

### **‘Student Outreach’ inspires young minds**

The ‘Student Outreach’ programme was organized at CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur on the fourth day of the ‘One Week One Lab’ campaign. The Chief Guest Dr. Subhash Chaudhari, Vice-Chancellor, RTM Nagpur University inaugurated the event. Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI, Education Officers from Akola, Principals of Zilla Parishad Schools were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Chaudhari said that every citizen should discharge their responsibility towards nature. He praised the student outreach campaign that encourages students to be more creative and innovative, and infuses a sense of responsibility towards environment protection. If students understand the problems to environment, they can come up with alternate solutions, he added. Dr. Chaudhari briefed about the mission ‘Reaching the unreached’ launched by RTM Nagpur University as a part of centenary celebrations. He informed that socially relevant technologies of all research institutes will be made available to needy people through this mission.

Delivering welcome address Dr. Vaidya said that the student outreach campaign is an opportunity for students to gain knowledge on research activities and facilities of CSIR-NEERI, connecting them with future prospects. This is also a platform for bringing scientists, students and teachers together for nurturing young minds, he added. Rahul Vyawahare, Scientist, CSIR-NEERI briefed about the programme. Prakash Kumbhare, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI proposed the vote of thanks. Ms. Poonam Prasad, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI conducted the proceedings.

Dr. K V George, Chief Scientist and Head, Air Pollution Control Division, CSIR-NEERI delivered the popular science lecture, describing evolution of earth, deserts, concept of dry and wet air. Dr. Ashok Rupner, Sr. Teaching Associate, IISER, Pune performed hands-on activities on physics, chemistry and mathematics.

Approximately 3000 students and 175 teachers of 130 schools from different regions of Maharashtra visited the Institute under this student outreach campaign. The students visited all laboratories and facilities to see live demonstrations and interact with CSIR-NEERI scientists. The students also witnessed the virtual lab developed by CSIR-NEERI’s ‘Jigyasa’ for testing of environmental samples virtually. There was also a briefing on science communication and career opportunities at the Harit Sangrahalaya. Science quiz was also conducted on this occasion. Overall, the outreach campaign was instrumental in bringing out the hidden talents of students and creating more awareness of science, technology and engineering. Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Zilla Parishad Schools, Corporation Schools, private schools participated in the event.



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



Dr. Subhash Chaudhari, Vice-Chancellor, RTM Nagpur University addressing the participants



Dr. K V George, Chief Scientist and Head, Air Pollution Control Division, CSIR-NEERI  
delivering a popular science lecture





INSPIRE award winners briefing about innovations





Winners of the science quiz



Dr. P Nagababu, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI explaining about green crackers





Students at Technology Park





Science quiz was conducted



Students being explained about simulation of the virtual lab