

CSIR-IICT Celebrates “One Week, One Lab” Programme

As a part of the “One Week, One Lab” campaign launched by the Hon’ble Minister and Vice President of CSIR, Dr Jitendra Singh, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad, conducted a programme during 7-12 March 2023.



Hon’ble Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, interacting with Industry representatives during the Industry Leaders Meet. Dr D Srinivasa Reddy, Director, CSIR-IICT is seated to the right of the Hon’ble Minister, and Dr Krishna Ella, CMD of Bharath Biotech International Ltd is to the left of the Hon’ble Minister.

Dr Jitendra Singh launched the “One Week, One Lab” event at CSIR-IICT on 7 March 2023. Dr Krishna Ella, Executive Chairman of Bharat Biotech International Limited; Dr MSN Reddy, Founder and CMD MSN Group and Mr Pradip Dave, President, Pesticides Manufacturers & Formulators Association of India (PMFAI) and Chairman, Aimco Pesticides, were Guests of Honour for the Inaugural function. The Director of the Institute Dr D Srinivasa Reddy delivered the welcome address.



Hon’ble Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh during the exchange of MoU between CSIR-IICT & Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemical Ltd

Addressing the gathering, Dr Jitendra Singh, pointed out that CSIR-IICT has developed several technologies for life-saving generic drugs such as AZT required in controlling AIDS, which ultimately brought down the cost of the drug in the world market. Similarly, anti-viral drugs and vaccine adjuvant for Covaxin developed by the institute played a pivotal role in limiting the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Addressing an exclusive session of business leaders including CEOs, CMDs and MDs from industries, startups and innovators, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Hyderabad is known to be a destination of health and wealth as the pharma capital of the region. Therefore, the specialised and skilled manpower developed by IICT should find a naturally integral place in the pharma and biotech industry of Hyderabad in particular and India in general.

During the inaugural function of the week-long programme, the CSIR-IICT exchanged several MoUs in the presence of the Hon’ble Minister, including with M/s Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), M/s Granules India Limited, and M/s Aragen, Kewaunee Lab way India Pvt. Ltd.

During the programme, booklets on posters and exhibits were released. Besides, CSIR-IICT audio video clip and superfood were also launched. The Hon’ble Minister inaugurated the Expo where the archives, products, technology demonstrations and scientific posters were displayed. Around 5000 people including students representing 120 educational institutions, researchers, teachers, industrialists, start-ups, the general public and press and media visited during the “one week, one lab” event.

The week-long programme showcased CSIR-IICT’s contributions during the last eight decades of its journey in the service of mankind, since its inception in 1944. The programme also included the celebration of International Women’s Day on 8 March 2023 during which Dr Hemalatha, Director, ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), Hyderabad, was the Chief Guest and Ms Rani Kumudini, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Govt of Telangana, was the Guest of Honour. Women achievers from different walks of life shared their experiences on this occasion.

Kisan Mela & Technologies for Society was organised on 9 March 2023. Shri B Janardhan Reddy, IAS, (Retd), Telangana State Public Service Commission graced the occasion as Chief Guest; Prof. P Appa Rao, Former Vice Chancellor of Hyderabad Central University; Dr G Raji Reddy, former World Bank consultant and Director of Extension PJTSAU (Retd), were Guests of Honour.



School and College students during their visit to CSIR-IICT to attend the lecture on Science Communication and Ethics in Science and also to visit the exhibition

Researcher's Conclave was organised on 10 March 2023 where Prof. Gopal Reddy, Vice Chancellor, MG University, Nalgonda, was the Chief Guest. During the conclave, Dr Vinay Nandicoori, Director CSIR-CCMB, and Prof. Rene Gree, University of Rennes, France, were the Guests of Honour.

During the Outreach — Science Communication and Ethics in Science on 11 March 2023, Prof. Manoj Dhar, Director of the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) was the Chief Guest, Mr Pallava Bagla, Photo Journalist, Former Science Editor, NDTV was the Guest of Honour.

The valedictory function on 12 March 2023 was graced by Dr USN Murty, Director, NIPER, Guwahati as the Chief Guest.

“One Week, One Lab” Programme at CSIR-NIIST

CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, hosted the “One Week One Lab” programme from 13 to 18 March to showcase R&D activities and technologies developed by CSIR-NIIST that have shown potential to deliver to societal causes.



Dr N Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and Director General, CSIR, during inaugural ceremony

The programme was inaugurated by Dr N Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR, and Secretary, DSIR, on 13 March. The inaugural event was chaired by the Guest of Honour Prof. Javed Iqbal and was presided over by Director CSIR-NIIST, Dr C Anandharamakrishnan. As part of the campaign, CSIR-NIIST also held a millet food festival, which was inaugurated in the presence of Dr N Kalaiselvi, DG CSIR. A start-up conclave was held during the afternoon session of 13 March, where Dr Saji Gopinath, Vice Chancellor, Digital University, Kerala was the Chief Guest, and Shri Anoop Ambika CEO, Kerala Startup Mission with Dr Devendra Reddy Kalva, were the Guests of Honour.



Dr N Kalaiselvi inaugurating the biodegradable processing unit at the CSIR-NIIST

During the “One Week, One Lab” programme, CSIR-NIIST also hosted a series of thematic sessions including many panel discussions on varied topics of science and technology. During these panel discussions, eminent scientists, entrepreneurs, and industry delegates presented their contemplative thoughts regarding solutions to the pertinent issues in the realm of science and technologies and feasible ways for effective & fast lab-to-land translation including product commercialisation and export paradigms.

These thematic sessions as well as panel discussions were attended by the general public, representatives from NGOs, delegates from industry, students of schools & colleges, lecturers, assistant professors, scientists from other institutes, etc.

The first thematic session in the series was “Ayurswasthya” held on 14 March to endorse awareness concerning the validation of Ayurveda scientifically and methodically. It was inaugurated with a welcome address by Dr Manoj Nesary, Advisor, Ayurveda, Ministry of Ayush. The special address on “Ayurswasthya” was delivered by Dr Radha Rangarajan, Director, CSIR-CDRI, and Shri Kesavendra Kumar IAS, Special Secretary Ayush, Govt of Kerala. Two panel discussions were held on themes of “scientific validation of traditional knowledge for healthy India” and “strengthening ayurvedic MSME industries with academic and research inputs”.

During the afternoon session on 14 March, a session named “Urja” based on the themes of “Energy materials, devices, and hydrogen: the promising path to Amrit Kal” and “Specialty chemicals: building Atmanirbhar Bharat with a focus on sustainability” was held. It was inaugurated by Shri KR Jyothilal IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt of Kerala, and the special address of the session was delivered by Dr KJ Sreeram, Director, CSIR-CLRI. An address by Guest of Honour Shri Rajesh Jha, MD and CEO, Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt. Ltd, was also delivered.

The session on strategic materials on 15 March was inaugurated by Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, VSSC, ISRO. The special address was by the Guest of Honour, Dr R Balamuralikrishnan, Director, DMRL-DRDO, and Dr Avinash Kumar Srivastava, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, and Dr V Narayanan, Director, LPSC-ISRO. The afternoon session of 15 March was based on the theme of “Regional materials in rubber & coir technologies”, which was inaugurated by Shri D Kappuramu, Chairman, Coir Board. There was a special address by the Guest of Honour Dr Sawar Dhanania, Chairman Rubber Board, pertinent to the themes of rubber and coir technologies.

The thematic session on 16 March was inaugurated in the presence of Dr Rajamanickam IAS, principal Director, local self-government department, & commissioner of rural development, Govt of Kerala. The special addresses during “Prithvi” were delivered by Er Pradeep Kumar AB, Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, and Sri Babu Ambat, Executive Director, CED. Also, Dr Sheela AM, Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Govt of Kerala, discussed waste management in the industrial sector during the start-up and industry conclave of the “Prithvi” session.

On the afternoon of 16 March, a discussion on “Environment management services for developmental projects” under the “Prithvi” theme was chaired by Dr Adeela Abdulla IAS, Director, Kerala Solid Waste Management Project. Dr D Sajith Babu, IAS, Director, Institute of Land and Disaster Management, Govt of Kerala and Dr Bineesha P, Board Member, Technology Development Board, DST, Govt of India, were guests.

The conclave on “Sree Anna” on 17 March had Dr B Ashok IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary Department of Agriculture

Development and Farmers Welfare, Govt of Kerala, Dr Ajith Kumar Shasany, Director, CSIR-NBRI and Dr M Loganathan, Director-in-charge, NIFTEM, Thanjavur as guests.

The afternoon session of 17 March on “Agri-nutri-biotech” theme was addressed by Dr Anjan Ray, Director, CSIR-IIP and Dr YB Ramakrishna, Former Chairman, Working Group Biofuels, MoPNG, Govt of India.

Parallel to these thematic sessions, different programmes of the millet food festival were hosted including start-up meet, millet exhibitions, millet cooking competition, farmer’s meet, millet familiarisation session, chef challenge, etc.



CSIR-NIIST family celebrating the open day

On 18 March, CSIR-NIIST celebrated an open day when the institute exhibited its science and technologies to the public of the city to create awareness among them regarding how science could transform the quality of life. Many ministers including Adv. GR Anil, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology and Shri P Prasad, Minister for Agriculture, Govt of Kerala, also visited the



Dr N Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and Director General, CSIR inaugurates the millet food festival

millet food festival and science exhibitions and appreciated the efforts of the institute to find solutions to societal causes with the help of science and technology.

CSIR-NEIST Celebrates “One Week, One Lab” Programme

CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Jorhat, Assam, conducted the “One Week, One Lab” programme during 18-24 March 2023 with an aim to showcasing CSIR initiatives, achievements and other S&T interventions to innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups, academia, industry personnel, students and common people.



Padma Shri (Prof.) ED Jemmis as Chief Guest at the Launching Programme

The programme was launched in the presence of Padma Shri (Prof.) ED Jemmis, the founder Director of IISER, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr Suman Kumari Mishra, Director CSIR-CGCRI and Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST on 18 March 2023 which was also the foundation day of CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat. The institute also dedicated the morning to the Branch Laboratory, Imphal (BLIM), Manipur, celebrating the Golden Jubilee, which was established as a Field Station in 1973. A group of farmers, entrepreneurs and others from Manipur joined the celebration along with the staff of BLIM, led by Dr HB Singh.

On 19 March 2023, the day started with interactions with pensioners of the institute to know their experiences, suggestions and also the problems they faced. A “Brainstorming session on solid waste management” was held where discussion on types of waste generated, challenges associated and possible solutions for solid waste management was held extensively in the presence of the Director, CSIR-NEIST, Dr Amrit Ganguly from CSIR-CMERI along with a group of scientists from the institute.

The theme of the third day was “Agriculture, Food, Health and Wellbeing” and the inauguration session of the programme was graced by Hon’ble Shri Tage Taki, the Agriculture Minister of the Govt of Arunachal Pradesh, along with a group of officials from Arunachal Pradesh and Prof. Ratna Kanta Talukdar, Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent of Jorhat Medical College & Hospital as Guest of Honour.



Inauguration of the “Agriculture, Food, Health and Wellbeing” programme

Later, a seminar on “Health and Well-being through Integrative Medicine” was organised with the participation of a large number of renowned physicians of the region as resource persons like Dr Deepak Sharma, Dr Sarweswar Agarwal, Dr Chandra Borah, Dr Munmee Das, etc. Simultaneously, an interactive session was organised with the entrepreneurs, SHGs, NGOs, farmer representatives and the CSIR-NEIST Branch Laboratory, Itanagar (BLIT), Arunachal Pradesh, where various issues related to socio-economic development in the state were discussed.

A dedicated programme for women was held on 21 March which was attended by a large number of women employees including project staff & research scholars of the institute to discuss topics of research, presented by the medical officers, two incubates of BIRAC-BioNEST and a research scholar of the institute. Dr Purnima Barua, Superintendent, Jorhat Medical College and Hospital (JMCH), attended the programme as Chief Guest.

“Industry, Entrepreneurs and Start-ups Meet” on 22 March was the star attraction of the week-long programme as it had tremendous potential to create linkages with industries and provide opportunity to realise the problems faced by the industries, available technologies, facilities, expertise and solutions through interaction between the industrialists, scientists and research scholars. The industry participants were OIL; ONGC; IOCL, Bongaigaon; IOCL, Sibsaigar; Innotech; Anvaya Innovations; GM materials, Coal India, Sewali Home Enterprise, etc.

Considering the “Knowledge for Empowerment” theme of CSIR-NEIST, three days i.e., 19, 21 and 24 were dedicated to students from different schools and colleges of North East India where several hands-on experiments, demonstration of scientific experiments, student-scientist connect programmes, lab visits and different competitions (Quiz, Art, Riddle, Poem and Photography) were organised for the students.



During exhibition & Teachers-students-parents-scientists interaction programme

More than 700 students from different parts of Assam and North-East India visited CSIR-NEIST and participated in different programmes during the event. During the entire event, several science experiments and instruments were put on display to motivate and encourage students. Also, hands-on training was carried out with some equipments to create curiosity among them.

A huge farming community of NE India is associated with CSIR-NEIST through various R&D and societal programmes including the currently ongoing CSIR-Aroma Mission, CSIR-Floriculture Mission, STINER, RCFC-NER, etc. So,

March 23 was dedicated to the farmers where more than 250 participants from different parts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland joined where Shri SV Shukla, Director, FFDC, Kannauj, Shri Ramakant Harlalka, M/s Nishant Aroma Pvt. Ltd Mumbai and a few other resource persons shared their knowledge and interacted with the farmers.



An MoU was signed between Anvaya Innovations, Jorhat and CSIR NEIST

An MoU of technology transfer on “Supercapacitor battery hybrid system for e-rickshaws” was signed between Anvaya Innovations, Jorhat, and CSIR NEIST, Jorhat, during the Industry Meet programme.

“One Week, One Lab” Programme Celebrations at CSIR-IICB

Joining the campaign, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (CSIR-IICB), Kolkata, conducted the week-long “One Week, One Lab” programme from 27 March to 2 April 2023. Dr Souvik Maiti, Director, CSIR-IGIB, Dr Arun Bandyopadhyay, Director, CSIR-IICB and Dr P Jaisankar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IICB inaugurated the programme at the JC Ray Auditorium of CSIR-IICB on 27 March 2023.



During inaugural ceremony

On 28 March 2023, Industry-Academia Meet was organised on the theme “Industry-Academic Collaborations:

The Road Ahead”, to bring together researchers, academics, and industry leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities in this critical area. The meet was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr Kannan Srinivasan, Director, CSIR-CSMCRI and Dr Suman Kumari Mishra, Director of CSIR-CGCRI, who graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. The panel discussion was led by Dr Arun Bandyopadhyay who started with the genesis of CSIR-IICB and highlighted how an experimental medicine lab has now grown into a state-of-the-art disease biology lab. The panel discussion included Dr Rajeev Jha, Head R&D, Crystal Crop Protection Limited; Dr Avijit Porel, Head-QC, East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited; Dr Wahida Murthy, Founder Director & CEO, Swasthya Niketan; Dr BK Sarkar, MD, Parker Robinson Pvt. Ltd and Mr Saurabh Ray, MD, Monosha Biotech, who shared their experiences and insights on the challenges and opportunities in industry-academic collaborations.

An ‘Open House’ programme was organised on the third day during which 97 students from Kendriya Vidyalaya Santragachi, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Joka, Calcutta Diocesan St Saviours English Medium School, Gems Academia

International School and Pratt Memorial School visited different laboratories and instrumentation facilities of CSIR-IICB.



On 30 March 2023, Student-Scientist Meet was organised in which 89 students from Bidhannagar College, Bethune College, Lady Brabourne College, Maulana Azad College and Dhruva Chand Halder College visited different laboratories and instrumentation facilities of CSIR-IICB TRUE, Salt Lake Campus.

Laboratory visits and an interactive session with Scientists and Government officials were arranged on the fifth day of the 'One Week, One Lab' Campaign. Shri Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay, District Science Officer, District Science Centre, Purulia, visited CSIR-IICB, Jadavpur and Salt Lake Campus and interacted with Scientists and students of different laboratories.



A popular lecture on Diabetes was conducted at the JC Ray Auditorium of CSIR-IICB on the sixth day. Dr Sujoy Ghosh, Professor Physician in the Department of Endocrinology at the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research (IPGME&R), SSKM Hospital and Dr Partha Chakrabarti, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-IICB, spoke on the different aspects of Diabetes.

The week long campaign was concluded with the 67th Foundation Day celebration of CSIR-IICB on 2 April 2023. Prof. Samit Chattopadhyay, Shri BK Birla and Shrimati Sarala Birla, Chair Professor, BITS Pilani and Former Director, CSIR-IICB, graced the occasion.



Dr T Rajamannar, Executive Vice President & Advisor to MD, Head, High Impact Innovations — Sustainable Health Solutions, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, Vadodara, Gujarat, delivered the Dr JC Ray Memorial Lecture. Dr Arun Bandyopadhyay, Director, CSIR-IICB, Prof. V Ravichandiran, Director, NIPER-Kolkata & NIPER-Hajipur were also present at the Foundation Day Programme.