

## **Wastewater treatment is a challenge for industry, says Satish Panchal**

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) celebrated National Technology Day on May 13, 2024 in the NEERI Auditorium. Shri Satish Panchal, Former Managing Director of Vadodara Enviro Channel Limited, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI was also present in the event.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Panchal emphasized the importance of technological development for both industry and society in the present era. He highlighted wastewater treatment as a significant challenge confronting the industrial sector. Briefing about Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), he underscored the necessity to think differently to protect water bodies for future generations, emphasizing the crucial roles of wastewater treatment and recycling. He stressed upon the need to adopt automation, digitization, and Internet of Things (IoT), which include sensors and software, for the smart functioning of wastewater treatment plants in industries.

Shri Panchal urged researchers to comprehensively study the material balance, including input and output, for effective wastewater treatment. He advised scientists to follow the principle of RD&D (Research, Development, and Demonstration) instead of R&D (Research and Development) for the benefit of industry and society. He briefed about recent technological developments in wastewater treatment, emphasizing automation, digitization, and IoT. He expressed hope that artificial intelligence and machine learning will also play a major role in industrial wastewater treatment. Shri Panchal raised concerns over the operation and maintenance of effluent treatment plants across various parts of the country.

Dr. Vaidya, in his welcome address, briefed about the significance of National Technology Day. He also highlighted the contributions of Prof. P. Khanna, Former Director of NEERI in the development of environmental technologies. Dr. Kavita Gandhi, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI, conducted the proceedings. Prakash Kumbhare, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI, proposed the vote of thanks.

Shri Panchal visited decentralized sewage treatment facilities created at CSIR-NEERI. Fifty B.E. (Civil Engineering) students from J D College of Engineering and Management and thirty B. Pharm students from Adarsh Institute of Pharmacy participated in the event and visited various laboratories where they interacted with scientists of CSIR-NEERI.



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



**Shri Satish Panchal delivering the National Technology Day Lecture**





**The Chief Guest Satish Panchal visiting a decentralized sewage treatment facility**