

CSIR-NEERI organises curtain raiser ceremony for IISF-2020

■ Staff Reporter

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), in association with Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Vigyan Bharati (VIBHA) and CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS), organised a curtain raiser ceremony as a precursor to India International Science Festival (IISF)-2020.

The programme was held at Smriti Van, NEERI. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSMEs, was the chief guest on this occasion.

Prominent amongst other dignitaries present on the occasion included Dr Shekhar Mande, Director General-CSIR and Secretary-DSIR; Jayant Sahasrabudhe, National Organising Secretary, VIBHA; Dr Satish R Wate, former Director, NEERI and President of VIBHA-Vidarbha; Dr Rakesh Kumar, Director, NEERI; Sudha Tiwari, President, SHAKTI; and Dr Atya Kapley, Head, DRC, NEERI.

Gadkari emphasised that IISF-2020 theme 'Science for Self-



Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister; Rakesh Kumar, Director of NEERI; Dr S R Wate, President of Vigyan Bharati-Vidarbha, and others releasing brochure of IISF-2020.

Reliant India and Global Welfare' was relevant in the present context when India was looking at science and technology for spearheading all-round growth. "Self-reliance will happen only through integration with global economy," he said. He spoke on needs of India to maximise exports, minimise imports, create new employment opportunities, and increase GDP through proper application of science and technology. He advocated waste-to-wealth projects, in particular

to turn hazardous waste into value-added products. He urged scientists to find out technology and innovative options related to sludge management and explore bamboo cultivation in India. He stressed upon developing economically viable technologies, and research to produce Bio-CNG from waste material and ethanol from rice.

Dr Mande said that all CSIR institutes would set-up sewage treatment plants based on Phytorid technology developed

by NEERI.

CSIR took COVID-19 as a challenge and turned it into opportunity. It has advantageously positioned itself to pursue focused R&D to develop, integrate, scale-up, and deploy necessary technological interventions for combating COVID-19 pandemic in the country. He said that CSIR had aligned its research outputs with both heavy industry and MSMEs and would continue to partner with stakeholders. Sahasrabudhe said that 40 events had been planned in IISF-2020, of which two were being co-ordinated by NEERI.

Waste and sanitation has been added for the first time under IISF, he added. Dr Rakesh Kumar delivered welcome address. CSIR-NEERI also announced to take up development of Bio-CNG station. Gadkari also launched 'Aayurdehi' and distributed medicinal plants having economic potential to women from rural areas. This will result in income generation. Gadkari took a look at CSIR-NEERI's achievements during an exhibition organised at Smriti Van. Dr Atya Kapley conducted the event and Dr Sukdeb Pal proposed a vote of thanks.