

NEIST celebrated National Science Day



Prof Parul Chakrabarti

The NEIST, Jorhat celebrated the National Science Day, 2010 at its premises with a well charted out programme on 26 February, 2010 instead of 28 February on the account of the day being a closed holiday. Prof Parul Chakrabarti, Emeritus Scientist, Bose Institute, Kolkata and Research Adviser, Bengal Tuberculosis Association, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Welcoming the gathering Dr BG Unni, Scientist G, said that the 'National Science Day' is celebrated in the country to commemorate the discovery of the great Indian Scientist Prof C V Raman which earned him the Nobel prize in 1930 in the field of Physics. In his Inaugural Address, Dr RC Boruah, Director In-charge, NEIST spoke about the different programmes NEIST organizes every year for the students for the cause of science awareness. Dr Boruah highlighted the achievements of NEIST in terms of research papers, technologies developed, patents etc. Delivering the National Science Day lecture on "Biotechnology in the 21st Century- Promises and Prospects" Prof Chakrabarti spoke about the contributions of veteran Indian scientists namely, Dr CV Raman, Dr JC Bose, Dr Hargobind Khorana etc., whose discoveries brought laurels to the country. She spoke about the diverse areas and different categories of Biotechnology which has created big impact in our lives and also highlighted its allied applications for the welfare of mankind. Biotechnology is the key to the future which can not only act as an approach to solving the problems of day-to-day life but also can open new vistas of developments in the field of medicine, food, agriculture, health, environment etc., she opined. Enzymes, microbial strains have high industrial applications such as genetically modified food, 'flavr savr', phyto-remediation, clinically useful drugs, nutritional supplements, pigments, cosmetic additives etc. from marine bio-products, bio-remediation process as a tool for environment protection are some of the worth mentioning discoveries, she said. Modern biotechnology has had the greatest impact on the development and production of new medicines, new diagnostics, vaccines, bio-materials

etc., she commented. She also threw some light on the Human Genome Project, Food Processing, Plant Breeding, Biological weapons and talked about the risk factors and safety guidelines one has to keep in mind which can create serious environmental and health hazards from different research activities. She concluded by saying that Biotechnology is envisaged as the technology for the 21st century and expressed her happiness and appreciation to NEIST for its role in environmental protection activities and safe exploitation of natural resources. In the presidential remark, Dr Boruah extended his appreciation for the informative lecture. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr TC Bora, Scientist, NEIST. The day was also observed as 'Open Day' where a large number of students, teachers and general public visited NEIST and had discussion on various science topic with the scientists thereby benefitting from the knowledge gained.

Talk Delivered

Mr BC Saikia, Scientist E II delivered lecture entitled "Role played by NEIST towards industrialization and entrepreneurship development in the country with particular reference to NE India" in the Entrepreneur Development Programme for students at JB College, Jorhat on 22 February, 2010 and in the Business Development Programme for Jorhat Engineering College students at Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat on 25 February, 2010.

Dr Mantu Bhuyan, Scientist delivered 6 lectures on *Butterfly taxonomy* in the Winter School of Insect Taxonomy as Resource person organized by the Tripura University, Agartala, Tripura on 2-3 February, 2010.

Seminar/Workshop/Meeting Attended

Dr PG Rao, Director, NEIST

- the CVO meeting at CSIR, Delhi on 25 February, 2010
- the review meeting of ongoing CLRI projects in North East at Chennai on 26 February, 2010

Farewell

The following members of the staff have retired from Council's service either on attaining the age of superannuation with the effective dates shown:

- 1) Dr BK Gogoi, Scientist Gr IV(5), w.e.f., 28.02.10
- 2) Dr RK Adhikary, Scientist Gr IV(5), w.e.f., 28.02.10
- 3) Mrs RL Saikia, PS, w.e.f., 28.02.10