

In the News

IISF 2024 – Transforming India into an S&T-Driven Global Manufacturing Hub

A Commitment to a Science-Led Future for India



During the inaugural ceremony of IISF 2024

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) inaugurated the 10th edition of India International Science Festival 2024 (IISF 2024) on 30 November 2024, at IIT Guwahati, in association with Vijnana Bharati, the nodal institute of the event being CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary

Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram. This year's theme for IISF 2024 was “Transforming India into an S&T-Driven Global Manufacturing Hub”.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Govt of India and Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, inaugurated the event in the presence of the Smt. Dasanglu

“India’s remarkable growth story is deeply rooted in its advancements in science, technology, and innovation”, said, Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon’ble Union Minister of State for Science & Technology.

Pul, Hon’ble Cabinet Minister of Arunachal Pradesh; Shri Keshab Mahanta, Minister for S&T, Govt of Assam; Dr VK Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog; Prof. AK Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt of India; Secretary DSIR & DG, CSIR, Dr N Kalaiselvi; Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST; Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary DBT; and Dr Shivkumar Sharma, National Organising Secretary of Vijnana Bharati; Prof. Devendra Jalihal, Director, IIT Guwahati; and Dr C Anandharamakrishnan, Director, CSIR-NIIST.

The Chief Guest, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, remarked during his address in the inaugural ceremony, “IISF 2024 is a celebration of collective efforts in scientific innovation and collaboration. This festival would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Honorable Prime Minister. IISF 2024 stands as a grand celebration of scientific innovation and collaboration, featuring numerous innovations catering to a diverse audience. It showcases India’s remarkable achievements, such as Chandrayaan-2, and includes a science expo that highlights cutting-edge research and technology. The festival promises a dynamic exploration of science through events like the Young Scientists’ Conclave, Science Safari, and Tinker Labs, aimed at igniting curiosity and fostering innovation among students.”

Further, he added, “With special features like Nari Shakti celebrating women in STEM, Science Beyond Borders fostering

global partnerships, and initiatives like Sagrika and Science Village, IISF 2024 is a true celebration of innovation and sustainability. With India ranking among the top three in scientific research and excelling in startups, we are poised to become a global leader in innovation, supported by being the third-highest producer of PhDs worldwide.”

Delivering the Presidential Address, Dr Jitendra Singh, said, “India’s remarkable growth story is deeply rooted in its advancements in science, technology, and innovation. Over the past decade, under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, we have seen a profound transformation across sectors – from the rise of startups to revolutionary breakthroughs in biotechnology, space technology, and quantum science. The Northeast region, once on the periphery of development, has become a shining example of growth, embodying both economic progress and scientific innovation. As we approach India@2047, empowering youth and fostering innovation are key. Initiatives like the National Research Foundation and the bioeconomy revolution are driving India toward self-reliance and global leadership, with young innovators leading the way.”

A key highlight of the event was Dr Jitendra Singh’s launch of the India Science, Technology & Innovation (ISTI) Portal. With a strong focus on engaging students, scientists, researchers, youth, and the public, the portal will provide access to valuable information on



fellowships, scholarships, funding opportunities, and startup initiatives, enabling users to explore and leverage opportunities within India.

The Hon'ble dignitaries also inaugurated multiple exhibitions, highlighting key advancements, such as:

- **Chandrayaan – Museum of the Moon Exhibition:** created by British artist Dr Luke Jerram, featured a life-sized, seven-metre replica of the moon with detailed NASA imagery. The exhibition aims to engage the public in discussions about space, exploration, and humanity's connection to the cosmos, highlighting India's Chandrayaan Mission.
- **Science-Technology-Defence-Space Exhibition:** highlighted achievements in defence, space, and science; this expo showcased key initiatives like Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Digital India, with hands-on learning opportunities and networking platforms for young scientists and technologists.
- **Reimagining Bharat Exhibition:** showcased India's roadmap for a technologically advanced future; this exhibition emphasised innovations in AI, robotics, quantum computing, renewable energy, and space exploration. It also provides interactive experiences such as live demos and virtual realities.

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, said, "IISF 2024 stands as a grand celebration of scientific innovation and collaboration, featuring numerous innovations catering to a diverse audience which showcases India's remarkable achievements".



Dr S Somanath, ISRO Chairman, during interacting with school students said, “Reflecting on our current scientific and technological endeavours, your enthusiastic engagement is pivotal in realising the vision of making India a global leader.”

- **North East Food Street:** a culinary celebration of the diverse flavours of the Northeast, offering traditional dishes alongside cultural music, and immersing visitors in the region’s rich heritage.

Besides, the day featured several other events that provided opportunities for participants to engage directly with the key stakeholders of the Indian scientific community, including Science Institutional Leaders Meet – Vision Sansad, Science through Games and Adventures – Science Safari, Round Table on India as the Global Manufacturing Hub through S&T, Students Science & Technology Village.

The second and third days of the IISF 2024 were marked by vibrant industry-academia collaboration, knowledge-sharing technical sessions, and initiatives to inspire students and teachers to creative, knowledge-based learning. The event also brought policymakers and scientific leaders together to discuss sustainable practices

across science, agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare.

Interacting with school students during “Student Science Interactive Programme – Face to Face with New Frontiers in S&T”, Dr S Somanath, ISRO Chairman, remarked, “As students, you are the torchbearers of the future in science and technology. It is essential for you to grasp the remarkable innovations and advancements taking place in these fields today. By recognising their potential and the opportunities they present, you can draw inspiration to pursue similar paths and contribute to building a brighter tomorrow. Reflecting on our current scientific and technological endeavours, your enthusiastic engagement is pivotal in realising the vision of making India a global leader.”

Another key highlight of IISF 2024 was the lab-to-life initiative, where CSIR signed three technology transfer Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to promote sustainability and technological advancements.

Specifically focused on sustainable management, these MoUs underscore CSIR's commitment to leveraging science and technology for environmental preservation, enhancing industry competitiveness, and driving socio-economic development through innovative and practical solutions. These included:

- **CSIR-NIIST's biodegradable cutlery technology** was transferred to Devaki Engineering Enterprises, Bengaluru, featuring a Rotary Bio-Degradable Manufacturing Machine (MUSUROTO) that enhances agricultural sustainability.
- **CSIR-CRRI and Rajasthan Technical University** partnered to advance road infrastructure R&D.
- **CSIR-IHBT's Lilium Bulb Processing technology** was transferred to the Shansha Cut-Flower Cluster, Lahaul & Spiti, boosting the floriculture sector.

The four-day mega science festival from 30 November 2024 to 3 December 2024 featured 24 different events during which 7000 delegates and 45000 individuals, including students, participated.

This year, some new events were also added. Sagarika – The Tale of Earth Sciences event, as the name suggests, aimed to engage and educate people on different areas of earth science such as meteorology, oceanography, ecology, etc. Through this event, IISF raised public awareness of environmental issues. The Science Beyond Borders event aimed to foster international collaborations, partnerships, and dialogue exchanges among scientists, researchers, and institutions to address global challenges in S&T. Similarly, Fusion Forum, the Atomic Assembly event, discussed the current perspectives, future benefits, and pressing challenges in implementing nuclear energy in India for various

CSIR signed three technology transfer MoUs to promote sustainability and technological advancements under the lab-to-life initiative.





*Dr N Kalaiselvi,
DG CSIR and
Chairperson, Steering
Committee, IISF 2024,
remarked, “We have
developed an action
plan focused on North
East activities in this
IISF 2024”.*

sectors such as power generation, nuclear medicine, agriculture, additive manufacturing, etc.

Another captivating event was the Saga of Science Chronicles, which told the history and recent developments of Indian science and scientists through an LED light show from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm each day of IISF 2024.

Events like the Science Odyssey of the North East addressed the challenges hindering the growth of science and technology in the North East, and also discussed the ways of promoting science and technology in the North East. The Taste of the Hills – North East Food Street showcased the food heritage of the North East and let the people eat and enjoy their traditional food items. The Food Street remained open throughout IISF 2024.

Two significant events in IISF 2024 discussed effective science communication S&T media strategies: Vigyanika and S&T Media Conclave. The Vigyanika event was pivotal in disseminating science in simple language to

the masses. Vigyanika and S&T Media Conclave were organised by CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi. These events aimed to bridge the gap between science communicators, scientists, journalists, and media professionals.

IISF 2024 culminated with a valedictory function in which the Chief Coordinator of the event and Director of CSIR-NIIST, Dr C Anandharamakrishnan, proposed the vote of thanks.

In her presidential address, DG CSIR and Chairperson, Steering Committee, IISF 2024, Dr N Kalaiselvi remarked, “We have developed an action plan focused on North East activities in this IISF 2024,” and announced that the winners of the S&T Hackathon will receive support from CSIR.

The Chief Guest, Shri Keshab Mahanta, Hon’ble Minister for Science, Technology and Climate Change, Government of Assam, emphasised the importance of

science and technology in driving the nation's growth.

Shri Mahanta said, "We are working to establish a network for science communication, which includes setting up science centres in 219 development districts. Guwahati will soon have a science city. IISF has provided us with the perfect platform to showcase scientific developments in the North-East region."

Concluding the IISF 2024 at IIT Guwahati, the Director of the institute, Prof. Devendra Jalihal, expressed gratitude and said that this IISF has exemplified science and technology's ability to unite and empower. The legacy of IISF will depend on tangible outcomes that provide solutions to the community, fostering a culture of innovation.

CSIR participates in Bharat Pride 2024

National Science Technology Innovation & Industry Expo-2024



The CSIR booth drew considerable attention from students, industry professionals, and the general public, all eager to learn more about the technologies behind these advancements.

CSIR participated in Bharat Pride 2024, the National Science Technology Innovation & Industry Expo, held from 18 to 20 October 2024, at G Pulla Reddy Memorial School, Hyderabad, Telangana. CSIR-SERC, CSIR-IMMT, CSIR-NAL, and CSIR-NGRI

showcased a range of innovative technologies. Among the highlights were the HANSA-3 (NG) and SARAS civil aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) models, biochar derived from waste biomass, terafil water technology, geothermal energy exploration techniques,

groundwater exploration methods, textile-reinforced concrete prototypes, and cyclone shelter emergency retrieval systems.

The CSIR booth drew considerable attention from students, industry professionals, and the general public, all eager to learn more about the technologies behind these advancements. CSIR's participation was centrally coordinated by the Science Communication and Dissemination Directorate (SCDD)

to ensure effective outreach and engagement.

This exhibition aimed to bring together various ministries, government departments, autonomous bodies, institutions, agencies, and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) on a single platform, providing them with the opportunity to showcase their achievements, innovations, technologies, schemes, welfare programmes and products or services.

R&D

New research sheds light on the genetic heritage of the Nicobarese people



Nicobar Islands are situated in the eastern Indian Ocean and south of the Andaman Islands. The archipelago consists of seven large islands, including Car Nicobar and

Great Nicobar, and numerous smaller ones, characterised by flat topography, coral reefs and sandy beaches. Nicobarese people are estimated to be approximately 25,000.

A recent genetic study has revealed new insights into the genetic origin of the Nicobarese. A group of researchers from nine institutions co-led by Dr Kumarasamy Thangaraj, CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), Hyderabad, and Prof. Gyaneshwer Chaubey, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, conducted a detailed genetic analysis, using DNA markers that are inherited exclusively from mothers and fathers respectively, and those from both the parents. This helped them to explore the ancestry and genetic affinities of the Nicobarese with South and Southeast Asian populations. Findings of this pioneering study have been published in the *European Journal of Human Genetics*.

“Previous theories suggested that the linguistic ancestors of the Nicobarese settled in the Nicobar archipelago during the early Holocene, about 11,700 years ago. However, our new genetic research on Nicobarese, involving 1,559 individuals from South and Southeast Asia, indicates a significant ancestral connection of Nicobarese shared with Austroasiatic populations across South and Southeast Asia.

But, our studies also suggest that the Nicobar islanders settled there approximately only 5000 years ago,” said Dr Thangaraj.

The study notably highlighted the common genetic affinity of the Htin Mal with Nicobarese. Htin Mal is a population in the mainland of Southeast Asian, who speak an Austroasiatic language. The Htin Mal community has maintained remarkable ethnic distinctness over time, exhibiting a pronounced genetic drift from the Nicobarese.

“Genomic regions shared across linguistic groups suggests an ancient distribution of Austroasiatic populations in Southeast Asia,” said Prof. Gyaneshwer Chaubey, the lead author of the study. He said, “Our findings compellingly argue that the Nicobarese and the Htin Mal represent valuable genetic proxies for understanding ancient Austroasiatic heritage.”

Dr Vinay K Nandicoori, Director of CSIR-CCMB, said, “This research opens up new avenues for understanding the rich tapestry of genetic diversity in Southeast Asia and highlights the importance of preserving the cultural and genetic heritage of Indigenous populations”.

Dr Vinay K Nandicoori, Director of CSIR-CCMB, said, “This research opens up new avenues for understanding the rich tapestry of genetic diversity in Southeast Asia and highlights the importance of preserving the cultural and genetic heritage of Indigenous populations”.

NCL Enhances Oxygen Generation in MiG-29 Aircraft

CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune, has successfully rejuvenated the Onboard Oxygen Generation System (OBOGS) of the MiG-29

fighter aircraft, ensuring optimal performance and safety during high-altitude operations. This project was initiated in November 2023 at the request of the Indian

*“It was a moment of immense pride and excitement to witness the flight of the aircraft after zeolite rejuvenation”,
Dr Vijay Bokade,
Head, Catalysis and
Inorganic Chemistry
Division, CSIR-NCL.*

Navy, which was led by Dr Vijay Bokade, Head, Catalysis and Inorganic Chemistry Division, alongside Dr Prashant Niphadkar and research students.

The OBOGS unit in the MiG-29 aircraft, which provides a continuous oxygen supply to pilots at high altitudes, relies on zeolite material to selectively adsorb nitrogen and produce pure oxygen. Over time, the zeolites become less effective due to moisture exposure. CSIR-NCL's team developed an optimised rejuvenation process, which increased oxygen output in the OBOGS units from 30% to 85%, confirmed by tests at the Naval Aircraft Yard, Goa. This process was scaled up to rejuvenate approximately 54 kg of zeolite, and several MiG-29 aircraft have since been successfully deployed with the rejuvenated units.

Dr Bokade expressed his pride in the project, “It was a moment of immense pride and excitement to witness the flight of the aircraft after zeolite rejuvenation.” The indigenous development of zeolites at CSIR-NCL ensures the long-term functionality of the OBOGS units.

The project has set a new benchmark for leveraging indigenous research to address critical defensive technological challenges. The rejuvenation efforts have been implemented for the Indian Navy, with aircraft successfully operating at high altitudes. CSIR-NCL has also developed its own process technology for synthesising oxygen-enriching zeolites. The process of incorporating them into the MiG-29 aircraft is underway.

Events

CSIR-IMTECH holds two-day conclave on Technological Breakthrough and Libraries Present and Beyond

CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTech), Chandigarh, in collaboration with the Association of Senior Library and Information Professionals (ASLIP) conducted a two-day conclave on Technological Breakthrough and Libraries: Present and Beyond from 7-8 November 2024. The conclave theme emphasised the transformative impact of

technology on libraries and their services and explored technological advancements in reshaping libraries and their future role in an increasingly digital world. The Association of Senior Library and Information Professionals (ASLIP) is a registered body of library professionals devoted to developing the profession and professionals.



Prof. RK Kohli, Vice Chancellor of Amity University Mohali & Chief Guest of the event

Dr KPS Sengar, Organising Secretary of ASLIP Conclave 2024, welcomed the participants and highlighted how technology has revolutionised the domain of library and information from print mode to virtual and beyond. Prof. RK Kohli, Vice Chancellor Amity University Mohali, who was the Chief Guest for the event, harped on the need for such a conclave at the backdrop of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT) & Big Data that is shaping up the way information is stored, accessed and utilised.

The two-day conclave included keynote lectures, panel discussion, poster & product presentation, and invited lectures from library professionals and researchers across the length and breadth of the country. The conference theme encompassed Artificial Intelligence in Libraries,

Innovation in Libraries, Online Resources & Services, Library Automation and Digitisation, Academic Integrity and Libraries Outreach Activities.

Dr S Karthikeyan, Officiating Director, CSIR-IMTECH, gave the inaugural address, and Dr RP Kumar, President ASLIP, discussed how the two-day conclave will focus on current technological trends and challenges that libraries confront in the digital era. Keynote address by Dr HR Chopra, Prof. (Retd), Panjab University, was also one of the highlights of the event. An award ceremony commemorating library professionals for their outstanding contributions to the library and information science field was also held during the first day of the conclave. A souvenir and a conference proceeding book were also released on the occasion.

The conclave theme emphasised the transformative impact of technology on libraries and their services and explored technological advancements in reshaping libraries and their future role in an increasingly digital world.

Celebrating Legacy and Innovation with Prof. Ashutosh Sharma's Distinguished Lecture

CSIR-CSIO Director Prof. Shantanu Bhattacharya emphasised CSIR-CSIO's mission to address societal challenges through impactful research and continued leadership in scientific instrumentation.



CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO), Chandigarh, celebrated its 2024 Foundation Day enthusiastically, reflecting on its rich legacy of scientific contributions and unwavering commitment to innovation. The event featured a keynote lecture from renowned scientist and educator Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, whose insights brought depth to the celebration.

Prof. Sharma, the Chief Guest, participated in a ceremonial tree planting alongside CSIR-CSIO Director Prof. Shantanu Bhattacharya, former Director Dr RP Bajpai, and Dr Amitava Patra, Director of INST Mohali. Following this, they visited the ISTC conference room, where pivotal CSIR-CSIO technologies were showcased.

In the ISTC Auditorium, Prof. Bhattacharya welcomed guests, faculty, staff, and students with an inspiring address titled “A Walk in Time,” tracing CSIR-CSIO’s history since 1959. He honoured the contributions of past directors and highlighted the organisation’s current initiatives, including research in next-generation display technologies, HUD systems, and energy materials, alongside academic and skill development advancements.

Among the proposed initiatives, Prof. Bhattacharya shared plans for an ATMP Facility, a NABL-accredited spectroscopic testing lab for textiles, IoT-enabled water measurement systems, and a new research block. He emphasised CSIR-CSIO’s mission to address societal challenges through impactful research and

continued leadership in scientific instrumentation.

Prof. Bhattacharya also introduced Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, former DST Secretary and current IIT Kanpur professor, whose career spans groundbreaking contributions to materials science, nanotechnology, and policy. In his lecture, “Science and Scientists in the New Millennium: A Brave New World,” Prof. Sharma discussed India’s future in science, highlighting ANRF’s role in uniting academia, industry, and government to foster innovation. His thought-provoking address aligned with CSIR-CSIO’s mission to advance research and explore new technological frontiers.

CSIR-CSIO hosted an Open Day to mark the occasion, inviting students, teachers, and science enthusiasts to explore its facilities. Visitors engaged with scientists in interactive sessions showcasing advancements in scientific instrumentation and applied research.

The 2024 Foundation Day was a memorable celebration of CSIR-CSIO’s achievements and future-focused vision. Prof. Sharma’s inspiring presence reinforced CSIR-CSIO’s dedication to fostering collaboration and driving innovative solutions for the nation.

Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, former DST Secretary and current IIT Kanpur professor, discussed India’s future in science, highlighting ANRF’s role in uniting academia, industry, and government to foster innovation.

CSIR-NCL Celebrates the CSIR Foundation Day



Dr Hemant Darbari, while delivering the CSIR Foundation Day Lecture

CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune, celebrated the 83rd Foundation Day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on 4 November 2024. Chief Guest,

Dr Hemant Darbari, Mission Director-NSM, C-DAC, Pune, during his address emphasised the grand challenge problems, including weather prediction, climate modelling, materials research, oceanographic simulations, bioinformatics, molecular dynamics, etc.

Dr Hemant Darbari, Mission Director-National Supercomputing Mission, C-DAC, Pune, delivered the Foundation Day Oration on “Sate Futuristic Research through Insatiable Computation.”

Dr Ashish Lele, Director, CSIR-NCL, highlighted the history of the establishment of CSIR and how it has contributed significantly to the benefit of society at large. These achievements include the development of the first indigenously built tractor, the first baby milk powder from buffalo milk, the growth of initial pharmaceutical companies, the first indigenously designed and built aircraft and many more. Later, he introduced the Chief Guest, Dr Hemant Darbari, to the audience.

Dr Hemant Darbari began his address by emphasising the grand challenge problems, including weather prediction, climate modelling, materials research, oceanographic simulations, bioinformatics, molecular dynamics, etc.

Dr Darbari stated that insatiable computation is key to solving such grand challenge problems. He highlighted that computation has always been a vital component across various domains. However, traditional CPUs cannot satisfy high-end computing needs because of their large power requirements. On the other hand, GPUs offer an energy-efficient alternative. The combination of these technologies is essential for driving innovation. He pointed out that traditional core experimentation methods are

becoming outdated as computer simulations have emerged as critical tools for accelerating advanced research. In today’s context, the capacity to conduct futuristic research is directly linked to the ability to develop adequate high-end computing infrastructure.

Dr Darbari discussed the significance of high-speed supercomputing achieved through a harmonious blend of innovation. The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) is pivotal in establishing supercomputing infrastructure across India. This mission encompasses the development of a supercomputing ecosystem, indigenous supercomputer development, and applications of national importance.

Dr Darbari also introduced the indigenously designed and manufactured Rudra Board and the 4 Node Cluster, along with notable supercomputers deployed across the nation, such as PARAM Shivay at IIT (BHU), PARAM Brahma at IISER Pune, and PARAM Shakti at IIT Kharagpur. He elaborated on the contributions of the National Supercomputing Mission in creating indigenous components and systems, including the AIRAWAT and PARAM Siddhi-AI integrated cloud infrastructure. He discussed the key deliverables of the NSM, including building High-performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure and enabling a manufacturing ecosystem within India. A significant milestone is establishing 24 HPC facilities with a combined computing capacity of 64 petaflops.



Dr Ashish Lele, while giving his address

Dr Swati Chadha, the Hindi Officer, delivered the welcome remarks and coordinated the programme. Council employees who retired from the CSIR services in the last

year and those who completed 25 years of continued services in CSIR were also felicitated by the Chief Guest. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Swati Chadha.

CSIR Foundation Day Celebrated at CSIR-AMPRI



CSIR-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI), Bhopal, celebrated the 83rd CSIR Foundation Day on 4 October 2024. Prof. ES

Dwarakadasa, CEO & MD of Karnataka Hybrid Micro Devices Ltd and former Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, was the Chief Guest at the function.

Prof. ES Dwarakadasa, CEO & MD of Karnataka Hybrid Micro Devices Ltd and former Professor, IISc, Bengaluru, spoke about the ancient knowledge of metals covering the discovery and history of metals, especially from the 18th to 20th century.



In the first session, Prof. Avanish Kumar Srivastava, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, welcomed the Chief Guest and discussed various activities and achievements of CSIR-AMPRI in the last six years, highlighting various areas covering patents, publications, important scientific contributions, achievements including technology transfers, MOUs, awards and honours, facilities developed and success

stories. In addition, he talked about CSIR-AMPRI's societal contributions. During the discussion, he also highlighted CSIR-AMPRI's participation in the National missions and sustainable development goals. He also mentioned the future plans for CSIR-AMPRI.

During his visit, Prof. ES Dwarakadasa visited various laboratories/facilities of the





institute and went through the various products developed by CSIR-AMPRI. He also inaugurated two newly constructed facilities, i.e., the Advanced Laboratory for Flexible and Mouldable Materials and the Industrial Waste Synthetic Aggregate Laboratory.

Prof. ES Dwarakadasa also planted a tree at the bamboo cultivation side under #एक_पेड़_माँ_के_नाम #Plant4Mother Campaign.

In the second session, Prof. Avanish Kumar Srivastava, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, welcomed the guests in the auditorium and delivered the welcome address. He spoke about the history of CSIR, the emergence of various CSIR laboratories, and the change in the laboratory's name from RRL to CSIR-AMPRI. He also highlighted that CSIR-AMPRI is the only lab in CSIR working in the area of materials. He spoke about the theme concept in CSIR. He further emphasised that research is incomplete until it reaches common people. He cited examples of commercialised

products of CSIR-AMPRI, like lead-free X-ray shielding tiles and indigenous Raman Spectrometer.

CSIR-AMPRI Capsule Film, Raman Spectrometer and Bamboo composite films were screened during the programme. Students from schools and colleges visited CSIR-AMPRI and saw some facilities. The Chief Guest also released the book entitled “*Development of Sustainable Thermal Insulators from Waste Materials – A Circular Economy Approach*”.

Prof. ES Dwarakadasa addressed the audience and gave the Foundation Day Lecture on the topic “Impact of metals in the growth of civilisation”, wherein he spoke about ancient knowledge of metals covering the discovery and history of metals, especially from the 18th to 20th century and connecting them with ancient literature like vedas, puranas and many more.

Mementoes and watches were distributed to superannuated staff and AMPRI staff members who

Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Prof. Avanish Kumar Srivastava, spoke about the history of CSIR, the emergence of various CSIR laboratories, and the change in the laboratory's name from RRL to CSIR-AMPRI.

have completed 25 years of service at CSIR in the presence of the Chief Guest.

Dr Sarika Verma, Principal Scientist moderated the

programme. Dr Mohd Akram Khan, Chief Scientist and Coordinator of the Foundation Day Programme, proposed the vote of thanks.

CSIR-IIIM Celebrates the 9th Ayurveda Day



CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, celebrated the 9th Ayurveda Day by hosting an Ayurveda medical camp at its Jammu campus on 6 November 2024. The camp was organised by the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Bantalab, Jammu, led by Dr Aditya Shah and his team. The event was inaugurated by Dr Prabodh Kumar Trivedi, Director, CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow & Dr Sudesh Kumar Yadav, Director, CSIR-IHBT, along with Dr Zabeer

Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, who highlighted the significance of Ayurveda in promoting holistic health. The medical camp provided valuable health consultations and treatments, showcasing the rich heritage and scientific origin of Ayurvedic practices.

In a remarkable initiative to foster collaboration between scientists and students, 40 Ayurveda students from the Government Ayurvedic Medical College (GAMC) visited the CSIR-IIIM. They participated in the

Students participated in the “Students: Scientist Connect” programme, which allowed them to engage with various research areas of the institute and gain insights into ongoing research in the field of Ayurveda.

“Students: Scientist Connect” programme, which allowed them to engage with various research areas of the institute and gain insights into ongoing research in the field of Ayurveda. The highlight of the day was a thought-provoking lecture delivered by Dr Ankush Bhardwaj, Associate Professor from GAMC Jammu, who spoke on “Ayurveda Principles for Physical and Mental Health”. His presentation emphasised the importance of integrating Ayurvedic principles

into modern healthcare practices to enhance overall well-being.

The camp was organised under the guidance and supervision of Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, and coordinated by Dr Love Sharma, Scientist, RMBD&IST Division. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head, acknowledging the contributions of all participants and the collaborative spirit that made the event a success.

CSIR-NIScPR Celebrates 9th Ayurveda Day with Emphasis on Integrating Traditional Wisdom and Modern Science



Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, while addressing the 9th Ayurveda Day Programme at the institute

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi, celebrated the 9th Ayurveda Day, highlighting the importance of

Ayurveda in modern healthcare on 25 October 2024. The event, held at CSIR-NIScPR, SV Marg Campus, began with a plantation programme “Ek Ped Maa ke Naam,” followed

Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, said that CSIR-NIScPR coordinates a national initiative called SVASTIK, which brings out case studies and stories of Indian traditional knowledge and share them with society.

Events



by an inaugural address by Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR.

Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal highlighted the significance of the Indian knowledge system available in our country, especially the Vedic Era. She spoke about Nalanda and Takshashila, India's great ancient knowledge centres. Prof. Aggarwal said that CSIR-NIScPR coordinates a national initiative called SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge). In this initiative, we bring out case studies and stories of Indian traditional knowledge and share them with society.

Dr Monika Jaggi, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, introduced the guest speaker, Dr Bhavana

Prasher, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi. Dr Prasher delivered a special lecture on "Ayurgenomics and Prakriti: Innovative Integration of Traditional Wisdom and Modern Science for Personalised Healthcare." Dr Suman Ray, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, proposed the vote of thanks.

A free health check-up camp along with Prakriti Parikshan was also organised in collaboration with Dr Shaizi Layeeq and a team from CCRAS (Ministry of AYUSH), New Delhi. The event aimed to create awareness about the potential of Ayurveda in preventing and managing various diseases, as well as its contribution to India's rich cultural heritage.

Printed and Published by

Mukesh Ambadas Pund on behalf of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research

Dr KS Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110 012

Phone: 011-25843130

Editor: Sonali Nagar

Design: Abhinav Raj; **Production:** Ashwani Kumar Brahmi

E-mail: sonalinagar@niscpr.res.in

Website: <https://niscpr.res.in>

Please direct all Subscription-related queries to:

Sales & Distribution Officer, NIScPR; **E-mail:** sales@niscpr.res.in

Phone: 91-11-25846301-07, **Extn:** 288

Annual Subscription: ₹750; **Single Copy:** ₹75.00