

## Bharat Ratna Prof CNR Rao delivers public lecture to school and college students



*Left: Bharat Ratna Prof CNR Rao delivering the public lecture at District Library, Jorhat. Right: a section of audience attending the lecture.*

CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat organised a public lecture for school and college students on 19 March, 2015 at District Library, Jorhat. Bharat Ratna Prof CNR Rao, FRS, National Research Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru delivered the lecture before a galaxy of scientists, eminent personalities from Jorhat district administration, Assam Science Society- Jorhat branch and students from various schools and colleges of Jorhat and nearby districts. Delivering his lecture on "Celebration of Science: Glorious Past and Challenging Future" Prof Rao spoke about science and stories of great discoveries in Science. Prof Rao in his very elaborative lecture highlighted the discoveries which celebrated its glorious centenary year in 2011 and 2012. The discovery of atomic structure by Rutherford, Super conductivity by K Onnes, X-Ray crystallography by W L Bragg and X-Rays by Roentgen are some he emphasized in his lecture. Prof Rao also mentioned the Solvay Conference of 1911 and 1927 which he called as the Golden age of science. The fundamental contribution by Lavoisier in Chemistry earned him the title of 'Father of Chemistry', he informed. Other revolutionary works of Dalton, Michael Faraday, D Mendeleev, Seaborg, F Wohler, G N Lewis and Linus Pauling are some he further detailed in his lecture. Encouraging the students, he urged them to always have an inquisitive mind for doing science. 'Pick an area where no research has been done much but fundamental research done' opined Prof Rao in his message to the budding students.

Mrs Indumathi Rao who attended the programme as Guest of Honour presented a multimedia demonstration on "Nano world" which showed basic aspects of Nano Science and Nano Technology and their wide applications.

Earlier, Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST delivered the welcome address and briefly introduced the Chief Guest, Bharat Ratna Prof CNR Rao to the audience. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr R C Boruah, Outstanding Scientist, CSIR-NEIST. About 1000 students of standard IX to college level (B.Sc) from different schools and colleges of Jorhat and nearby districts attended the lecture.

It is to be mentioned that Bharat Ratna Prof CNR Rao along with Mrs Indumathi Rao visited CSIR-NEIST during 17-19 March, 2015 during which Prof CNR Rao graced the 54<sup>th</sup> Foundation day celebration of CSIR-NEIST on 18 March, 2015 as Chief Guest and delivered the foundation day lecture while Mrs Indumathi Rao was present as Guest of Honour. During the period, Prof Rao also inaugurated the SS Bhatnagar Building for Advanced Analytical Facility at CSIR-NEIST on 18 March, 2015 besides interaction with CSIR-NEIST scientists and visit to various divisions in the Institute.