

DRDO CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



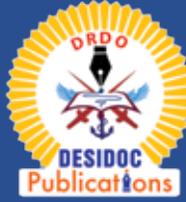


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DRDO CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

DRDO celebrates International Women's Day (IWD) every year in a grand manner to recognise the contributions of women employees of DRDO in all cadres. The Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL), Mysuru, hosted the International Women's Day celebration for the year 2023 during 13-14 March 2023 at the SDM Institute for Management Development (SDMIMD), Mysuru. The two-day event with the theme Synchronising Managing Her Research Innovations and Technological Inspirations (SMRITI) was inaugurated by Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, & Chairman DRDO in the presence of Dr Upendra Kumar Singh, DG (LS), and Dr AD Semwal, Director, DFRL. The event commemorates

the cultural, political, linguistic, and socioeconomic achievements of women. Around 250 participants from various DRDO laboratories participated in the event.

Dr Vijayalakshmi I Balekundri, Prof. Emeritus & former Head of Department, Paediatric Cardiology, Shri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Research, and Dr Harpreet A de Singh, Executive Director, Air India Limited, Former CEO, Alliance Air, were Chief Guests of the event. Dr Shylaja R Sc 'F' & Convenor, IWD-2023, welcomed guests and participants and presented an overview of IWD-2023.

Dr Kamat released a compendium consisting of 33 technical and 16 non-technical articles authored by women

scientists of DRDO and a book named 'Main Aparajita' authored by Mrs Asha Tripathi, Sc 'G', and Associate Director, DPRO, A&M, DRDO HQ. Dr Vijayalakshmi I. Balekundri, in her address, deliberated about the importance of women's role and contribution in nation-building. She motivated women to achieve higher goals and made everyone aware of her inspirational life stories. Dr Singh talked about skill diversification and upgrading, which can help women achieve success. She told participants to maintain balance on the professional and family fronts to achieve success in their careers.

Dr Semwal spoke about the multifaceted role played by women in office as well as home and appreciated the contributions of





women in the laboratory. Dr Singh appreciated the contributions made by women in S&T. He opined that equal opportunities should be given to both men and women in the workplace.

Awards were presented to the authors of the four best papers (two each for technical and non-technical), the winners of the IWD theme competition, and the designer of the logo. A video on women achievers around the globe, including DRDO, was screened to highlight the contributions of women in various fields. The inaugural function concluded with a quiz competition followed by a vote of thanks.

The cultural programme was inaugurated by Ms Smita S Kamat, President, Mahila Kalyan Munch, DRDO. An enthralling cultural programme comprising Bharatanatyam, a shadow art show, and classical songs was performed by Ms Padmashree & Group from Mysuru, internationally renowned shadow play artist and storyteller Mr Prahlad Acharya from Bengaluru, and Ms SAishwarya and Ms Soundrya, Carnatic musicians and the great granddaughters of MS Subbulakshmi from Bengaluru, respectively. The artists were felicitated by Mrs Smita Kamat.

A mass yoga programme was organised for the participants at Chamundi Vihar Stadium on 14 March 23. Yoga trainers from Sri Raghavendra Yoga Kendra in Mysuru trained the participants in various asanas.

The two-day IWD-2023 celebration was marked with invited lectures by eminent speakers, paper presentations

by award winners followed by a plenary session coordinated by Dr Alka Chaterjee, Sc 'G', DEBEL, Bangalore, Prof. Indira Ramarao, President of the Samruddi Foundation, Mysore, and Ms Nandita Sharma, Founder of

Zaivic Tech Wellness Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and Ame Organics, was conducted. The session was interactive, and various challenges faced by working women in offices and how to overcome these issues were discussed.





Besides the celebrations at DRDO HQrs, following laboratories also celebrated IWD 2023 at their respective places.

ACEM, NASIK

The Advanced Centre for Energetic Materials (ACEM), Nasik celebrated International Women's Day 2023 on 15 March 2023. Dr Suvarna Tambade, MBBS, DNB, & a renowned speaker on affirmations, was invited as Chief Guest. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri TV Jagadeeswar Rao, GM, ACEM, and Ms Lubna Khan, Sc 'E' Vice Chairperson, ACEM Women's Cell. In her address, the Chief Guest emphasised the need for women to change their own perceptions about themselves and how positive thinking, self-appreciation, self-acceptance, and taking care of oneself will boost a woman's self-esteem as she faces societal challenges. Shri Rao brought out the involvement of women in different facets of life and the inherent managerial skills of women in handling various responsibilities in various roles. He urged women to focus on the themes of IWD 2023, DigitAll, and SMRITI, which will ensure their empowerment. Various activities were held for the event, and prizes were given to the winners of different competitions.



ASL, HYDERABAD

Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Hyderabad, celebrated IWD 2023 on 15 March 2023. Dr BHVS Narayana Murthy, DG (MSS); Smt B Aruna, First Lady of the Missile Complex; Dr M Rama Manohara Babu, Director, ASL; Smt M Usha Rani, First Lady of the ASL; Smt Madhavi Latha, Chairperson of Virinchi Hospitals), Chief Guest; Ms Malavath Poorna, Mountaineer-Seven Summits; and Smt R Sheena Rani, Chairperson of the Women's Cell, graced the occasion.

The workshop and IWD programme were officially launched by DG (MSS). The welcome address was given by the chairperson of the women's cell. She suggested that embracing equity was a way to achieve equality. In his speech, Dr Murthy expressed his delight at having women scientists in top positions at the Missile Complex and emphasised the importance of gender equality in all aspects of life—social, economic, political, and so on. Smt Madhavi Latha wowed the audience with her speech on 'Sanathana Dharma-Modern Ways of Implementation'. Ms Malavath Poorna could mobilise the audience into positivity with her speech on 'First Step: Always the Door to Success'.



CABS, BENGALURU

The Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), Bengaluru, celebrated IWD2023 in a grand manner on 17 March 2023. Dr K Rajalakshmi Menon, OS & Director, CABS, was invited as a Chief Guest. She addressed the gathering and motivated all the women employees of CABS to excel in their areas of work. She emphasised equity and helping peers achieve the set goals. Dr Suhani Kavi (MBB) was invited to the event to give a talk on women's health issues. She covered various issues related to women's health and presented ways to maintain good health. As has become a tradition, this year also, the women of CABS wholeheartedly contributed to a good cause. A sum of Rs. 38,149/- was used for donation to the Government Lower Primary School, Kempapura, Bengaluru. Stationery kits and school bags were distributed to 35 school children by the Director, CABS, senior women scientists, and Women Cell members, along with a printer and mats.

Besides several other games, 'The Best Out of Waste' competition was conducted to showcase the creativity of participants.



CAIR, BENGALURU

The IWD2023 was celebrated at the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), Bengaluru, on 10 March 2023.



For the event, Smt Anuradha Muralimohan, an academican working in BeMe, which is an open school, was invited as the guest. Smt Desiraju Padma, Sc 'G', Chairperson, Women's Cell, CAIR, welcomed the Chief Guest. Dr Subrata Rakshit, OS & Director, CAIR, addressed the audience and motivated the women in CAIR by explaining the importance of women in shaping a better future. Smt Muralimohan shared her experiences at BeMe School, where children direct their own learning. On the occasion, several cultural programmes were organised showcasing the talents of women employees, including a play to recall the life history of Smt Savitribai Phule, who played a vital role in improving women's rights in India and is considered to be the pioneer of India's feminist movement.



CAS, HYDERABAD

The Centre for Advanced Systems (CAS), Hyderabad, celebrated IWD 2023 on 9 March 2023. The programme was inaugurated by Shri BV Papa Rao, OS & Director, CAS, along with Chief Guest Smt M Brinda, Divisional Engineer, TS TRANSCO, and Senior Officers of CAS. The inaugural speech was given by Smt Surekha, Chairperson, Women's Cell highlighting the importance of recognising the social,

economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Smt Brinda addressed the gathering on 'Women Empowerment'. Director, CAS highlighted the role played by women and their contributions to the growth of society, and he promulgated that every woman should contribute actively to society and break the glass ceiling in doing so. Dr Swarna Kumari gave a lecture on women's health. She emphasised the need for women to be aware of the risk factors associated with various diseases and the importance of regular examinations and a healthy lifestyle. She urged women not to delay seeking medical attention and to prioritise their own health and well-being.



CASDIC, BENGALURU

Combat Aircraft Systems Development and Integration Centre (CASDIC), Bengaluru, celebrated IWD 2023 on 10 March 2023. The theme identified at CASDIC for the celebration was 'Women INSPIRE (Inculcating Non-violence with Supremacy & Passion to Introduce the Realm of Equality)'. Shri CH Durga Prasad, Sc 'G', Centre Head, CASDIC Ms Susan Barrid, Principal, National Centre for Excellence (NCFE), Bengaluru, was invited as the Chief Guest; Ms R Pitchammal, Sc 'G', Associate Centre Head; and Ms S Sarala, Sc 'F', Women's Cell Member, were also present during the occasion. Shri Durga Prasad presided over the function &

addressed the gathering, followed by an inspirational talk by Ms Susan Barrid.



DG (ACE), PUNE

Office of DG (ACE), Pune, celebrated IWD on 8 March 2023 with a seminar on 'Digital India—Women in the Digital World'. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr SV Gade, OS & DG (ACE), the Guest of Honour, Ms Priti Patil, Senior Technical Staff Member at IBM Security, Pune, and other delegates. The welcome address was made by Mrs Meera Jayan, AO, along with a few lines on the status of women in the DRDO, after which Mrs Sriranjini Vinoj, AcO elaborated on the theme of IWD. Dr Gade brought out the important role of women at home and in the corporate world and the changing scenario worldwide. This was followed by the release of the Annual Souvenir 2022 of the Cluster for Armaments and Combat Engineering (ACE) Systems.

Ms Patil delivered a talk that dwelt on various risks that exist in the digital world. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr SC Bhattacharyya, OS & Director (Admin).





DIPR, DELHI

The Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), Delhi, celebrated IWD-2023 on 20 March 2023. In her address, Chief Guest Ms U Jeya Santhi, OS & Director, Scientific Analysis Group (SAG), Delhi, emphasised the role played by DRDO women fraternity in strengthening self-reliance in defence R&D. Dr K Ramachandran, OS & Director, DIPR, complimented the efforts of women scientists and researchers at DIPR and motivated them to scale greater heights on professional and personal fronts. The formal event was followed by team events and games in which all the ladies of the institute participated enthusiastically.



DRL, TEZPUR

As a part of IWD-2023, a workshop on 'Women Empowerment through Science & Technology' was organised



International Women's Day 2023 celebrations at DRL, Tezpur

on 14 March 2023 by Defence Research Laboratory (DRL), Tezpur Women's Cell. On the occasion, Prof. Nashreen S Islam of Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University was the orator and Chief Guest. Scientists, officers, and staff of DRL, DGRE, AO (R&D) and EMU along with their spouses graced the event. All the research scholars, trainees, and contractual staff also participated in the event. Dr Dev Vrat Kamboj, Director, DRL delivered a speech on '#Embrace Equity', the campaign theme of IWD-2023. He stressed on importance of equitable action beyond opportunities to all. Prof. Islam talked on achievements of women alongside their struggles. Further, she touched upon DigitALL by collective action for empowering women. She also shared her own experiences. The programme ended with colourful and lively cultural programme.

DMRL, HYDERABAD

The Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad, celebrated IWD-2023 on 14 March 2023. Prof. Chitra Ananth, Senior Volunteer Faculty, Art of Living, Telangana, was invited as the Chief Guest. Dr TK

Nandy, OS & Associate Director, Shri Ramesh Kumar, Sc 'F' & Chairman, Works Committee; Smt Anjali Kumari, Sc 'D' & Convener, Women's Cell; Shri K Srikant Goud, President, DEFMETLAB Workers National Union; and Shri Raju, Vice Chairman, Works Committee, also graced the occasion.

During the inaugural ceremony, Dr Nandy addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of celebrating Women's Day worldwide. Prof. Ananth delivered an interactive session on 'Let's Break the Burnout Cycle with a Session on Stress Management, Yoga, and Meditation'. In this session, she talked about various techniques for stress management. Ms Meena Kumari, co-convener of the Women's Cell, presented a vote of thanks.



DSP, HYDERABAD

The Directorate of Special Projects (DSP), Hyderabad, celebrated IWD-2023 on 20 March 2023. The event started with a welcome address by Mrs B Rukmini, Sc 'F', Group Head, HRD, KC, & Head SQAG. She briefed about the themes of the year: 'Digit All: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality' and '#Embrace Equity'. Invited Guest Smt Chitra Ananth, Teacher, Art of Living, inaugurated the event with fast-track guided meditation.



Guest of Honour, Smt Sheena Rani, Sc 'H' & Associate Director ASL, Programme Director, AGNI, briefed that by being self-independent, women will get the same status and respect as men in society. Chief Guest Ms Sowmya Kidambi, IAS, Director, Society for Social Audits Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT), Telangana & AP Governments, highlighted the importance of education and the role of mothers in cultivating gender equality in society. Director, DSP Dr PSR Srinivasa Sastry & Dr Anupam Sharma, Associate Director, DSP, Mrs Rani Surender, Sc 'G' & Project Director, ANVESHA, addressed the gathering.

Ms Suman Agrawal, Sc 'F', who won the prize for the best technical paper at the DRDO IWD 2023 in Mysore, was also felicitated on the occasion.



IRDE, DEHRADUN

Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Defence Electronics Application Laboratory (DEAL), and Institute of Technology Management (ITM) jointly celebrated the IWD 2023 on 17 March 2023 to commemorate the contributions of women employees in the technologies of electro-optics, communication, and technology management. The event was held at IRDE and

it brought together women from three different laboratories of DRDO.

The event was marked by the theme 'DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality' and was a step towards creating awareness about the significance of digital inclusion and gender equality. Dr BK Das, OS & DG (ECS), was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Prof. Jaya Chaturvedi, MBBS, MS & Dean Academics, AIIMS, Rishikesh, was invited as the special guest. Dr Ajay Kumar, Director IRDE welcomed the guests. Professor Jaya Chaturvedi is the vice president of the Uttaranchal Chapter of Obstetrics & Gynaecological Society & FOGSI, Dehradun Branch, and recipient of the Jagdeshwari Mishra National Award of FOGSI. She emphasised the importance of gender equity over gender equality. She delivered a thought-provoking talk highlighting the major health risks facing women. All the employees benefited from her informative talk.

Dr BK Das addressed the gathering and highlighted the contributions made by women in the workplace as well as at

home. His message resonated deeply with everyone in the audience. Shri LC Mangal, OS & Director, DEAL, addressed the gathering. He highlighted the role of women in shaping the future. Dr Ajay Kumar, Director, IRDE, emphasised the contribution of women in achieving success.

The event showcased the fusion of three premier laboratories as one family, instilling the message of togetherness in the workplace.

NMRL, AMBERNATH

IWD-2023 was celebrated at the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), Ambernath, with immense zeal and happiness on 6 and 8 March 2023. Dr Ujwala Chakradeo, Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She spoke on gender equality and highlighted the role women need to play to bring about a change in this perspective. A lecture by Dr Purabi Garai, Sc 'D', HEMRL, Pune, on 'Women Development: The Catalyst for Progress' was arranged on the occasion. Following this, Shri PT Rojatar, OS & Director, NMRL, in his address covered the theme of



International Women's Day 2023 celebrations at IRDE, Dehradun



IWD-2023: 'DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality'. A workshop 'TAVASYA' was organised on 8 March 2023 for women employees to discuss personal care and various exercises on team building.



NPOL, KOCHI

Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi, celebrated IWD2023 on 8 March 2023. At the outset of the event, Smt Hema M, Sc 'G' & Coordinator, Women's Cell, welcomed the Chief Guest and the audience. Shri M Suresh, Sc 'H' & Director (Systems), NPOL, in his address reiterated the importance of equal opportunities for women on both the economic and social welfare fronts, which reduces inequality in society.

The occasion was graced by Dr Mary Matilda PV, former

principal of Maharaja's College, Kochi, a well-known educationist, writer, and trainer, who highlighted the poor scenario of women's participation in politics and also mentioned the dilemma in relation to women's efforts in bringing about change in the traditional rules. She stressed her belief that women can work equally with men without being under any influential banner. The talk was well received by both genders and was followed by a lively interactive session.

NSTL, VISAKHAPATNAM

IWD2023 was organised at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, on 9 March 2023 with the active participation of women employees and spouses of male employees of NSTL. The event was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest & Distinguished Guests, Dr Y Sreenivas Rao, OS & Director, NSTL, and Smt M Sujatha, Sc 'F' & Chairperson, International Women's Day Committee (IWDC) 2023.

Smt Sujatha gave a brief overview of IWD, its genesis,

and its growth. In his address, Dr Rao praised women employees of NSTL who are working beyond office hours as well. He concluded his speech by comparing every woman to Goddess Durga. In her speech, Chief Guest Mrs S Sirisha, ACP-Harbour, Visakhapatnam, explained the concept of gender equality with the *Ardha Naareeswara Tattva*.

In her speech, distinguished guest Dr Shruthi Tiwari, Professor, IIM-Indore, gave an insightful talk on 'Innovation & Technology for Gender Equality'. Distinguished Guests felicitated the women achievers, 'Guna Pravallika Vuppala', National Skater, and Kuchipudi Dancer. On the occasion, NSTL women employees and members of MKM jointly donated Rs 10,000/- each to 'Manakutumbam' a home for old age women, 'Manasu' an orphanage for girls of age less than 15 years, and Rs. 13,000/- to Mrs Hymavathi Patina, founder of the Care and Love Children Welfare Society.



HANDING OVER OF ORVAS TO GARHWAL RIFLES REGIMENTAL CENTRE

Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), Delhi, has developed and standardised the Other Rank Vertical Allocation System (ORVAS 1.0) for allocating six verticals, namely, reconnaissance and surveillance, signal, Anti-tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Ghatak, mortar, and assault verticals, at the Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre (GRRC), Lansdowne.

ORVAS is a fully computerised aptitude battery that will be useful in allocating the verticals to recruits as per their aptitude by matching the qualities possessed by a person with the skills required for that particular vertical. Based on a series of field trials and continuous user interactions conducted at GRRC, Lansdowne, ORVAS was developed, comprising seven tests that assess depth perception, executive function, simultaneous processing, object assembly, map



reading, numerical ability, and spatial orientation.

All the tests have been psychometrically developed based on the data of recruits at the GRRC. The final ORVAS report gives the merit list of all the recruits for each vertical at GRRC. A detailed presentation on ORVAS 1.0 was made by Dr Gurpreet Kaur, Sc 'F',

the Principal Investigator.

The system (ORVAS 1.0) was handed over to the Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre (GRRC) on 22 March 2023 at DIPR, Delhi, in the presence of Dr K Ramachandran, OS and Director, DIPR; Dr Soumi Awasthy, Sc 'G' & Project Director, and other senior scientists of DIPR.

SUCCESSFUL TRIAL OF BMD INTERCEPTOR FROM NAVAL PLATFORM BY DRDO & IN

DRDO and Indian Navy successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal on 21 April 2023. The trial aimed to engage and neutralise a hostile ballistic missile threat, thereby elevating India into the elite club of nations with naval BMD capability.

Prior to this, DRDO successfully demonstrated a land-based Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system with the capability to neutralize ballistic missile threats emerging from adversaries.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, the Indian Navy, and the industry involved in the successful demonstration of ship-based BMD

capabilities.

Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat, complimented the teams involved in the design and development of the missile. He said that the nation has achieved self-reliance in developing highly-complex network-centric anti-ballistic missile systems.



CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL SAFETY WEEK-2023

ADE, BENGALURU

Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, celebrated National Safety Week (NSW) during 4-11 March 2023. During the celebration, all employees were educated about the best industrial safety practises. Mr Navneeth Mohan, Joint Director, Dept. of Factories, Boilers, and Industrial Safety, Bengaluru, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He delivered a lecture aimed at the theme of the year, 'Our Aim-Zero Harm'. Director, ADE, in his address highlighted the importance of safety practises and their place in an organisation where multidisciplinary activities are carried out.

Safety posters and safety medical first-aid kits were distributed to various work centres and divisions of ADE. A safety week quiz competition was organised for the ADE fraternity to disseminate awareness about best safety cultures, DRDO safety policies, etc. Prizes were distributed to the winners.



CAIR, BENGALURU

Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), Bengaluru organised NSW-2023 by inviting two dignitaries who have vast experience in safety measures:

Dr Anil Kumar P Grampurohit, Senior Police Inspector, Bengaluru Traffic Police, and Dr Sumana Y, Senior Consultant in Community Medicine, BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital, Bengaluru. Smt Desiraju Padma, Sc 'G', Chairperson, Safety Committee in her address stressed the importance of safety in our daily lives, both inside and outside office premises.

Dr Subrata Rakshit, OS & Director, CAIR addressed the audience and touched upon the safety aspects relevant to CAIR while explaining the necessity of following safety-related aspects in our daily routine.

Dr Grampurohit started his talk by sharing a video in which a little negligence on the road leads to fatalities. He emphasised that it takes a fraction of a second to cause an accident on the road. Dr Anil suggested wearing an ISI-marked helmet while driving two wheelers even for short distances.



CASDIC, BENGALURU

Combat Aircraft Systems Design and Integration Centre (CASDIC), Bengaluru, celebrated NSW2023 during 6-10 March 2023 with the theme 'Our Aim—Zero Harm'. Dr C Srirama, TO 'B', Officer-in-Charge, Safety Division, delivered the lecture on 'Safety—Everyone's Responsibility'. The

topic was chosen for the occasion to motivate the CASDIC personnel regarding the importance of workplace occupational health and the safety of men and materials. Awareness of the fire safety system available at CASDIC, the importance of timely action during any exigency, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals, safety coordinators, etc. were presented during the lecture. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was also displayed for the benefit of the officials of CASDIC.



DGRE, CHANDIGARH

The 52nd National Safety Week-2023 was organised at the Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Chandigarh, during 4-10 March 2023 to spread awareness among employees of various safety and reliability aspects in the scientific organization, especially with reference to DGRE. During the week, activities, poster making, and a slogan writing competition on 'Safety Aspects in High Altitude Areas' was organised. A mock contingency evacuation drill was carried out by employees of DGRE. A talk on fire safety with a practical demonstration on fire fighting with portable fire extinguishers and hydrant systems was explained by Leading Fireman (LFM)



Surjeet and Amar Malik. DGRE employees actively participated in all the events conducted, and prizes were distributed to winners and runner-ups by Dr Pinaki Roy Chowdhury, Associate Director, DGRE on 10 March 2023.



IRDE, DEHRADUN

Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun celebrated NSW during 4-10 March 2023. Dr Ajay Kumar, Director, IRDE inaugurated the week-long event. Dr RK Bhardwaj, Sc 'F', Defence Electronics Application Laboratory (DEAL), Dehradun, delivered a lecture on 6 March 2023 to sensitise IRDE employees about industrial & fire hazards and mitigation techniques. In his lecture, he highlighted the causes of industrial & fire hazards and emphasised do's & don'ts in the event of industrial and fire incidents. He also pointed out the precautions to be taken during any fire accident.

Dr Ajay Kumar stressed the need to take up the matter of safety very seriously. He requested that all employees adhere strictly to safety norms. A fire safety demonstration/drill was conducted on 10 March 2023. IRDE officers and staff attended the drill. During the demonstration, a fire safety officer explained the

class and the use of a different types of fire extinguishers.



NMRL, AMBERNATH

52nd National Safety Week was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), Ambernath, during 4-10 March 2023. Employees took the Safety and Health Pledge administered by the Director, NMRL. A lecture on 'Impact of Human Factors on Workplace Safety' was delivered by Shri Alok Srivastava, Scientific Officer 'H', Head Industrial Hygiene & Safety Section, BARC-Mumbai, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

A poster and slogan completed with the theme 'Safety & Health at Workplace' were arranged for NMRL employees on this occasion. 'Adherence to the Safety-Best Department Trophy-2022' was awarded to the Marine Bio-Technology (MBT) Department for adherence to the best safety practices in the workplace in the technical division category.

A rolling trophy was also



awarded to the 'Administration & Accounts Group' in the non-technical category for the same.

NPOL, KOCHI

The Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi organised 52nd National Safety Week to enhance safety awareness among employees. The event was celebrated on 6 March 2023 with a series of events. The event started with flag hoisting by the senior technician. This was followed by a safety pledge by the NPOL fraternity.

The pledge was led by Shri Arun K, Sc 'F', Chairman-Safety Committee, in the presence of Dr Ajith Kumar K, Director, NPOL. A live demo on firefighting was also conducted subsequently. Shri Sumod TM, Station Officer, educated employees about classes of fire and different types of fire extinguishers.

On 10 March 2023, the concluding day of the celebration, Shri KS Harikumar, Manager (Rtd) Fire and Safety, FACT, Udyogamandal, Kerala, delivered an enlightening safety awareness talk. The talk was followed by a quiz conducted by Shri RP Raju, Sc 'E' on safety topics. Shri Suresh M, Sc 'H' & Officiating Director, NPOL, distributed the prizes to the winners of the safety week competitions.





NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

CABS, BENGALURU

Dr R Ramkumar, Sc 'E' delivered the National Science Day (NSD)-2023 oration on 'Massive MIMO, Reconfigurable Intelligent Surface, & Beyond Advances Applications & Features' on 2 March 2023 during the NSD celebration at the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), Bengaluru. He received the NSD certificate and a medal from Dr K Rajalakshmi Menon, OS & Director, CABS.



CAIR, BENGALURU

The Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), Bengaluru, celebrated NSD-2023 on 28 February 2023. Shri Dinakara K, Sc 'F' Chairman, NSD Organising Committee, welcomed the CAIR fraternity, conveying the historical importance of the event and the theme for this year's celebration. Dr Keshava Kumar J, Professor & Consultant, Neuropsychologist, NIMHANS, Bengaluru was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

Dr Subrata Rakshit, OS & Director, CAIR addressed the gathering. Shri Vikram Kanoi, Sc 'F', the recipient of this year's Science Day Medal, delivered the oration on 'Performance Enhancements of Information

Systems in a Constrained Military Environment'.



CASDIC, BENGALURU

Combat Aircraft Systems Development & Integration Centre (CASDIC), Bengaluru, celebrated NSD on 28 February 2023, with an oration by Shri Pramod Kumar, Sc 'E', on 'The Philosophy of Airborne Missile Warning Systems (MWS)'. The talk covered the role of MWS as part of the EW suite in a contemporary war scenario, types of MWS, classification of missile threats, advancements in passive sensor technology, advantages and disadvantages of passive and active MWS, processing philosophy, MWS technology in the global market, etc.

He was awarded the NSD Medal and certificate by Shri Ch Durga Prasad, Sc 'G' & Centre Head, CASDIC.



DL, JODHPUR

Defence Laboratory (DL), Jodhpur, celebrated NSD-2023 on 28 February 2023 with great zeal and enthusiasm. On the occasion, a science quiz was organized for 9th and 11-grade students from different schools in Jodhpur City. Ninety-two (92) students from 24 different schools participated in the quiz. Shri RV Hara Prasad, OS & Director, DL awarded the winners.

The event was formally inaugurated on 28 February 2023 by the Chief Guest Dr A Bhagwati



National Science Day Celebrations at DL, Jodhpur



Rao (former Director, L&I, DRDO Hqrs) and Director, DL. The NSD-2023 oration was delivered by Dr Mohit Sharma, Sc 'E' on 'Emerging Material Technologies for Camouflage Applications'. He was felicitated with the DRDO Medal and Citation by Director, DLJ.

DMSRDE, KANPUR

Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, celebrated NSD-2023 on 28 February 2023. Prof. Shamsher, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Harcourt Butler Technical University (HBTU), Kanpur, was the Chief Guest for the occasion. He gave a keynote address on 'Energy Security in India-Challenges'. He talked about India's dependency on non-renewable sources of energy and said that India should focus on meeting its energy requirements from renewable sources. Shri AS Parihar, Sc 'F' gave an oration on

'Futuristic Design and Materials for Ballistic Resistant Personal Protection Systems (PPS)'. He spoke about futuristic design and materials for Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJ) and ballistic helmets as per BIS and NIJ standards. On the occasion, Dr Mayank Dwivedi, Director, DMSRDE addressed the DMSRDE fraternity and discussed the importance and relevance of celebrating Science Day.

IRDE, DEHRADUN

Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun, celebrated NSD on 28 February 2023. Dr Ajay Kumar, Director, IRDE, inaugurated the event. The Chief Guest of the event was Prof. Kedar Khare, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. He delivered a keynote address on 'Does Holographic Replay Provide a True 3D Image'? Dr Nimish Dixit, Sc 'F', IRDE, delivered the NSD Oration on 'Nonlinear

Optical Terahertz Generation and Active Terahertz Imaging'.

On this auspicious occasion, Dr Ajay Kumar remembered Dr CV Raman's discovery of the scattering of photons, which was later known as the 'Raman Effect'. Dr Ajay Kumar congratulated the scientific community of IRDE for its quest to achieve excellence and self-reliance. The event was organised by the IRDE Science Forum.



NMRL, AMBERNATH

National Science Day 2023 was celebrated at the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), Ambernath, on 28 February 2023 with great enthusiasm. Shri VP Deshmukh, Sc 'G', Associate Director, NMRL, addressed the gathering. The NSD2023 Oration was delivered by Dr A Gourav Rao, Sc 'D' on 'Pushing the Property Limit in Aluminium, Iron, and Titanium-Based Alloys by Grain Refinement for Defence Applications'.

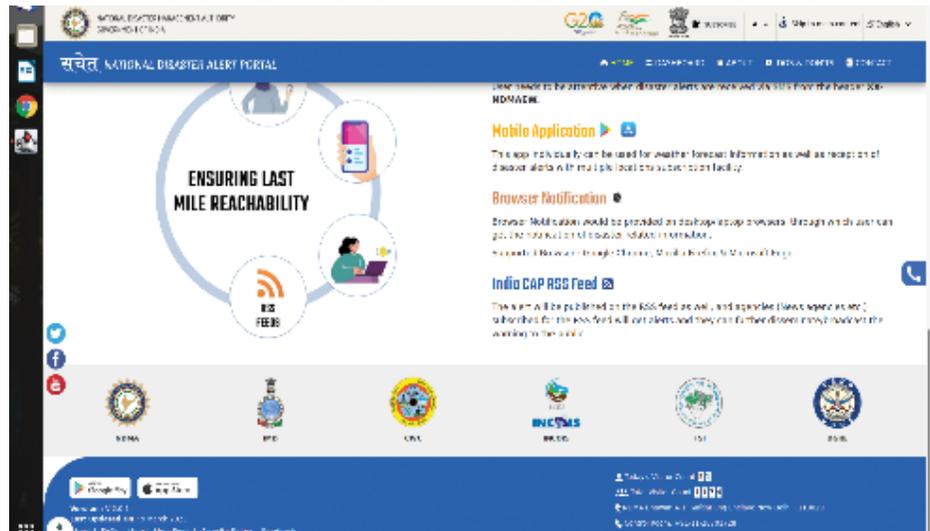


National Science Day Celebrations at DMSRDE, Kanpur

NATIONAL DISASTER ALERT PORTAL 'SACHET' LAUNCHED BY NDMA

In the 3rd Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) at New Delhi, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), GoI launched the National Disaster Alert Portal (SACHET) on 11 March 2023.

Dr PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, in the presence of Shri Nityanand Rai, MoS Home Affairs, Shri Kamal Kishore, IN, Shri Hitesh Kumar S Makwana, AS (DM) MHA, and Shri Atul Karwal, DG (NDRF), launched the portal. The portal provides a converged platform for the dissemination of targeted alerts and advisories to people living in disaster-prone areas in vernacular languages through SMS in the country. It is the first and only portal across India to publish official warnings for disasters such as cyclones, tsunamis, avalanches,



cold waves, heat waves, floods, lightning, earthquakes, landslides, fire, drought, etc. 'SACHET' provides live current locations, weather, and disaster alerts in the country from multiple agencies, such as Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE, DRDO), the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA),

the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the Central Water Commission (CWC), ESSO, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), and the Forest Survey of India (FSI).

The avalanche and weather alerts and forecasts generated by DGRE are integrated into this app.

DGRE ACCREDITED ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION

Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Chandigarh has been accredited ISO 9001:2015 certification by Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), O/o Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, GOI, with effect from 1 March 2023 and is valid for 3 years from its issuance date.

DGRE will implement these

standards towards R&D of technologies for geo-intelligence and mitigation of geo-hazards, particularly avalanches, and landslides, through an effective quality management system.

Dr PK Satyawali, Director, DGRE, greeted the Head, DR&QA, and team and also acknowledged all the staff and officers of DGRE for their constant support in getting the certification.





INSPECTION BY RAJBHASHA PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AT DLJ

A six-member Rajbhasha Parliamentary Committee inspected the Rajbhasha implementation activities of the Defence Laboratory (DL), Jodhpur on 13 January 2023. The committee was headed by Hon'ble Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). The Committee inspected and interacted with DL officials on various Rajbhasha activities being pursued by the laboratory. The Committee appreciated the efforts and initiation of the DL.



CAIR SECURED TOP RANKS IN INTERNATIONAL ACL COMPETITION

The CAIR-NLP team participated in ACL SemEval-2023 Task 2: Multilingual Complex Named Entity Recognition (MultiCoNER II). SemEval, an International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation, is an ongoing series of evaluations of computational semantics systems organised under the umbrella of SIGLEX, the Special Interest Group on the Lexicon of the

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL). The task posed significant contemporary challenges for named entity recognition in terms of low-context inputs, syntactically complex and ambiguous fine-grained entries, multi-linguality, limited training data, and evaluation of the noisy subset.

A total of 34 teams from top global research organisations and

universities participated in 13 tracks. The CAIR-NLP team's NER system, which employed a multi-objective joint learning strategy, secured 2nd rank in five tracks (multilingual, Spanish, Farsi, Swedish, and Ukrainian) and 3rd rank in three tracks (French, Italian, and Portuguese) out of 13 tracks. On noisy subset evaluation, the CAIR-NLP team performed relatively better.

PATENT GRANTED

A patent no. 416804 for 'Closed Loop Feedback Controlled Semi-active Magnetorheological Fluid Anti-vibration Mount' has been granted by the Indian Patent Office to Dr Reji John, Shri Shiv Kumar, Shri Padmakumar CG, Shri K Shajahan, and Dr Thomas D, Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT NSTL

196TH MAHATMA JYOTHI RAO PHULE'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

The 196th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Jyothi Rao Phule was organised by the OBC Employees Welfare Association, Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam on 11 April 2023. During the inauguration, Shri Chaitanya Samrat Padala, President, NSTL OBCEWA, spoke on the importance of education and the struggle of Jyothi Rao Phule to attain education for himself and his wife, Srimati Savitri Bai Phule.

Shri Urban Kumar, President of the NSTL SC/ST Employees Association, addressed the gathering with important aspects of Mahatma Jyothi Rao Phule's



life and Satyasodhak Samaj, a brief history of the Mahar Community in

Maharashtra, and its importance in Shivaji Maharaj's regime.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DR BR AMBEDKAR

Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, celebrated the Birth Anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar on 14 April 2023.

Shri M Nageswara Rao, Sc 'F', gave the opening remarks for the event; Shri U Urban Kumar, Sc 'E' & President, NSTL SC-ST Employees Association; and JN Verma, General Secretary, NSTL Civil Employees Union, addressed the gathering.

In his address, Distinguished Guest Shri Jada Sravan Kumar stressed the need for the utilization of Vote to Right, eradicating political inequalities, and creating a clean society.

Guest of Honour Dr P Ravindra Babu shared his experience with various political leaders and how



SC-ST people are getting provisions because of Dr Ambedkar.

He appealed to all to become followers of Dr Ambedkar and eradication social imbalances.

Celebrations were concluded with the fancy dress show done by the children of Ramnath School, NSTL.

RAISING DAY CELEBRATIONS

DFRL, MYSURU

The Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL), Mysuru, celebrated its 62nd Raising Day with grandeur on 15 February 2023. Chief Guest, Dr G Satheesh Reddy, SA to RM inaugurated the event in the presence of Dr UK Singh, DG (LS), and Dr Anil Dutt Semwal, Director, DFRL. Dr R Kumar, Associate Director, welcomed all the dignitaries and staff of DFRL. Dr Semwal briefed about the R&D achievements of DFRL in the year 2022 and requested the DFRL fraternity to strive hard in the coming years and make landmarks in their area of research work. Dr Singh lauded the R&D achievements of DFRL and appreciated DFRL for meeting the food and logistic requirements of the Armed Forces in various



weapons, platforms, theatres, terrain, and specific missions.

In his presidential address, Dr Reddy appreciated DFRL for a large number of technology transfers and for creating a

vendor base for the supply of food & logistics to the Services. He advised the DFRL team and industries to make food products that are environmentally friendly for the global market.

IRDE, DEHRADUN

Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun, celebrated its 63rd Raising Day and Annual Sports Day on 17 February 2023. Dr BK Das, OS & DG (ECS), was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Dr Ajay Kumar, Director, IRDE, welcomed the august gathering and congratulated officers, staff, and their families on Raising Day of IRDE. He conveyed his thanks and appreciated all employees of IRDE for the completion of projects during the year 2022.

In his address, Dr Ajay Kumar shared his vision to make next-generation systems for our Armed Forces with quality, reliability, and enhanced performance that is



delivered on time and outperform all contemporary systems.

Dr Das and Dr Ajay Kumar released the IRDE's annual Hindi magazine, 'Sankalp'. They also released the 'Sankalp' technical

magazine, which covers the technical articles written by IRDE officers and staff in the Hindi language. The dignitaries also released the IRDE Mission-2023 document on the occasion.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT DIPR

A four-day international conference on 'Optimising Human Capital of Armed Forces: Psychological Perspective' was organised by the Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), Delhi, during 25-28 April 2023. The conference aimed to deliberate recent advances, emerging trends, and challenges of psychology with respect to human capital of the Armed Forces the world over.

The conference has participation from the three Services, DRDO laboratories, and academia. Around 250 delegates and research scholars from all over the country attended the conference. During the inaugural function, Chief Guest, Dr VK Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog, appreciated the contributions of DIPR and said that the technology continues to evolve rapidly and needs to be integrated effectively. He emphasised that in the current era of techno-centric warfare, psychology will play a vital role in creating the optimum man-machine interface.

Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO and Chief



Patron of the conference through his message, emphasised the importance of research in the relevant domains and conveyed his best wishes to the delegates and organisers for strengthening research efforts at DIPR for the Indian Armed Forces.

Adjutant General, Indian Army Lt Gen CB Ponnappa hoped that the wide areas being deliberated during the conference would be helpful for the Armed Forces. Dr UK Singh DG (LS), highlighted the collaborative approaches among the psychological sciences, artificial intelligence, machine learning, etc. for addressing very complex problems when it

comes to military psychology and advanced warfare techniques. Dr K Ramachandran, OS & Director, DIPR, reflected upon the importance of the themes of the conference and said that the contours of the responsibilities of our Armed Forces and associated external and internal security challenges, including peacetime operations in guarding the nation's vital interests, are numerous and varied.

Dr Jitender Kumar Singh, senior scientist and organising secretary of the conference, said that one of the key objectives of the conference is to elicit diverse perspectives on the major themes from various stakeholders, such as the Armed Forces, academia, research institutions, and scientists of DRDO. He reiterated that the exchange of ideas during the four-day event through dialogue and discussions will provide impetus to ongoing and future research endeavours in military psychology. The conference aimed to provide an opportunity to carry out collaborative research with academia and other research institutions in the country.





CBRN MEDICAL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP FOR AD CORPS DENTAL OFFICERS AT INMAS

A two-day CBRN medical management workshop was organised by the Division of CRMM, Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS), Delhi during 27-28 March 2023. The participants of the workshop included dental officers from AD Corps nominated by DG DS. 20 AD Corps. This was the first CBRN workshop conducted exclusively for AD Corps dental officers at INMAS. The training included CBRN sensitization and medical management lectures, basic life supports practical demos with training manikins, and case discussions. The training was part of the task project undertaken to enhance the national capacity to fight any CBRN event.



TRAINING ON RECORDS MANAGEMENT

A two-day training programme on DRDO Records Management for Pune Zone was conducted at Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune during 6-7 February 2023. The training programme was designed and organised by Dte. of Parliamentary Affairs, Rajbhasha, and Organization & Methods (DPARO&M), DRDO HQrs, and other necessary arrangements were made by DIAT Pune. During the training programme, Smt Asha Tripathi, Sc 'G', DPARO&M, gave an introductory talk on 'Overview of Organisation & Methods: Record Management and its Guidelines'.



Faculties from DPARO&M included Shri CP Meena, Sc 'E', Shri Manoj K Shakya, TO 'C', and

Shri Udey Shankar expert faculty from NAI, who delivered a lecture on the Importance of Record



Management; Classified Records & Public Records Act and Rules, Record Management Policy, 'Record Retention Schedule'; DRDO Archival and Retrieval

System' (DARS); and CSMOP & Setting up of Records Room'.

The two-day training programme concluded with certificate distribution by Dr CP

Ramanarayanan, Vice Chancellor DIAT and Smt Asha Tripathi, Sc. 'G' jointly to the 74 participants from various laboratories of the Pune zone.

LECTURE ON SWACHHATA MISSION AT IRDE

Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun, organised a lecture on the Swachhata Mission on 20 February 2023. The lecture was delivered by the team from Dr Nanasahab Dharmadhikari Pratishthan, Maharashtra, on 'Cleanliness Drive, Hygiene, and 3-R. Shri PK Sharma, Sc 'G' & Chairman, Swachhata Vigilance Committee, IRDE, welcomed the team. The aim of the lecture was to ensure the participation of the IRDE fraternity in Swachhata activities and to truly transform Swachh Bharat into a citizen's movement. Officers and staff of IRDE attended the lecture and



were enlightened by various aspects of 3-R, i.e., reduce, reuse, and recycle. Shri Sharma thanked the team for highlighting the

various aspects of the Swachhata activities and expected the gathering to actively participate in the Swachhata Mission of IRDE.

HINDI WORKSHOP AT DMRL

The Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad, organised a one-day Hindi workshop on 17 March 2023 for all Technical Officers 'B'. Smt Bela, Deputy Director, and In-Charge, Hindi Teaching Scheme, Hyderabad, conducted the workshop. She delivered a lecture on the history of Hindi as an official language, highlighted the various rules related to Hindi writing, and elaborated on the difference between masculine and feminine gender while writing various important notations in Hindi. She encouraged the



participants to write comments in Hindi instead of English. She

also conducted a practice/exam session on correct noting.



NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGIES COURSE AT DMSRDE

Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, organised a Continuing Education Programme (CEP) during 20-24 March 2023 on 'Nano Science and Technologies for Defence Applications'. A total of 25 participants from various DRDO laboratories attended the course. The course was inaugurated by Dr Mayank Dwivedi, Director, DMSRDE, Kanpur. During the 5-day programme, eminent speakers from various National Institutes of Reputation and senior scientists from DMSRDE and other DRDOs delivered



scientific deliberations on recent technological advancements in

Sc 'F', Course Director, and Shri Subhash Mandal, Sc 'E', Course Coordinator, conducted the event.

SYMPOSIUM ON QUANTUM COMPUTING TECHNOLOGIES AT IRDE

Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun, organised a two-day symposium on 'Quantum Computing Technologies' during 2-3 March 2023. The symposium was aimed to explore the possibility of quantum computing technologies for electro-optic sensing applications.

Dr Ajay Kumar, Director, IRDE inaugurated the symposium. The chief guest of the symposium was Dr G Athithan, former DS & DG (MED & COS), DRDO. He delivered a keynote address on quantum computing. The symposium covered various topics on quantum computing and sensing were covered. Eminent



personalities from DRDO and reputed academic institutions delivered the talks. The symposium was attended by 33 scientists from IRDE, DEAL, and RCI. A panel

discussion to discuss the IRDE future course of action was held in the concluding session. Dr G Unnikrishnan, Sc 'F', IRDE was the symposium coordinator.



WORKSHOP UNDER MISSION KARMAYOGI

To facilitate the 'Mission Karmayogi', under the DHRD guidance, the Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), Bengaluru organised a two-day workshop on 'Annual Capacity Building Plan' during 27-28 March 2023. The objective of the workshop was Training Need Identification (TNI) and capacity building for DRDO employees.

HR Heads, HR Coordinators, and Representatives of Sc 'E', Sc 'C', TO 'B', STA 'B', Admin Cadre,



Stores Cadre, and Accounts Cadre from Bengaluru-based laboratories attended the workshop. Shri RK

Jain, Sc 'F', & AD, along with Dr Mehbuba Begum, Sc 'F', AD, DHRD, moderated the workshop.

USER WORKSHOP AT DIPR

Other Rank Trade Allocation System (ORTAS) 4.0 Workshop was conducted on 18 April 2023 at Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), Delhi. Dr K Ramachandran, OS and Director, DIPR addressed the officers emphasising the significance of placing the right man for the right job in the military settings. Dr Soumi Awasthy, Sc 'G' gave an overview of ORTAS Version 1.0, Version 2.0 and Version 3.0. Dr Gurpreet Kaur, Sc 'F'



talked about the feedback and requirements received from

different training and regimental centres & the road ahead.

TRAINING ON DRDO WATER TESTING KIT

Defence Research Laboratory (DRL) Tezpur, conducted training on the DRDO Water Testing Kit on 11 April 2023 for Army personnel under 4 Corps. Dr DV Kamboj, Director, DRL, interacted with all the participants and encouraged them to learn the necessary skills for the detection of contaminants in water using a DRDO water testing

kit. Army personnel deployed in remote and forward areas of northeast India face challenges related to the assessment of drinking water in field conditions. The training provided by DRL Tezpur would help them address the issue effectively. Water may look clear, but it may be contaminated with fluoride,

arsenic, bacteria, etc., which are harmful to human health. The laboratory has developed a kit that can detect 11 parameters, including hazardous contaminants in water. An elaborate demonstration was given to armed personnel during the training for the detection of contaminants in water using the DRDO water testing kit.



TERI-IWA-UNDP WATER SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Defence Materials and Stores & Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), DRDO, Kanpur, has been awarded the Water Sustainability Award 2022-23 under the Category of Innovation in water technology for facilitating the 'Development and Usage of Innovative Water Technologies' towards the achievement of sustainable development goals on clean water and sanitation organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, and United Nations Development Programme. Dr Mayank Dwivedi,



Director, DMSRDE, Dr Kingsuk Mukhopadhyay, Sc 'G' & Project Advisor; Dr Debmalya Roy, Sc 'F' & Project Leader; and Shri Subhash Mandal, Sc 'E' & Activity Leader, were felicitated with the award.

AWARDS

Ms Ramya Kusuma Sunkara, Sc 'D', Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), Bengaluru, received the 'Best Innovative Idea' award for 'Design of Radar Beamformers with Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces using Deep Neural Networks' from Shri KS Varaprasad, DS & DG (HR), in the Young Scientist Meet-2023 held during 18-20 January 2023, at Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai.



MERIT EVENING-2023 AT NPOL

Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi, organised NPOL-Varuna Merit Evening-2023 on 23 February 2023 for felicitating the students of Bhavan's Varuna Vidyalaya (BVV), Kochi, a joint venture of NPOL and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. A merit evening was conducted in NPOL to felicitate the BVV students who excelled in the board exams of the last three years.

The event was graced by the presence of Prof. PR Venkitaraman, Sr. Career Consultant, as the Chief Guest. Almost 60 students were felicitated for their achievements. The felicitation speech was delivered by Dr Ajith Kumar K, Sc 'G' & Director, NPOL; Shri Biju Gopal, Sc 'F' & Chairman, School Management Committee (SMC); and Smt Remadevi KP, Principal, BVV, Shri Prabhasuthan, Sc 'F' & Vice Chairman, SMC, proposed the vote of thanks.





VISITORS TO DRDO LABS

CAIR, Bengaluru

As part of the ongoing Indo-Japan collaboration project, the Joint Working Group (JWG) and Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meetings were held during 14-17 March at CAIR. A team of four delegates from the Future Capabilities Development Centre (FCDC), ATLA, and MoD Japan visited CAIR and participated in these meetings. They discussed the progress of work and prepared a report for the JSC.



CHESS, Hyderabad

Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, DD (R&D) and Chairman, DRDO visited the Centre for High Energy Systems and Science (CHESS), Hyderabad, on 24 March 2023. Dr BK Das, DG (ECS) briefed him about CHESS activities and Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system technology developed by CHESS. Dr Jagannath Nayak, Sc 'H' & Director, and team CHESS showed him the indigenously developed DEW system for anti-drone and anti-UAV applications.



DMSRDE, KANPUR

Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, DD (R&D), and Chairman, DRDO visited Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, on 7 April 2023. Dr Mayank Dwivedi, Sc 'G' & Director, DMSRDE, welcomed Dr Kamat and Smt Smita Kamat. Dr Kamat inaugurated the Silicon Carbide Fibre Processing Laboratory, followed by a tree plantation on DMSRDE premises.



IRDE, Dehradun

A delegation comprising officers from the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, Special Cell, Delhi Police, visited the Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun, on 6 March 2023. The delegation was headed by Ms Purnima Panthri, ACP of the Delhi Police. The SWAT team was welcomed by Shri Niraj Bhargava, Sc 'G' & Associate Director, IRDE. He explained the products and technologies of IRDE to the team.



NMRL, Ambarnath

VAdm Sanjay Mahindru, AVSM, NM, DCNS, visited the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), Ambarnath, on 5 April 2023, for a review of the integration of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system with the P-75 class of submarines. A brief presentation on various research activities being undertaken by NMRL was made by Shri VP Deshmukh, Sc 'G'.



TBRL, Chandigarh

Ms Suma Varughese, OS & DG (MED & CoS) & CS (MCC), and Dr Seema Vinayak, OS & Director, Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL), Delhi, visited Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh, to witness the trials of the MEMS High 'G' Latch Switch developed by SSPL and fabricated at SITAR. They witnessed the trials of laser detonators being developed by TBRL, which are fired using high-power diode lasers developed by SSPL.



DRDO NATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

The DRDO National Chess Tournament 2022–23 was organised by the Centre for Advanced Systems (CAS), Hyderabad, during 13 to 15 March 2023. Shri BV Papa Rao, OS & Director, CAS, inaugurated the tournament on 13 March 2023. The South Zone & North Zone Teams were winners and runners-up, respectively, in the team championship (women) category. In the team championship (men) category, the Central Zone and South Zone Teams were adjudged winners and runners-up, respectively. In



the open singles category, Central Zone & North Zone. Teams were adjudged winners and runners-up, respectively, in the men's category,

whereas, in the women's category, North Zone and South Zone Teams were adjudged winners and runners-up, respectively.

INAUGURATION OF CAD/CAE CENTER AT NSTL

The Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, established a CAD/CAE Centre at the Mechanical Systems Directorate (MSD). The Centre was inaugurated on 2 March 2023 by Dr Y Sreenivas Rao, OS & Director, NSTL, along with Dr Y Appa Rao, Sc 'G', GD (MSD & I), and other senior scientists. The Centre will cater to all the structural design and analysis requirements of NSTL.



EYE TESTING CAMP AT HYDERABAD

Estate Management Unit (R&D), Hyderabad, organised a free 'Eye Testing Camp' under 'Kanti Velugu' in association with the Commissioner of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Telangana. The camp was conducted from 28 March 2023 to 15 April 2023. It was aimed at conducting eye screening and vision tests along with the provision of spectacles at no cost. Also, medicines for common eye



ailments were made available, and suitable action was also taken

to educate people on preventing serious disabling eye diseases.