

CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology, Jorhat
Connecting Science & Technology for a Brighter Tomorrow

Director, CSIR-NEIST extends New Year's Day Greetings to the staff



Dr D Ramaiah (left), Director, CSIR-NEIST delivering New Year's Day Address. Dr N C Baruah (center), Chief Scientist and Mr Ajay Kumar (right), Hindi Officer, CSIR-NEIST are seen delivering the translated version of the same in Assamese and Hindi respectively.

Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST addressed the staff members on 1 January, 2016 at a short program held at open air stage. In his address, he encouraged all to instil a new sprit to concur future challenges and turn them into opportunities. Declaring the year 2016 as the 'Year of Translational Research' he urged all to be proactive in translating science into technology to create a win-win situation for all the stakeholders. "Let us all aspire to fulfill the mandate of the Govt. by accepting the challenges to provide Science & Technology research findings for the development of the country and to achieve the targets of economic self-sufficiency in time targeted manner", he said. He also reiterated the activities and achievements of the Institute during the year 2015 and extended gratitude to all for making it an eventful one. Also on the occasion, the staff members who joined the Institute in 2015 in various capacities were given opportunity to interact and share few words. Further, the colleagues who also received Awards from various organizations in 2015 spoke about their experiences. Unlike previous years, this year, two students who com-



Staff members of CSIR-NEIST attending the program held at open air stage.

pleted Ph D in 2015 under Academy of CSIR (AcSIR) received certificates from the Director.

CSIR-NEIST Scientist receives IIME Coal Beneficiation Award 2015

Dr Binoy K Saikia, Scientist of Polymer Petroleum & Coal Chemistry Group, Materials Science & Technology Division, CSIR-NEIST has been awarded with Indian Institute of Mineral Engineering (IIME) Coal Beneficiation Award (Academic/R&D) - 2015 for his contribution in the field of Mineral Engineering. The award



Dr Binoy K Saikia
Scientist

which consisted of a plaque was given during the inauguration of the International Seminar on Mineral Processing Technology (MPT-2016) held on 5 January, 2016 at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Pune.

Dr Saikia has research interests in advanced characterization and gainful utilization of high sulphur North East Indian coals, green methods of coal beneficiation, nano-mineralogy and value addition to low quality coals. He has published so far 46 papers in reputed journals (SCI) along with 5 book chapters (ISBN). He has also been elected recently as Life Member of Mining, Geological & Metallurgical Institute of India (MGMI).

If you Salute your Duty, you need not to Salute Anybody, But if you Pollute your Duty, you have to Salute Everybody.

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam

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Shri Y S Chowdary, Honorable Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India visited CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat



Top: Shri Y S Chowdary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India, interacting with a beneficiary in the exhibition stall accompanied by Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST, Shri Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat and other officials. Just above: Hon'ble Minister delivering his address in the interactive session with the beneficiaries & entrepreneurs of CSIR-NEIST technologies.

Shri Y S Chowdary, Honorable Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India, visited CSIR-NEIST during 25-26 January, 2016. On 25 January, the Hon'ble Minister accompanied by Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat constituency and Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST, visited an exhibition of CSIR-NEIST

technologies. The beneficiaries and entrepreneurs of CSIR-NEIST technologies organized various stalls and exhibited their products. The Hon'ble Minister showed keen interest and interacted with the beneficiaries and entrepreneurs. He expressed satisfaction to learn the dissemination of small scale technologies like Mushroom cultivation & Banana fibre extraction to medium scale technology like TP-16 Biofertilizer in the region. Hon'ble Minister also appreciated the impact of Common Facility Centre set up by CSIR-NEIST (supported by DST, Govt. of India) in Mariani (Assam) for the local weavers to boost their skills and products with appropriate S&T intervention. An interactive program was held later at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium wherein the beneficiaries and entrepreneurs of CSIR-NEIST technologies besides CSIR-NEIST fraternity participated. Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST delivered the welcome address and gave an overview of the Institute and its activities. Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Y S Chowdary, emphasized on lab to land approach while mentioning the importance of commercialization and marketing aspects of technologies and products developed by the Institute. He encouraged the scientists to identify the gaps still present and take immediate remedial steps. Shri Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament in his address spoke about the potentiality of the region in terms of rich biodiversity and natural resources and urged the scientists & stake holders to further explore and reach out more to the people. During the open interaction & discussion, the Hon'ble Minister addressed the queries and issues raised by the beneficiaries & entrepreneurs such as fund for more cluster-wise projects for societal development, facilities for solar power systems for rural entrepreneurs, etc. It may be mentioned that on the occasion, Mr Mustafa Ahmed, a class 8th student of Cinamara Hr Secondary School, Jorhat was felicitated by the Hon'ble Minister in appreciation of his work on 'Scientific Seed Storage Device' for which he was honoured as the only child scientist from Assam at the National Children's Science Congress held in December, 2015. The interactive program was followed by Press Meet held at Director's

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Top: Hon'ble Minister inspecting the guard of honour on the occasion of 67th Republic Day celebration at CSIR-NEIST on 26 January, 2016.

Just above: Essential Oil Distillation Plant (300 L/Day capacity) inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister in presence of Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST, Sh. Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble MP, Jorhat and other officials from CSIR-NEIST.

Conference Room, CSIR-NEIST. On 27 January, the Hon'ble Minister graced the 67th Republic Day celebration at CSIR-NEIST as Chief Guest. He inspected the Guard of Honour and unfurled the National Flag followed by the National Anthem sung by CSIR-NEIST family members.

Addressing a gathering of CSIR-NEIST family and students & faculty members of KV-NEIST, the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Y S Chowdary urged all to review their responsibilities as a citizen and to follow the constitution in the right spirit with utmost respect and patronage for the country. A short cultural program was held later at Dr J N Baruah Audi-

torium wherein students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, NEIST performed various song and dance performances. Shri Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, also graced the program. Dr D Ramaiah delivered the welcome address wherein he extended his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for his dedication and sparing valuable time to visit the institute despite his busy schedule. Addressing the occasion, Hon'ble Member of Parliament extended his greetings and expressed his appreciation to the Hon'ble Minister for gracing the Republic Day celebration and said that this may be the first time not only for the Institute but also for the entire district that any Central Minister has hoisted the flag on 26th January. Hon'ble Minister in his address extended his gratitude to the Institute and the school for organizing various programs to commemorate his visit. "I see a huge potential in the region and in the young people to progress and excel in various spheres of life", he said. He further mentioned that the Institute in collaboration with the Ministry may fund exposure trips for the students and young researchers to visit other Institutes and organisations in the country to broaden their horizon. The program concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr N C Barua, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEIST. Later, the Hon'ble Minister inaugurated an Essential Oil

Visit around the Institute by the Hon'ble Minister



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Distillation Plant (300 L/Day) at NEIST Experimental Farm. To mark the visit, Hon'ble Minister and Hon'ble Member of Parliament also planted saplings of *Mesua ferrea* L. (Family: Clusiaceae, Common name: Iron wood tree) in the Experimental Farm. As a part of Republic Day celebration, Sports Event was organized at CSIR-NEIST playground. Hon'ble Minister hoisted the CSIR-NEIST Staff Club Flag and addressed the gathering during the inauguration of the Event. Further, he laid the Foundation Stone of Experimental Animal House in Chemical Sciences Block and visited various divisions like Chemical Sciences & Technology Division (CSTD), Geosciences & Technology Division (GSTD), Biological Sciences & Technology Division (BSTD) and Herbal Drug Processing Unit (HDPU) and interacted with the staff members. He was apprised about the activities of each division during the visit. He showed keen interest and discussed about the Microzonation study and Earthquake Risk Assessment for Cities undertaken by Geosciences Division and asked to submit projects under Smart Cities Mission program. He lauded the work carried out by the Institute in Bioremediation of crude oil contaminated land in Assam and encouraged to submit more such projects for funding from the Ministry to reclaim other contaminated sites.

Papers published

International Journals

- Boruah P R, Bora S J, Saikia P J, Sarma D: Organic/inorganic salting-in/salting-out agents as promoters of Pd-catalysed ligand free synthesis of biaryls in water, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, 2016, 804 p: 26-29
- Das A M, Hazarika M P, Goswami M, Yadav A, Khound P: Extraction of cellulose from agricultural waste using Montmorillonite K-10/

LiOH and its conversion to renewable energy: Biofuel by using *Myrothecium gramineum*, *Carbohydrate Polymers*, 2016, 141 p: 20-27

- Boruah P K, Borthakur P, Darabdhara G, Kamaja C K, Karbhal I, Shelke M V, Phukan P, Saikia D, Das M R: Sunlight assisted degradation of dye molecules and reduction of toxic Cr(VI) in aqueous medium using magnetically recoverable Fe₃O₄/reduced graphene oxide nanocomposite, *RSC Advances*, 2016, 6 p: 11049-11063

Farewell

The following members of the staff have retired from Council's service on superannuation from CSIR-NEIST on 31 January, 2016.

1. Ms. Lakhimi Borah, Principal Technical Officer
2. Ms. Kuin Baruah, Sr. Technical Officer

Condolence held

The Director and members of the staff of CSIR-NEIST deeply condoled the sad demise of its employees, Shri Prasad Chetri, Section Officer (who breathed his last on 06.01.2016), Dr M Khongsai, Scientist (who breathed his last on 10.01.2016) and Shri Tarun Bordoloi (retired employee who breathed his last on 17.01.2016) at condolence meetings held in front of the administrative building on 07.01.2016, 11.01.2016 and 18.01.2016 respectively.