

CSIR-NEIST observed Vigilance Awareness Week



Mr Pankaj Sharma, Wing Commander, Air Force, Jorhat delivering the valedictory lecture.

CSIR-NEIST observed vigilance awareness week during 27-31 October at its premises. The week-long programme concluded with a valedictory function held at Dr J N Baruah auditorium on 3 November. A pledge taking ceremony was held on 27 October wherein the Director, CSIR-NEIST administered pledge to all the staff members. Banners, posters, etc. were displayed and hung at various corners for awareness on the importance of vigilance, corruption free system, accountability and transparency in govt. offices. The occasion also included Slogan and Debate competitions among the staff members. Mr Pankaj Sharma, Wing Commander, Air Force, Jorhat graced the valedictory function as Chief Guest which was presided over by Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST. Mr J L Khongsai, Section Officer (R/V) & Coordinator of the programme delivered the welcome address and informed that this year, the theme has been 'Combating Corruption, Technology as an Enabler'. Mr Vikram Singh, Administrative Officer gave brief introduction of the Chief Guest to the audience.

Delivering the valedictory lecture, Mr Pankaj Sharma said that in recent times, maximum air time has been occupied by corruption news and reports so also uprising of various movements across the country against corruption. Corruption is a global phenomena and India has been plagued by this disease since ancient times, he opined. In his lecture, he spoke in detail about vigilance, its administration, functions of CVOs, mechanisms to enforce rules and procedures, irregularities in contracts/tenders, irregularities in evaluation of tenders and initiatives that can be taken up to bring in more transparency and awareness among the people. Sharing his message on the day, he emphasized to take technology as a boon and use it to the maximum to curb corruption at every organization.

In his presidential remarks, Dr Ramaiah, appealed to all to be vigilant and spiritual in all spheres of their lives. He encouraged all to take responsibility to be self accountable to the society and the nation in general. Let us all strive for implementing technology and take advantage of IT to bring effective transparency to the system, he opined. On the occasion, prizes were distributed to the winners of the Slogan and Debate competitions by the Chief Guest. The function concluded with vote of thanks offered by Mr J L Khongsai.

Exhibition



Visitors at CSIR-NEIST exhibition stall.

CSIR-NEIST participated in the exhibition held on the occasion of Farmer's Day on 4 November at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Titabar. Highlights of the day included showcase and demonstration of various agriculture products, production technologies, rural based technologies, etc. by private/public enterprises and research institutions. The event also exposes the farmers to the latest developments in agriculture and close interaction with scientists and researchers. CSIR-NEIST staged its exhibition stall and disseminated its various rural based technologies through display posters, banners and other exhibit materials.

Visit to CSIR-NEIST by students

- 19 students of B.Sc Zoology (2nd Year) along with 4 faculty members from Biswanath College, Sonitpur district (Assam) on 3 November.
- 62 students along with 5 teachers from Kaloogaon Girls' High School, Kaloogaon, Sivasagar on 5 November.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences visited CSIR-NEIST



Dr Harsh Vardhan, addressing CSIR-NEIST staff members at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium.



Presentation on CSIR-NEIST by Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST at Director's Conference room.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister, Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Vice President, CSIR visited CSIR-NEIST on 15 November. Addressing scientists and young researchers during his maiden visit to the Institute, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union remarked that 'Scientists should help North-East's local communities to cope with climate change'. He emphasized on 'Make in India' vision of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi which he said needs regional synergies. He further added, "A terrific explosion of scientific energy is waiting to be tapped. The Narendra Modi government will channelize this into giving Indian industry a competitive edge in the global economy". He stressed on the need for nationwide network of laboratories under the council for Scientific and



Visit to various divisions and experimental farm by the Hon'ble Minister.

Industrial Research (CSIR) to give solutions to enable local communities everywhere to improve their standards of living. He appreciated the efforts of CSIR-NEIST to combat the emergence of new agricultural pests and spread of new weeds in agriculture. Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "I am here to convey to you the Prime Minister's message that we want a strong and developed India –but not at the cost of the Environment. The North–East is India's greatest resource of biodiversity, genetic resources, ground water and countless other treasures. CSIR-NEIST should develop programmes for their safeguarding."

He recounted that as Union Health Minister, he had laid particular stress on medicinal and aromatic plants for their vast medical use. He mentioned that CSIR-NEIST's research output would be crucial to creating a viable economy for local communities.

Dr Harsh Vardhan arrived in the morning and accompanied by Dr D Ramaiah, Director CSIR-NEIST, visited various Divisions of the Institute. He was given a presentation on the activities of Institute by the Director, CSIR-NEIST in the morning hours and later spent some time in its Biotechnology, Materials Science and Chemical Sciences laboratories. He also went to the Drug Processing Unit, experimental farm and GSI station. Dr Harsh Vardhan showed keen interest in the drugs (ointments) to fight arthritis and fungus developed by the Institute. He stressed on the need to expedite development of the chemical lead compound for production of anti-lung cancer drugs – a project of CSIR-NEIST which is in its advanced stage. The Minister also announced a project to accurately and systematically document



the impact of climate change on the natural ecosystems and biodiversity of the Himalayas and the North –East region. He said, “I am in contact with renowned biologists all over the world who have pointed out to me the vital need for building up a database on the rapidly changing scene in these two regions. Accordingly, I am directing the scientists of NEIST to carry out a pilot study within a short time which will help local communities develop alternative systems.” Dr Harsh Vardhan said a social movement to bridge Science and Society is the need of the hour. He pointed out, “The people of North – Eastern India are far more educated and aware than other regions. Among local communities there is tremendous indigenous knowledge. Such knowledge can propel scientific inquiry and also design solutions and adaption measures. So a social movement involving all stakeholders to document the changes already experienced in local ecosystems is necessary.” Dr Harsh Vardhan urged that CSIR-NEIST must listen to local communities and not patronise them. There is much to learn from the North- East for the benefit of the rest of India, he opined.

Visit abroad

Dr S P Saikia, Scientist, visited CNR-Institute of Agricultural Biology & Biotechnology (CNR-IBBA), Milan, Italy during 07-17 November, for scientific research stay under the joint project, ‘Comparative studies on the Physiology and Biochemical aspects of adaptation and productivity in *Camelina sativa* L. in different biogeographic regions’ under CSIR/CNR S&T Working Programme for the year 2012-2014.

Talk delivered

Dr Amrit Goswami, Chief Scientist

- ‘Scientific temper, role of chemistry and some common chemical phenomena’ in XIth Regional Science Congress of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, held at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Titabar (Assam) on 12 November.

Honour/Recognition

Dr S B Wann, Principal Scientist

- Selected as an editorial board member of *Journal of Chemistry & Applied Biochemistry*.

Seminar/Conference/Workshop/Meeting attended

Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST

- 14th Governing Council meeting of Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable development (IBSD) held at National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi on 12 November.
- Expert Committee meeting of the project, ‘Ethno Medicinal Research centre (EMRC) of North Eastern region’ at Hengbung, Senapati district (Manipur) on 15 November.
- Outreach session for the Indo-French S&T cooperation held at Indian Association for the Cultivation of Sciences, Kolkata on 21 November.

Dr B G Unni, Chief Scientist

- Selection committee meeting of Nagaland University at the university campus, Medziphema on 14 November.

Visit to CSIR-NEIST by students

- 160 students of class XII (Science stream) along with 27 teachers under XIth Regional Science Congress-2014 of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti visited CSIR-NEIST on 13 November.

Condolence held

The Director and members of the staff of CSIR-NEIST deeply condoled the sad demise of its former colleague, Shri Amiya Kr Sarmah (retd.), at a condolence meeting held in front of the administrative block on 10 November.

Talk delivered

Dr B G Unni, Chief Scientist

- 'Muga silkworm *Antheraea assama*, the pride of Assam— application of Biotechnological tools for developing Muga industry' in International Sericulture Congress held at Hotel Leela Palace, Bangalore on 25 November.
- 'Relation of environmental pollution and genetic susceptibility in developing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease' in National conference on recent advances in Biotechnological research in North East India: Challenges and Prospects held at Tezpur University, Tezpur (Assam) during 27-28 November.

Paper(s) published

In International Peer Reviewed Journals

- Goswami L, Gogoi P, Gogoi J, Borah A, Das M R, Boruah R C: Phosphine-free Suzuki cross-coupling reaction: a mild and selective method for the carbon-carbon bond formation in aqueous tea extract, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 2014, 55(40), p: 5539-5543.
- Tamuly C, Saikia I, Hazarika M, Das M R: Reduction of aromatic nitro compounds catalyzed by biogenic CuO nanoparticles, *RSC Advances*, 2014, 4(95), p: 53229-53236.
- Hazarika N, Baishya G: One-pot sequential Schmidt and Ritter reactions for the synthesis of N-tert-butyl amides, *European J Organic Chemistry*, 2014(26), p: 5686-5690.
- Bhuyan D, Sarmah M M, Dommaraju Y, Prajapati D: Microwave-promoted efficient synthesis of spiroindenotetrahydropyridine derivatives via a catalyst- and solvent-free pseudo one-pot five-component tandem Knoevenagel/aza-Diels-Alder reaction, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 2014, 55(37), p: 5133-5136.
- Sharma M, Bhuyan P J: Synthesis of symmetrical and unsymmetrical bis(pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidinyl) methanes, *RSC Advances*, 2014, 4(30), p: 60640-60647.

In Indian Peer Reviewed Journal(s)

- Hazarika S, Konwar D, Bora M J: Semi-empirical computation on mechanism of imidazolines and benzimidazoles synthesis and their QSAR studies, *Asian Journal of Chemistry*, 2014, 26(16), p: 5073-5078.

In Proceedings of Seminars/Conferences

- B G Unni, Sebrin Jehan Islam, Jatin Kalita (2014): Muga Silkworm *Antheraea Assama*, the pride of Assam-application of Biotechnological tools for developing Muga industry, In abstracts of International Sericulture Congress, Hotel Leela Palace, Bangalore, Central Silk Board, Bangalore from 24-27 November, p: 81.
- B G Unni, Kabita Gogoi, Tapan Dey, J Kalita (2014): Relation of environmental pollution and genetic susceptibility in developing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, In Abstracts of National conference on recent advances in Biotechnological research In North East India : Challenges and Prospects November, Department of Biotechnology & Molecular Biology, Tezpur University, Naapam from 27-28 November, p: 4.

Farewell

The following members of the staff have retired from Council's service on superannuation from CSIR-NEIST on 30 November.

1. Shri Promod K Goswami, Assistant G.
2. Shri Bipin Ch Bora, Sr Technician (2).