only by the bounds of our own imagination and determination,” the navy chief said.

“‘Tarini’ the boat on which you are going to set sail means the ‘Divine Saviour’...and may she protect you as you challenge the capricious oceans, guided by the Indian Navy’s core values of Duty Honour Courage. As ambassadors of India and the Indian Navy...go forth and make us proud,” he said.

He motivated the two young officers by saying, “Remember, when the going gets tough, the tough get going, and that tough times don’t last, but tough teams do. My compliments and gratitude to the mentors, trainers and all those who are working behind the scenes to make this prestigious national endeavour, a grand success,” Adm Tripathi said.

Experts discuss mine waste utilization for construction at IIT ISM Dhanbad

CSIR-CRRI

03rd October , 2024

Civil engineering experts from across the country convened at IIT ISM Dhanbad on Thursday to discuss and explore the latest advancements in utilizing industrial and mine waste as construction materials.

The seminar, titled 'Valorization of Industrial Mine Wastes in Highway Construction', was organized by the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS), Dhanbad Chapter, in collaboration with the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) in New Delhi.

Prof. Manoranjan Parida, from the CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), inaugurated the seminar, highlighting the significant contributions of the Central Road Research Organization.

He discussed its role as a research laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, emphasizing its ongoing research and development projects aimed at advancing highway construction and infrastructure.

Significance and uses of waste valorization

Dr. Anil Kumar Sinha, head of Geotechnical Engineering and Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-CRRI, discussed the potential of industrial waste materials for road construction.

Prof. Sowmiya Chawla from the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT (ISM) presented on the use of coal mine overburden as a potential geomaterial in transportation infrastructure, emphasizing the role of geosynthetics in enhancing stability and durability.

Meanwhile, Smruti Sourav Mahapatra, also from IIT (ISM), explored the feasibility of utilizing coal mine overburden material for low-volume road construction.

In his address, Prof. Sarat Das, Dean of Faculty at IIT ISM, stressed the importance of the seminar in the context of expanding infrastructure development and industrialization. He emphasized that a holistic approach to valuing industrial and mining wastes can significantly contribute to highway construction efforts.

Prof. Srinivas Pasupuleti, head of the Civil Engineering Department, outlined the history of ongoing courses in structural engineering, geotechnical engineering, water resources engineering, and transportation engineering at IIT ISM.

MoU signing for collaborative research

Earlier in the day, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IIT (ISM) and CRRI to foster collaborative research efforts.

The agreement was formalized in the Conference Hall of the Administrative Building of IIT ISM, with Prof. Sukumar Mishra (Director), Prof. Sagar Pal (Dean, R&D), and Prof. Srinivas Pasupuleti (HoD, Civil Engineering) representing IIT (ISM), while Prof. Manoranjan Parida represented CSIR-CRRI.

सिंफर ने गांधी जयंती पर चलाया स्वच्छता ही सेवा अभियान

CSIR-CIMFR

02nd October , 2024

जोड़ापोखर।सीएसआईआर-सीआईएमएफआर डिगवाडीह परिसर में गांधी जयंती के सम्मान में 'स्वच्छता ही सेवा अभियान 2024' का आयोजन किया। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन भाग रेलवे के सहयोग से किया गया। यह आयोजन संस्थान के निदेशक प्रोफेसर अरविंद कुमार मिश्रा के निर्देश पर किया गया। लोगों को सफाई के प्रति जागरूक रहने का संदेश दिया गया। कार्यक्रम को सफल बनाने में सिंफर के अधिकारी के अलावा भाग रेलवे स्टेशन के भी कर्मचारी शामिल थे।

CSIR-CCMB building a Animal BSL-3 facility to study infectious diseases

CSIR-CCMB

02nd October , 2024

CSIR-Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) is getting prepared to tackle the next viral outbreak or a probable pandemic-like scenario by building a full-fledged Animal BSL- 3 facility within the campus, taking over an entire floor for the purpose.

A BSL-3 (bio-safety level) is an airtight totally controlled negative pressure facility used by scientists to study infectious diseases, in this case, among animals. The institute currently has a 500 sq.ft BSL-3 facility, but it is for the first time an exclusive ABSL3 facility is being built across a 6,000 sq.ft space with funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

“Being one of the leading scientific research institutions, we want to build our own capacities to deal with infectious viruses and bacteria, to perform experiments on small animals. During the COVID pandemic, we could contribute significantly because we had a BSL-3 facility, Having an ABSL3 facility allows us to perform animal infection experiments to test vaccines and drugs against any future pathogen of unknown infectious level,” informed Director Vinay Kumar Nandicoori, in an exclusive interaction.

“This is essential to be ready to handle any pandemic in the future. The new facility will be operational once we have all the necessary regulatory permissions from the national ‘Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM)’ under the Department of Biotechnology,’ he explained.

The top scientist said CCMB needs such a facility as it uses animals like mice and guinea pigs for various experiments dealing with infectious diseases. The upcoming facility, which is likely to be commissioned in about six months, is divided into two sections. One part is for working with infectious virus, and the other is for working with infectious bacteria. It will have clearly

defined and RCGM-approved standard operating procedures (SOP) protocols for entry and exit. The air that goes into and that comes out of the facility is moved through HEPA filters to eliminate all the infectious agents.

“Like any other BSL lab, this one too will be built into an existing building. Air will be pumped in and out through air-handling units to maintain negative pressure levels. The negative pressure levels gradually increase from room to room, with the final working area having the highest negative pressure. The facility has regulated access control so that only those permitted to work can enter the facility. Any pathogen cannot be released into the air from the facility. Our researchers are properly suited up with special gear and bio-hoods. Any waste generated is autoclaved within the facility using high pressure and temperature,” he maintained.

Dr. Vinay Kumar explained that once the facility is built and becomes operational, the Institutional Bio-Safety Committee (IBSC) will be vetting all the proposals to work with infectious agents. These are then sent to RCGM for final approvals. “The facility undergoes a yearly RCGM audit to ensure it continues to function with the highest safety levels,” he said.

“We take pride in being among the institutes of excellence. Our research work is to protect the public by studying the pathogens and we don’t take any chances while handling them. Hence, our researchers work in the highest quality and safety level facilities. There is no compromise regarding public safety and there is no question of any leakage from the facility”, added the Director.

CSIR-IHBT Team Visits Farmers Cultivating Aromatic Marigold in Kangra

CSIR-IHBT

02nd October , 2024

On October 1, 2024, a team from the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, led by Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Senior Principal Scientist, visited the fields of farmers growing aromatic marigold in the villages of Deol, Kandkosari, and Lulani in Baijnath Tehsil, Kangra District, and Bala and Nagri villages in Palampur Tehsil. The visit also included Mr. Chuni Lal, President of Jan Kalyan Sabha Baijnath, and other members.



Under the CSIR Aroma Mission, the team provided training to farmers on cultivation techniques, agricultural activities during the crop cycle, and harvesting methods. Along with technical advice, the team also informed farmers about the potential of aromatic oils obtained from aromatic marigold. This crop is proving to be a profitable alternative to traditional farming, which is becoming less beneficial for farmers due to challenges from wild animals, stray cattle, and unpredictable weather.

The CSIR Aroma Mission, aimed at promoting the cultivation of aromatic crops on barren and fallow land, is now in its third phase. CSIR-IHBT Palampur is playing a significant role in this. Dr. Sudesh Kumar Yadav, Director of CSIR-IHBT, stated that the institute is assisting farmers through capacity-building and skill development programs under the mission projects. Farmers are being provided with improved varieties of seeds and plants. He said, “Our goal is to revive the economy of the agricultural community and double farmers’ income through the cultivation of aromatic and industrial crops.”

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Co-Nodal Officer of the CSIR Aroma Mission, mentioned that organic and industrial crops have presented profitable options for farmers in rain-dependent areas and regions affected by animal threats. Young farmers from Kandkosari and Lulani villages, Mr. Rajesh and Shani Kumar, shared that they have cultivated aromatic marigold on 200 kanals of land that had been lying fallow for the past 15-20 years. This crop was not damaged by wild animals or other cattle. They returned to their village from Solan during the COVID-19 pandemic. They started cultivating aromatic marigold on the barren land in June 2024, for which they were trained by CSIR-IHBT Palampur. They received the seeds for this crop from CSIR-IHBT through Mr. Chuni Lal, President of Jan Kalyan Sabha Baijnath, associated with the CSIR Aroma Mission.

The CSIR Aroma Mission is expected to further strengthen the cultivation of aromatic marigold in Kangra, providing farmers with a sustainable.

Maa Kamakhya Corridor project: CSIR submits proposal for hydrological study

CSIR-NGRI

02nd October , 2024

The State government on Tuesday told the Gauhati High Court that the joint team of Public Works Department (PWD), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-G) and Hyderabad-based Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) has conducted an inspection on the Nilachal hills in connection with the proposed Maa Kamakhya Access Corridor project.



The three-day inspection was conducted last month and on the basis of that various correspondences and negotiations are going on. A feasibility survey report and proposal for a hydrological study have been submitted by CSIR, which is being looked into by IIT-G. A clearer picture is likely in a month's time.

The geophysical and hydrological study is being necessitated following concerns that the Rs. 400-crore corridor project may disturb the eternal underground springs, which are sacred to the revered hill. Earlier, contractor L&T had called for a proposal from a private firm-Parsan Overseas Pvt Ltd- but it was found that the firm did not have the required expertise.

Meanwhile, the ASI also submitted an affidavit to the court today where it stated that the Kamakhya Temple has not been declared a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and, therefore, the provisions of the Act are not applicable on the monument. However, the rock inscription of

Nilachal Hill, known as 'Duargarila Rock Inscription', figures of Ganesha, Shiva lingas, four-handed Bhairabi, miniature Sikhara shrines, figures of Narakasur, two-handed Bhairabi, stone gateway, eight-handed dancing Bhairava engraved on rock at Kamakhya Hills have been declared as protected monuments.

Petitioner's counsel Upamanyu Hazarika, in a counter affidavit, contended that according to the distance criteria, the main Kamakhya Temple complex would clearly come within the prohibited zone in terms of the proximity of the stone gateway and the dancing Bhairava. He thus sought a clarification on the "apparent contradiction" in the pleas in the affidavit. Hazarika insisted that the construction in the temple complex could not proceed without the "express provision and sanction" of ASI.

Sustainable horticulture is the new hope against challenges of climate change, says scientist

CSIR

01st October , 2024

Sustainable horticulture is emerging as the new hope to face challenges of climate change, secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) N. Kalaiselvi said in Bagalkot on Monday. Ms. Kalaiselvi, who is also Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), was delivering the convocation address at the 13th convocation of the University of Horticulture Sciences.



“As the global environmental crisis intensifies, sustainable horticulture seems to offer hope. From small-scale green gardens to large-scale reforestation and waste reduction projects, innovators in the field are looking for ways to increase yields, while limiting negative impacts on our ecosystems. It can be applied at the micro and micro levels from vast farmland to backyards and rooftops. Our society is more environmentally conscious. By adopting good practice we can promote quality biodiversity and improve soil health. This creates a more resilient ecosystem,” Dr. Kalaiselvi said.

Horticulture is also contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and essential ecosystem preparation. It helps maintain balanced ecosystems that support essential processes such as pollination, natural pest control and water filtration by creating habitats for various plant and animal species, the energy scientist said. “Compared to areas of cultivation, horticulture production is proportionately exceeding the production of foodgrains. Exports of horticulture produce is also increasing and earning foreign exchange,” she said.

She asked young people to take up research development and adaptation of appropriate technology to help horticulture farmers. “Horticulture has great potential to not only boost agricultural income but also help farmers diversify and take up processing of farm produce. It is aiding the growth of the agriculture sector and thereby, the country’s economy. Diversification seems to be the best option for nutritional adequacy, increasing employment opportunities, agricultural income, utilization of natural resources and rural industrialisation,” she said.

Vice-Chancellor Vishnuvardhana welcomed and read the progress report. Minister S.S. Mallikarjun presided over the event.

Registrar Mahadeva Muragi, Director of Education N.K. Hegde, Director of Research M. Fakhruddin, Director of Extension T.B. Allolli and others were present.

CSIR-NIScPR Commemorates 83 Years of Scientific Excellence of CSIR

CSIR-NIScPR

01st October , 2024

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) celebrated the 83rd Foundation Day of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) at National Agricultural Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi. The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR. She said, "CSIR labs are actively engaged in



all the areas of science and technology. At NIScPR, our focus is on bridging the gap between science and society. We publish 15 research journals and three popular science magazines, and we are striving to make our content accessible in all Indian languages. Notably, we've recently participated in the UN Assembly Science Summit."

Distinguished guest Prof. (Dr.) Sushma Yadav, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Haryana, in her address said, "CSIR strives to bridge the gap between science and industry. Historically, there has been a misconception that India lacks scientific temper, and CSIR has been working to dispel this notion. By promoting a scientific tradition that coexists with spiritual temper, we aim to create a harmonious blend of rational inquiry and cultural values."

While Prof. Jagat Bhushan Nadda, Director, Consortium for Education Communication, remarked, "CSIR has admirably carried forward India's scientific legacy, serving as a cornerstone in our nation's journey. By being at the forefront of addressing national challenges, CSIR has consistently benefited society at large. The need of the hour is to make science accessible, especially in rural areas. To maximize impact, scientific research and

discoveries must be translated into actionable policies. CSIR is successfully creating synergy between higher education, research, and innovation, positioning India to become a global leader in science and innovation.”

On the occasion a special issue of ‘Science Reporter’, a monthly publication of CSIR-NIScPR was also released during the event. Title of the issue is "Science Reporter: A Six Decade Journey in Science Communication (1964-2024)". Awards were distributed by the distinguished guests to retirees, employees completing 25 years of service, and meritorious 10th and 12th-class students.

The evening of the CSIR Foundation Day Celebrations featured a vibrant cultural program, followed by prize distribution for the Foundation Day competitions. During the cultural program, children of NIScPR staff members, S&T and administrative staff, students and project staff participated with great enthusiasm and performed their song and dance very well. Shri Mukesh Pund, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR and Chairperson, CSIR Foundation Day Organising Committee of NIScPR, proposed vote of thanks and expressed his gratitude to all the committees engaged for organising the program. The event was attended by CSIR-NIScPR staff with their families, AcSIR students, and project staff. Coordinators of different sub committees coordinated the assigned tasks very well. Dr. Puspanjali Tripathy coordinated the Painting & Drawing Competition; Quiz & Essay Competition was coordinated by Dr. Meher Wan; Budget & Venue was coordinated by Dr. Naresh Kumar; Cultural Function & Stage Control was coordinated by Dr. Manish Mohan Gore. Dr. Vipin Kumar coordinated the sports events, Dr. Arvind Meena coordinated publicity materials and Mrs. Sonali Nagar coordinated the invitation of guests for the CSIR Foundation Day Celebrations organised at CSIR-NIScPR.

CSIR-North East: विज्ञान-प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान ने मनाया 83वां स्थापना दिवस

CSIR-NEIST

01st October , 2024

सीएसआईआर-नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी, जोरहाट ने सोमवार को अपने शीर्ष निकाय, वैज्ञानिक और औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद (सीएसआईआर) का 83वां स्थापना दिवस बहुत उत्साह और उमंग के साथ मनाया। 'अकादमिक जगत में नेतृत्व' विषय पर अपने व्याख्यान में, आईआईटी कानपुर में चेयर प्रोफेसर और आरएबी (सीएसआईआर) के अध्यक्ष, पद्म श्री पुरस्कार विजेता प्रोफेसर विनोद के सिंह ने अनुसंधान



और शिक्षाविदों में नेतृत्व गुणों को विकसित करने के महत्व पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि विज्ञान और शिक्षा जगत में नए नेताओं का निर्माण करना भारत जैसे देशों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण और जरूरी है। इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि प्रोफेसर विनोद के सिंह ने भी काम, जिम्मेदारी और समय प्रबंधन के महत्व पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने उल्लेख किया कि एक महान नेता के गुण, जैसे विचार और प्रस्तुति में स्पष्टता, सही निर्णय लेने की क्षमता और शासन और प्रबंधन की समझ, साथियों के प्रति सम्मान, नैतिकता, ईमानदारी और अखंडता के साथ होने चाहिए।

प्रोफेसर सिंह ने सुबह डॉ. जेएन बरुआ ऑडिटोरियम में आयोजित एक विशेष कार्यक्रम में अपना संबोधन दिया, जिसमें जोरहाट जिले के गणमान्य व्यक्तियों, आमंत्रितों और प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्तियों के साथ-साथ सीएसआईआर-एनईआईएसटी बिरादरी की एक बड़ी सभा ने भाग लिया। सीएसआईआर-एनईआईएसटी के निदेशक डॉ. वीएम तिवारी ने समारोह की अध्यक्षता की। अपने स्वागत भाषण में, डॉ. तिवारी ने इस अवसर पर अपनी शभकामनाएं दीं। उन्होंने पिछले कुछ वर्षों में सीएसआईआर के कुछ महत्वपूर्ण योगदानों के बारे में संक्षेप में बात की और सभी से एक नए और जीवंत भारत के लिए एक बेहतर सीएसआईआर बनाने के लिए नए जोश के साथ एकजुट होकर काम करने का संकल्प लेने का आग्रह किया। उन्होंने विभिन्न विज्ञान और

प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्रों में पिछले कुछ वर्षों में सीएसआईआर-एनईआईएसटी के महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी हस्तक्षेपों पर भी प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने विशेष रूप से लोगों के जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार और पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में आजीविका के अवसर पैदा करने में किए गए योगदान का उल्लेख किया। उन्होंने संस्थान के विकास में सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारियों के योगदान को भी स्वीकार किया। इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि द्वारा परिसर में एक एकीकृत ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन संयंत्र का उद्घाटन किया गया। पिछले वर्ष सेवानिवृत्त हुए कर्मचारियों को सीएसआईआर सम्मान पत्र और स्मृति चिन्ह देकर सम्मानित किया गया तथा परिषद में 25 वर्ष की सेवा पूरी करने वाले कर्मचारियों को प्रतीक चिन्ह भेंट कर सम्मानित किया गया। सीएसआईआर-एनईआईएसटी और रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर विश्वविद्यालय, होजाई के बीच अनुसंधान और शैक्षणिक सहयोग के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। सीएसआईआर-एनईआईएसटी की ओर से निदेशक डॉ. वीएम तिवारी और रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से अनुसंधान एवं विकास के डीन प्रोफेसर कौशिक चंदा ने समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए। समारोह के एक हिस्से के रूप में सीएसआईआर-एनईआईएसटी ने 'ओपन डे' भी मनाया, जिसके दौरान जोरहाट और उसके आसपास के छात्रों के साथ-साथ आम जनता ने भी संस्थान का दौरा किया और वैज्ञानिकों से बातचीत की।

Training on bamboo processing begins at MU

CSIR-NEIST

01st October , 2024

The North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC), in collaboration with the Apunba Imagi Machasing (AIMS) inaugurated a 30-day training programme on "Bamboo and Cane Processing" at the Department of Forestry, Manipur University today.

The event, sponsored by the NEC, Ministry of DoNER, was focused on developing skills in bamboo and cane processing for restoring livelihoods in the conflict-affected regions of Manipur.

Prof Gopal Kumar Niroula Chhetry, Dean, School of Agricultural Science, Manipur University, Dr Huidrom Birkumar Singh, Chief Scientist at CSIR-NEIST, Imphal, Thoudam Dorendra, an agriculturist from Mantripukhri and H Priyokumar Singh, Manager-Training at NECBDC, Guwahati, Assam among others attended the programme.

At the event, Prof Gopal Kumar Niroula Chhetry, Dean, School of Agricultural Science, MU, underlined the cultural and economic value of bamboo and cane in Manipur and pointed out its potential to create and enhance livelihoods.

During the 30-day programme, 50 participants will be trained in various aspects of bamboo and cane processing.

CIMFR and IIT Hyderabad forge alliance for search of Critical Minerals

CSIR-CIMFR

01st October , 2024

Prof BS Murty, Director of IIT Hyderabad on Monday said that his institution has forged an agreement with CSIR-CIMFR in order to collaborate on search and other uses of critical minerals in the country. A similar MoU has been signed with NTPC, he informed.

Addressing the 83rd Foundation Day celebration at CSIR-CIMFR here he said that future of country lies in critical minerals like Antimony, Beryllium, Cobalt, , Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Lithium, , Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, and so on as we are dependent in import of these for uses in India. These are needed to ensure "Atamnirbhar and Vikshit Bharat "the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said IIT Hyderabad has implemented three concepts including to create minds who are exceptional thinkers, support innovation and make collaborations to ensure reaching the goal of Vikshit Bharat. " Vikshit Bharat can be reality only when we see Made in India products on shelves all across the world market. We would have to work on Mission Mode to achieve reality just as we did in our missile, space and other missions. Product development must be our first priority,"said Prof Murty. He spoke in length the new courses the IIT Hyderabad has implemented in very short span of its existence as it was established just fifteen years ago. Some of the new courses include B. Tech in AI, IC designing, engineering sciences, computation engineering besides MTech in ophthalmic and medical physics and in entrepreneurship besides others to meet future demand of trained engineers in country to meet future need of industries.

The MoU papers were exchanged in presence of Director Prof AK Mishra, Ravindar Kumar Director Operations NTPC, Dr DD Mishra chairman Research Council of Cimfer besides Dr GN Sastry dean sponsored research and consultancy of IIT Hyderabad. Earlier, addressing the gathering CIMFR director spoke about the eight decades of contribution of 37 labs of CSIR in general and CIMFR in particular.

He gave details of several important research that has contributed to the development of the country and society.

"The high wall Mining technology with paste fill technology has helped extraction of upto 80 percent of coal from pollors in UG mines. Similarly, controlled blasting technology, mines transport surveillance system, hybrid extraction of coking coal from tellings are some of the research in a long list of research of CIMFR scientists here, he said.

Our aim is making coking a source of green energy for the future as the use of carbon is not to end, added CIMFR director.

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