

# 'IISF brings together students, researchers, innovators and public'

■ A Public Outreach Programme of India International Science Festival 2019 held

■ Staff Reporter

A PUBLIC Outreach Programme as a precursor event of India International Science Festival (IISF)-2019 was held at the premises of CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) on Friday. The programme was organised by CSIR NEERI in association with Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences and Vigyan Bharati (VIBHA).

Dr Shekhar C Mande, Director General, CSIR and Secretary DSIR presided over the programme. Naresh Chafekar, Joint Secretary, Vigyan Bharati (VIBHA), Vidarbha Pradesh Mandal; Dr Rakesh Kumar, Director, CSIR-NEERI; Dr Hemant Purohit, Chief Scientist and Head, Environmental Biotechnology and Genomics Division, CSIR-NEERI and Dr J S Pandey, Chief Scientist and Head, Climate Change and Skilling Division, CSIR-NEERI were also present on this occasion.

While addressing the participants Dr Mande described about the evolution of India International Science Festival



Dr Shekhar Mande inaugurating NEERI Smriti Van at the premises of NEERI.

(IISF). IISF is one of the biggest platforms in the country for bringing together students, researchers, innovators, and the general public for nation building, he added. He informed that five students from the villages adopted by the Members of Parliament (MPs) in each State will attend the festival and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) will take care of their participation. "A students' science village has been planned at IISF-2019 where more than 2,500 school students from across the country have been invited," he added.

Addressing a press conference, Dr Mande said that less polluting firecrackers developed by CSIR-NEERI reduce air pollution

by 25-30 per cent and will be available in market shortly. He also briefed about the drone based device called as 'NEERI-KSHAN-AQ' developed by CSIR-NEERI for air quality monitoring. He said IISF-2019 will be hosting 28 events such as Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Meet, and Face-to-Face meet with New Frontiers in Science.

While delivering the welcome address, Dr Rakesh Kumar, Director, CSIR-NEERI urged the students to participate in IISF-2019. Chafekar elaborated the activities organised at IISF-2019 in Kolkata. Dr Hemant Purohit emphasised on the need to recall ancient India's contributions to Science and Technology for fur-



Dr Shekhar Mande addressing a press conference at NEERI premises on Friday, as Dr Rakesh Kumar looks on. (Pic: Satish Raut)

ther innovations.

The CSIR-NEERI scientists Dr K V George and Dr Lakshmikanthan P also shared their views aligning with IISF. Dr J S Pandey briefed about the CSIR-NEERI's outreach activities and proposed a vote of thanks.

Earlier, Dr Shekhar C Mande, DG-CSIR and Secretary DSIR inaugurated the *Smriti Van* and took part in the plantation drive. Some eminent personalities of city including Baba Deshpande, Shankarrao Tatwawadi, Dr P K Deshpande, etc. also took part in this plantation drive. Various programmes were organised to mark this occasion including popular science lectures, competitions for students of schools and col-

leges, theme based briefing and practical demonstrations at CSIR-NEERI Laboratories, scientist-student interaction, etc. The Institute was kept open for general public and students on this occasion. 1523 students visited the Institute.

CSIR-NEERI Smriti Van was also inaugurated at the hands of Dr Shekhar Mande. After the outreach programme, while addressing the media persons Dr Mande elaborated the event India International Science Festival 2019 to be held from November 5 to 7 in Kolkata. With the vision of Nav Bharat Nirman the festival has been organised on the theme of Indispensable Ideas for Green, Clean and Healthy India, he added.