

CSIR-NEERI celebrates 81st foundation day of CSIR

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) celebrated 81st CSIR Foundation Day on 28th September 2022. Prof. Rohini Godbole (Padmashri-2019), Honorary Professor, Centre for High Energy Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru was the Chief Guest and Prof. Amitav Mallik (Padmashri-2002), Defense Technologist & Green-Tech Adviser and Former Member, National Security Advisory Board was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Atul N. Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI and Mr. Prakash Kumbhare, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI were also present on this occasion.

While addressing the audience, Prof. Godbole highlighted the importance of inclusion in the vision of new CSIR. She informed that the Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP) - 2020 has been drafted to form a nurtured ecosystem that promotes research and innovation on the part of both individuals and organizations. In order to create an inclusive culture in the practice of science, equal opportunity in academics and research should be provided to women, she added. She pointed out that diversity, inclusion and equity are not only for the people who are excluded, but these are also required for the development of Science, Technology and Innovation. She hoped that the STIP-2020 will provide access to the grass root innovators for converting innovations into products. Prof. Godbole said that women are keepers of traditional knowledge which can lead to significant innovations. She advocated that CSIR should work more to encourage young women entrepreneurs.

Speaking on 'India at 75 – Energy and Environment Challenges', Prof. Mallik said that India need to promote sustainable energy policies that spur economic growth and environment protection, particularly in terms of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions that contribute to climate change. He urged the scientists to participate in Science and Technology Development activities even after their retirement. He briefed about the initiatives taken by Pune International Centre under his leadership to combat the challenges of energy, environment and climate change. We need specific and concrete policy pathways for deep decarbonisation in India which should work at corporation and gram panchayat level, he added.

In his welcome address, Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI informed that CSIR has formulated a 10-point programme on its 81st Foundation Day for revitalization of CSIR. Industrial application, techno-feasibility, societal benefits are some of the important features of this programme, he added. Dr. Shalini Dhyani, Sr. Scientist, CSIR-NEERI conducted the proceedings.

CSIR-NEERI launched the SAFRA and WDS portal for data management to ensure safe drinking water system. 'Handbook on Water and Wastewater Analysis' was also released on this occasion. The staff members of CSIR-NEERI, who had completed 25 years of service, and those who had retired during the current and preceding years, were honoured on the occasion.

Science Models Competition was organized and prizes were given away to the winners. In the first category (5th to 7th standards), first prize was conferred to Bhavan's B.P. Vidya Mandir, Ashti for presenting the model on 'Multifunction Heating System'; second prize was given away to Centre Point School, Katol Road, Nagpur for the model on 'Eco Smart Village'; third prize

jointly awarded to The South Public School, Ring Road, Nagpur for model on 'Manual Briquette Model' and NEERI Modern School, RPTS Road, Nagpur for the model on 'Green Vehicle'. In the second category (8th -10th standards), first prize was given away to School of Scholars, Wanadongri for the model on 'Auto Power Cut Off for Increased Noise Pollution'; second prize to Montfort School Nagpur for the model on 'Waste Management: River Cleaning Model'; and third prize was conferred to Somalwar High School & Junior College, Nikalas Branch, Nagpur for the model on 'Air Pollution Control-Pollution Free City'.

In the third category (11th to 12th standards), first prize was conferred to The Swaminarayan School, Nagpur for presenting the model on 'Oil Separation from Water Using Ferrofluids'; second prize was given away to J.N. Tata Parsi Girls' H.S. & Junior College, Nagpur for the model on 'Eco Bricks-Solution for Plastic Pollution'; and third prize to Bhavan's B.P. Vidya Mandir, Ashti for the model on 'Low Humidity Air Cooler'.

The winners of the poster competition organized for Research Scholars (UDAAN 2022) were also given away prizes during this CSIR Foundation Day function.

The Institute was kept open for general public including students. 2169 students of 36 schools and colleges from Nagpur and Vidarbha visited the Institute. CSIR-NEERI scientists briefed the visitors about significant R&D activities and achievements of the Institute with some practical demonstrations at the laboratories and Harit Sangrahalaya. The visitors interacted with CSIR-NEERI scientists on various issues relating to environmental science and engineering. Students of various schools presented the science projects depicting effective solutions to the environmental problems.



Dr. Atul N. Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI delivering the welcome address



Prof. Amitav Mallik speaking on energy and environment challenges



Dr. Aabha Sargaonkar, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI briefing about SAFRA-WDS portal



The dignitaries releasing a handbook on water and wastewater analysis



Dr. R A Sohony, Ex. Sr. Principal Scientist receiving memento



Shri Sampat Pahade receiving memento, shawl and samman patra



Shri Anil Gote receiving the memento



Mrs. Jaya Sabjiwale receiving memento



Shri Harish Kumar, Administrative Officer receiving the honour on completing his 25 years of service in CSIR



Bhavan's B.P. Vidya Mandir, Ashti receiving first prize in the Science Model Competition



NEERI Modern School receiving the prize



The winner of the poster competition (UDAAN 2022) receiving prize



The Chief Guest Prof Rohini Godbole addressing the audience