

## **CSIR-NEERI holds Dr. Ashok S. Juwarkar Memorial Lecture**

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) organized Dr. Ashok S. Juwarkar Memorial Lecture on 15 July 2024 in the NEERI Auditorium. Dr. M L Khan, Senior Professor (HAG Grade), Department of Botany, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (M P) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI was also present on the dais.

Delivering the Dr. Ashok S. Juwarkar Memorial Lecture, Dr. Khan expressed concern over degraded ecosystems, emphasizing the need for long-term solutions through science and policy involving everyone. Citing personal observations on climate change, Dr. Khan mentioned that species at lower altitudes are migrating to higher altitudes in Arunachal Pradesh and there is a change in the flowering season and overall snowfall pattern. He presented several management options for mitigating climate change and its impacts on biodiversity in Arunachal Pradesh. He stated that there has never been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems than now. He briefed the audience about the mapping of bioresources in the Eastern Himalayas and Indo-Burma, as well as conservation strategies for rare and endangered tree species. Dr. Khan also discussed the inventory and mapping of biodiversity attributes in the sacred groves of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Central India. Additionally, he spoke about the strategies adopted for the restoration of Rudraksh plants.

In his welcome address, Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI outlined the significant contributions of late Dr. Ashok S. Juwarkar. He said that the research work done by Dr. Juwarkar laid a new foundation in the area of agriculture and environment, and CSIR-NEERI is continuously progressing in this field.

Earlier, the book 'Trees and Tree Microhabitats of CSIR-NEERI Nagpur,' dedicated to the late Dr. Ashok S. Juwarkar, was released, and his significant contributions were screened for the audience. The editor of the book, Dr. Shalini Dhyani, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI, was also present on this occasion.

Dr. Debishree Khan, Sr. Scientist, CSIR-NEERI conducted the proceedings. Mr. Prakash Kumbhare, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI proposed the vote of thanks.

Fifty B.Sc. and M.Sc. (Environmental Science and Biotechnology) students from Kamla Nehru Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur visited the laboratories of CSIR-NEERI and interacted with scientists on this occasion.



Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI delivering the welcome address



The dignitaries releasing the book 'Trees and Tree Microhabitats of CSIR-NEERI Nagpur,' dedicated to the late Dr. Ashok S. Juwarkar



The Chief Guest Dr. M L Khan delivering the Dr. Ashok S Juwarkar Memorial Lecture



