

Overall activity report on 'National Conference on Innovations and Technology for Rural India (ITRI-2018)'

Close to 70% population of India reside in rural areas. The development of India, can't be realized unless the science, technology and innovations reach to these areas. To address this, a joint initiative has been taken up to organize National Conference on "Innovations and Technology for Rural India" (ITRI-2018) by Organisation for Science Innovations and Research (OSIR) in association with 'Materials Research Society of India (MRSI): Delhi Chapter'. ITRI-2018 was a debut event, expected to be a milestone for converging interdisciplinary research in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agriculture, Environmental and Medical Science areas focused on innovations and technologies for rural applications.



The conference was inaugurated on 15th November 2018 by the Commissioner of Agra Zone; Mr. Anil Kumar (I.A.S.). The chief guest stressed out the need of innovations and self reliance in rural India for the holistic growth of India. Prof. (Dr.) Sunil K. Puri (Former Director, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow) chaired the conference. Prof. Devesh K. Avasthi (Director, Amity Institute of Nanotechnology) delivered the plenary lecture on 'Nanotechnology for sustainable society'. 50 delegates, 5 invited guests and around 40 school students participated in this two

days long conference. Overall 28 delegates delivered keynote/oral talks, whereas 18 participants presented posters.



The objective of this national conference was to bring physicists, chemists, material scientists, life scientists, academicians, innovators and renowned speakers on a common platform to discuss and present cutting edge research and innovations of advanced technologies for applications aimed for rural areas. Researchers presented cost effective approaches for the energy and healthcare sectors. It was successful to provide interdisciplinary possibilities through the rigorous technical discussions among experts from wide range of research fields.

In the closing session, Chief Regional Director of IRCTC; Sh. Ashwini Srivastav (IRTS) and Dr. Viresh Raj Sharma (Jail Superintendent, Saharanpur) graced the occasion and presented mementos to invited speakers. They also presented best oral presenter award (from students) to Mr. Tanvir Alam Khan (from Central University of Rajasthan) and best poster award to Mr. Vijay Kumar (from Aryabhata centre for nanoscience and nanotechnology Aku Patna).



A special session of popular talks for the local school students was clubbed with the closing sessions. Dr. Sangita Semwal discussed various government schemes in the field of electronics and nanotechnology. The session also provided interactive environment to provoke new ideas and to motivate

young minds toward value-creating scientific and technological development/training.

Considering the overwhelming supports from scientific fraternity for this conference, it is encouraging that such scientific conferences can be successfully organized even in very remote areas (In present case, the conference venue was more than 70km from the district headquarter). The responses obtained from the school students in form of queries inspired and encouraged the researchers to work more closely to rural needs.