

CSIR-NEIST celebrated 73rd CSIR Foundation Day

CSIR-NEIST celebrated the 73rd Foundation Day of its apex body, CSIR on 26 September, 2015 with various programmes held at its premise. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) established on 26 September, 1942 is the largest scientific organization in India with 37 constituent laboratories spread across the country. Having completed 73 years of its dedicated services to the nation, CSIR fraternity celebrated its Foundation Day on 26 September, 2015. At CSIR-NEIST, the day was celebrated with a special function at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium wherein Prof V Chandrasekhar, Director, National Institute of Science Education & Research, Bhubaneswar graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered the Foundation Day Lecture. The function was presided over by Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST and attended by a large gathering of distinguished guests, invitees, press & media personnel besides CSIR-NEIST family. Dr D Ramaiah in his welcome address mentioned the contributions of CSIR towards S&T development and said that today CSIR has not only touched the heights of the sky with technologies like Light Combat Aircrafts but also reached the rural & remote areas of the country through its various S&T intervention programmes. On the occasion, he urged the CSIR-NEIST family members to re-align their activities in the lines of various National Mission Programmes and continue to work in the endeavour to create a better CSIR for a new and a vibrant India.

Delivering the Foundation Day Lecture on his chosen topic, 'Lord of the rings: The Rise of Carbon', Prof Chandrasekhar very lucidly narrated parallel stories behind the discovery of Fullerenes, Graphite & Carbon Nanotubes (CNT) and about Prof C V Raman and the discovery of Raman Effect which made him the first Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. Prof Chandrasekhar mentioned that Carbon has been used in the form of various materials right from the Stone Age period. He expressed that the works on Carbon from decades have led to the development of new materials and these will further lead to the development of future materials. He explained in detail the structure of Fullerenes, Carbon Nanotubes and Graphene (from Graphite) and the contributions of the great scientists like A Lavoisier, H Kroto, S Iijima, A K Geim & K S Novoselov in these areas.

On the occasion, CSIR-NEIST Annual Report 2014-15 was released by the Chief Guest, Prof Chandrasekhar. The MRSI website created in view of the MRSI Symposium to be held at CSIR-NEIST in February, 2016 was also inaugurated by the Chief Guest on the occasion. Also, as a part of the celebration, the employees who retired during September'14 to August'15 were felicitated with CSIR Sanman Patras and Mementoes and also those who completed 25 years in Council's service were felicitated with token gifts. Under the auspices, various programmes like Drawing, Essay and Quiz competitions were held among the children and staff members. The winners of these competitions were awarded with prizes on the occasion. It is also to be mentioned that like previous years, this year also, CSIR-NEIST awarded cash prizes SC/ST students of NE region who secured the highest percentage in class X this year from various state boards under the 'CSIR scheme of cash award to SC/ST students of NE region' to motivate them to take up science in higher secondary level. Also, 'CSIR-NEIST Golden Jubilee Scholarship scheme for bright students of NE region' which started in 2013 with the aim to

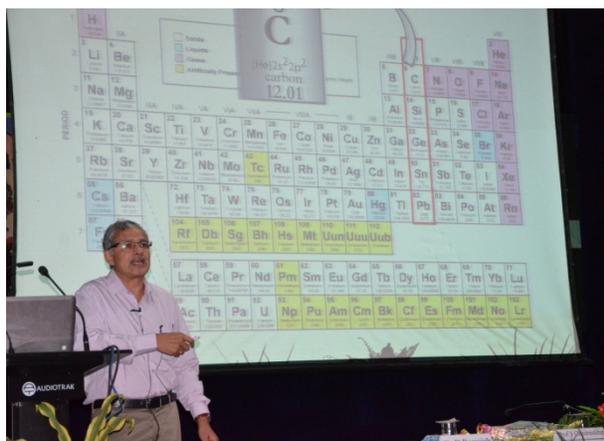
enthuse the NE students towards basic science (in UG level) was continued this year also by awarding the scholarship for 2015-16 to selected 2 students from Assam. Besides, children of CSIR-NEIST employees who secured 90% and above marks in three science subjects in the Sr Secondary examination in 2015 were awarded with one time lump sum cash award. Other felicitations included the staff member(s) who excelled in Sports during 2014-15. The programme concluded with vote of thanks offered by Dr N C Barua, Chief Scientist & Area Coordinator, Chemical Sciences.

The day was also observed as 'Open Day' in the morning hours during which a large number of students and members from the general public visited various divisions of the Institute.

Glimpses



Left: CSIR song performance by CSIR-NEIST staff members. Right: Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST delivering the welcome address. Dignitaries seated on the dais are (from left) Prof V Chandrasekhar, Director, NISER, Bhubaneswar & Chief Guest of the event and Dr N C Barua, Chief Scientist & Area Coordinator- Chemical Sciences, CSIR-NEIST.



Left: Prof V Chandrasekhar delivering the Foundation Day Lecture. Right: Release of the CSIR-NEIST Annual Report 2014-15 by the dignitaries.