

CSIR-NEERI Hosts Stakeholders' Conclave on Southern India's Environmental Challenges

CHENNAI

The CSIR – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur, India's premier environmental research organization under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, organized a 'Stakeholders' Conclave and Brainstorming on Current Challenges and Environmental Issues in Southern Region of India' at the Chennai Madras Complex. The event aimed to deliberate on emerging environmental challenges, share best practices, and strengthen dialogue between industries, regulators, and scientific institutions.

The Conclave was graced by eminent guests, including Dr. Jayanthi Murali, IFS, Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB); Er. S. Sreekala, Chairperson, Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB); Dr. N. Ramesh, Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee (PPCC); and Dr. K. Rajeevan, Vice President & CTO, Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T), Chennai. Over 350 participants from various state pollution control boards, including TNPCB, KSPCB, Karnataka PCB, PPCC, ANPCC,



and LDPCC, as well as representatives from leading industries such as L&T, Ramky Industries, Saint-Gobain Pvt. Ltd., Ranitec CETP, Best Colour Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Tamil Nadu Integrated Waste Management Association, and Industrial Waste Management Association, attended the event.

In his address, Dr. S. Venkata Mohan, Director, CSIR-NEERI, highlighted critical concerns including overexploitation of groundwater, climate change impacts, threats to region-specific species due to widespread pollution, and other environmental issues in Southern India. He also showcased NEERI's successful interventions in biomedical waste management, soil remediation in Kodaikanal, and tannery and textile sector pollution mitigation.

Dr. Jayanthi Murali stressed

issues of heavy metals, microplastics, e-waste, single-use plastics, odour from fish industries, and coastal dumping in Tamil Nadu. She highlighted government initiatives such as promoting women's participation, development of tier-2 and tier-3 cities, fish net recycling incentives, the Green Champion Industry Award, and the Meendum Manjai Pai program. Er. S. Sreekala emphasized challenges in potable water contamination, antimicrobial residues, hazardous chemical treatment, and the need for intensive R&D in urban waste and land erosion. Dr. N. Ramesh called for a collaborative approach involving industries, regulators, and academia to manage stressed water resources and declining biodiversity. Dr. K. Rajeevan highlighted the importance of recycled water,

sludge treatment, and cost-effective solutions for emerging pollutants, proposing collaboration with NEERI for training programs.

The technical sessions addressed industrial waste management challenges, perspectives, and solutions. Industry experts from Saint-Gobain, Ranitec CETP, Best Colour Solutions, L&T Water Technology Centre, and others shared insights on low-carbon products, circular economy, ZLD wastewater treatment, and waste-to-resource initiatives.

In the panel discussion, stakeholders emphasized inter-state collaboration, comprehensive national policies, cost-effective ZLD systems, energy generation from municipal waste, and sustainable industrial practices.

Concluding the event, Dr. S. Venkata Mohan stated that the conclave provides a platform for holistic collaboration among industries, government agencies, regulators, and academia to collectively address environmental challenges. The event was organized with active contributions from Dr. Sivacoumar, Dr. Sunita Shastry, Dr. Salve, Er. Satish Dabe, Dr. G. Sarvanan, Er. R. Kathik, Dr. T. Rajesh, and Ms. D. Catherine.

Mapping of soil quality at industrial hotspots across T.N. under way: TNPCB Chairperson

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is conducting soil quality mapping at industrial hotspots across the State, said M. Jayanthi, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB).

Addressing a stakeholders conclave organised by CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in Chennai on Friday, Ms. Jayanthi said the exercise, being carried out along with experts from the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, would ensure that the State's industrial activities did not compromise environmental health.

Ms. Jayanthi said that while Tamil Nadu hosted



Dignitaries at the stakeholders conclave organised by CSIR-NEERI in Chennai on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

31 operational special economic zones (SEZs), the highest in India, these opportunities came with challenges, especially for the TNPCB.

She said the heavy metals and microplastics were increasingly detected in our marine environments,

wetlands such as Pallikarai were being encroached upon, and climate change brought extreme weather events, which threatened both ecosystems and livelihoods.

S. Sreekala, chairperson of Kerala State Pollution Control Board, highlighted

concerns over the contamination of potable waterbodies due to seawater percolation.

Water treatment

She stressed the need for ultra-filtration to treat water affected by percolation, the presence of *E. Coli* in well water, and the growing issue of antimicrobial-resistant residues in waterbodies.

Around 350 participants from various State Pollution Control Boards, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Puducherry, and representatives from industries, the Tamil Nadu Integrated Waste Management Association, and Industrial Waste Management Association attended the con-

clave. At the event, CSIR-NEERI signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) to promote joint research and development activities in the broad area of water and wastewater management.

The MoU was exchanged by Venkata Mohan, Director, CSIR-NEERI, and K. Rajeevan, vice-president and CTO, L&T, Chennai, in the presence of N. Anandavalli, Director, Structural Engineering Research Center, N. Ramesh, member secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee, Sukumar Devotta, former Director, CSIR-NEERI, and R. Sivacoumar, head of the CSIR-NEERI regional office, Chennai head.

जैव विविधता पर हो रहे दुष्प्रभाव से संकट में भविष्य

सीएसआईआर-नीरी के कार्यक्रम में विशेषज्ञों ने जताई चिंता

भास्कर संवाददाता | नागपुर

भूजल दोहन, जलवायु परिवर्तन और प्रदूषण से जैव विविधता पर दुष्प्रभाव हो रहा है। यह भविष्य के लिए चिंता का विषय है। समय रहते इसका समाधान नहीं निकाला गया तो गंभीर खतरों का सामना करना पड़ेगा। इस संकट का निपटान करने के लिए आज से ही शुरुआत करनी होगी। ऐसा सीएसआईआर-नीरी के निदेशक, डॉ. एस. वेंकट मोहन ने कहा। सीएसआईआर-नीरी ने दक्षिण भारत में पर्यावरणीय

चुनौतियाँ एवं विविध मुद्दों पर सम्मेलन आयोजित किया।

इस अवसर पर तमिलनाडु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष डॉ. जयंती मुरली, केरल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड की अध्यक्ष एस. श्रीकला, पुडुचेरी प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति के सचिव डॉ. एन. रमेश, एलएंडटी के उपाध्यक्ष डॉ. के. राजीवन उपस्थित थे। कार्यक्रम में देश भर के 350 प्रतिभागियों, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के सदस्यों, उद्योग व शिक्षा संस्थानों के प्रतिनिधियों ने हिस्सा लिया।



अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन पर अनुसंधान की आवश्यकता : डॉ. जयंती मुरली ने तमिलनाडु में भारी धातुओं, सूक्ष्म प्लास्टिक और ई-कचरे की समस्या बताई। एस. श्रीकला ने पेयजल स्रोतों के प्रदूषण और शहरी अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन हेतु अनुसंधान की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया। उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों ने अपशिष्ट जल उपचार, जेडएलडी प्रणाली और परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था पर अपने अनुभव साझा किए। विशेषज्ञों ने औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में स्वच्छ इंधन प्रौद्योगिकी, ई-कचरे का प्रबंधन, अपशिष्ट से संसाधन निर्माण और राष्ट्रीय स्तर की नीतियों की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया। सीएसआईआर-नीरी के पूर्व निदेशक डॉ. सुकुमार डिवोन्न ने अंतर्राज्यीय सहयोग तथा सुलभ उपचार तकनीकों को प्राथमिकता देने पर जोर दिया। इस अवसर पर सीएसआईआर-नीरी और एलएंडटी वॉटर टेक्नोलॉजी सेंटर चेन्नई के बीच जल एवं अपशिष्ट जल प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में संयुक्त अनुसंधान के लिए एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।





CSIR-NEERI, L&T Water Tech Centre Collaborate on Sustainable Solutions

CHENNAI

CSIR-NEERI and L&T Water Technology Centre Chennai have inked the MoU during the Stakeholders Conclave & Brainstorming on “Current Challenges & Emerging Environmental Issues in Southern Region of India”. The conclave organized at Chennai Masdras Complex Chennai on September 19 2025. The collaboration aims joint R&D in water, wastewater, and emerging areas in the environment.

The MoU was signed by Dr.

S. Venkata Mohan Director, CSIR-NEER, Dr. Rajeevan, Vice President & CTO, L&T Chennai. Dr. M.P.Patil, Dr. Padma Rao, Dr. Sunita Shastry, Dr. P. R. Salve, Er. Satish Dabe, Dr. Rima Biswas and Dr. P. Ganesh Kumar, Dr. N Ram Nandan from L&T- Water Technology Centre were present during the event.

Both the organizations are looking for technological advancement in the Water, Wastewater and Sludge Treatment and other emerging areas in near future.

Stakeholders' Conclave, Brainstorming on Current Challenges and Environmental Issues held in Chennai



Guests from various government organisations from Tamil Nadu and CSIR-NEERI at the conclave.

■ Staff Reporter

RESEARCHERS, scholars and scientists from all over the country showed their concerns over over-use of groundwater, climate change, threats to region-specific species, and widespread pollution and discussed on its solutions during the Stakeholders' Conclave and Brainstorming on Current Challenges and Environmental Issues in South India recently. The conclave was conducted by CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

(CSIR-NEERI) at CSIR Madras Complex, Chennai.

The conclave was graced by Dr Jayanthi Murali, IFS, Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board; SSreekala, Chairperson, Kerala State Pollution Control Board; Dr N Ramesh, Member Secretary, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee; and Dr K Rajeevan, Vice President and CTO, Larsen and Toubro Limited. Around 350 participants from SPCBs, industries, and academia deliberated on regional issues.

Dr S Venkata Mohan, Director,

CSIR-NEERI, presided over the event. He highlighted CSIR-NEERI's success stories in soil remediation at Kodaikanal, and interventions in tannery and textile sectors. Dr Jayanthi Murali underlined challenges of heavy metals, microplastics, e-waste, and coastal dump yards in Tamil Nadu, while also mentioning state initiatives such as recycling of fish nets, open house days, and the Green Champion Industry Award.

Industry representatives shared experiences in a technical session on "Industrial Waste Management."

Venkata Murugan, from Saint Gobain, spoke on low-carbon products and alternate raw materials. Dr D Sivakumar, from Ranitec CETP on tannery waste water management.

In the panel discussion, Dr M Saravanakumar, of TNPCB stressed ZLD systems for industrial hubs; Dr N Ramesh, PPCC advocated desalinated water, clean fuel technologies, and EPR. Dr Sukumar Devotta, Former Director, CSIR-NEERI, called for inter-state collaboration, a comprehensive national policy, affordable treatment technologies, and effective particulate emission control, noting that fundamental issues must be prioritised even as emerging pollutants gain attention. The conclave reinforced the need for joint action among regulators, industries, and scientific institutions to tackle environmental challenges in South India.

CSIR-NEERI and L&T Water Technology Centre Chennai signed an MoU during the conclave.

Powered by Bharati Web

ePaper

नवभारत

Nagpur | 22 September 2025 | Page 5

प्लास्टिक व ई-कचरा बड़ी समस्या

ICSR-NEERI में सम्मेलन आयोजित

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. सीएसआईआर-राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान (सीएसआईआर-नीरी) ने 'दक्षिण भारत में पर्यावरणीय चुनौतियाँ एवं मुद्दों पर हितधारकों का सम्मेलन एवं मंथन' आयोजित किया. इस अवसर पर अध्यक्ष, तमिलनाडु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड डॉ. जयंती मुरली, अध्यक्ष, केरल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ईजी. एस. श्रीकला, सदस्य सचिव, पुडुचेरी प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति डॉ. एन. रमेश, सदस्य सचिव और उपाध्यक्ष एवं सीटीओ, एल एंड टी लिमिटेड डॉ. के.



राजीवन उपस्थित थे. सीएसआईआर-नीरी के निदेशक डॉ. एस. वेंकट मोहन ने भूजल दोहन, जलवायु परिवर्तन और प्रदूषण से जैव विविधता पर पड़ रहे प्रभावों पर चिंता जताई तथा नीरी की सफलताओं का उल्लेख किया. डॉ. जयंती मुरली ने तमिलनाडु में भारी धातुओं, सूक्ष्म प्लास्टिक और ई-कचरे की समस्या बताई. ईजी. श्रीकला ने पेयजल स्रोतों के प्रदूषण और शहरी अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन हेतु अनुसंधान

की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया. सम्मेलन का समापन पूर्व निदेशक डॉ. सुकुमार डिवोड़ा ने किया और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग तथा किफायती उपचार तकनीकों को प्राथमिकता देने पर जोर दिया. इस अवसर पर सीएसआईआर-नीरी और एल एंड टी वॉटर टेक्नोलॉजी सेंटर, चेन्नई के बीच जल एवं अपशिष्ट जल प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में संयुक्त अनुसंधान हेतु एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए.