

Dear friends,

With heavy heart, we had to say good bye to our beloved Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. "CECRI" family pays its heartfelt tributes to the great soul. May almighty rest him in peace!

Any research and development laboratory is like a living organism, where constant fusions of new and old ideas take place, facilitating vibrant changes in both its functioning and environment. As new discoveries are made, some relevant to us should be imbibed instantaneously to shape our thinking. These new ideas and concepts are either ravaged or redefined to improve our understanding or to develop a new material. Our laboratory is in a progressive mode considering the incessant generation of new ideas and concepts, and as reflected in our performance.

Let me now present to you a gist of the Dehradun Declaration made at the recent Directors' Conference:

- develop technologies for National Missions such as Swachch Bharat, Swasthya Bharat, Skill India, Smart Cities, Digital India and Namani Ganga
- be a catalyst to transform India into a Samarth Bharat–Sashakt Bharat
- develop at least 12 game changing technologies every year and one technology for the strategic sector
- develop a business-like revenue model with clear cost/benefit analysis
- develop entrepreneurship in small-, medium- and big-scale industrial sectors
- generate confidence in the society about the relevance of the laboratory in terms of social impact
- cater to the aspirations of the common man and develop technologies beneficial to the poor

In order to gain enhanced visibility, the institute has decided to hop aboard the social media bandwagon. Please visit and join at <https://www.facebook.com/1CSIR.CECRI> and https://twitter.com/CSIR_CECRI. Mr. T. Ashok Balamurugan will maintain and update these

sites, and will coordinate with the headquarters. I request all our staff to help him by feeding him with relevant information. Please follow the websites regularly, but kindly refrain from posting irrelevant information.

In the last quarter the KRC team did a commendable job by securing perennial access to RSC publications (1841–2007)—from the first issue of *Memoires and Proceedings of the Chemical Society*. CECRI already has full access to select journals from 2008 (11 titles). Let me congratulate the two scientists who bagged awards during this period: Dr. M. Anbukulandainathan (Tamil Nadu Scientist Award of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology); and Dr. V. Ganesh (Nambikkai Nakshathiram Award of the Pudhiya Thalaimurai TV Channel). In the same breath, let me also congratulate research scholars Ms. Indu Elizabeth, Mr. Remith and Mr. Sathyamoorthi for winning, respectively, the Prime Minister’s Fellowship for Doctoral Research, French Government Eiffel Excellence Scholarship and the DAAD Fellowship. Special words of praise go to our BTech students Mr. Ayyappan, Mr. Muthappan and Ms. Swathiha Priyadarshini for securing admission at US universities for pursuing higher studies.

The last quarter was also witness to several workshops and meetings: Workshop on Practical Aspects of Lithium-ion Batteries; National Technology Day; National Corrosion Day (at Dindigul); 2nd Indo–US Workshop on Engineered Carbon Nanomaterials; CSIR-UGC JRF Examination; Research Council meeting; CSIR-CECRI Foundation Day; and a meeting on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace. We are also grateful to Prof. S. Vasudevan for delivering the CECRI Foundation Lecture, opening to us the power of simple physical chemistry tools to unravel fascinating aspects of 2-D materials like graphene. I specially convey my thanks to everybody who put in their best efforts in successfully conducting these events. I must congratulate the ERP team of Dr. M. Jayachandran, Dr. G. RadhaKrishnan, Dr. M. Anbukulandainathan and Mr. Anand Bharti for the successful demonstration of ERP at various levels and landing pages to an ERP audit team from the headquarters comprising the Finance Adviser, Ms. Anu J. Singh as well as Mr. Ratan Lal Sharma, Mr. Palaniappan, Mr. S.P. Singh. I am delighted to say that FA and her team appreciated our efforts and decided to give more impetus for the implementation of ERP across all the CSIR laboratories. In this context, we are currently

providing in-house training in ERP to CLRI. A team from NIIST has already been trained. This reflects our strong position in ERP.

Soon we will have a new-look Open Air Auditorium and a renovated Science Auditorium. I would like to express my appreciation to the civil and ETS teams for their coordinated efforts. Thanks to the Colony Affairs Committee and joint efforts of HLS and Garden sections, the campus looks cleaner and greener except in a few areas. Ours is one of the CSIR laboratories that can boast of the best administrative efficiency and transparent functioning.

The promotion policy of CSIR has undergone a major shift and has become more rigorous. Despite this, three of our colleagues have become Chief Scientists. I would like to congratulate them. Unfortunately, one or two hardworking and dedicated scientists could not make it despite my strong persuasion; I am sure that forbearance and fortitude will eventually win. Please do not be disheartened. Remember, the scientific community holds you in high esteem.

Before I close, let me also tell you that I now hold additional charge of CSIR-NCL and Cluster Directorship for Chemical Sciences. Truly, these recognitions mirror your collective efforts—your diligence and industry, bringing laurels to this laboratory. However, it pains me to say that I would not be able to spend as much time as I used to earlier. So, I request you to reach me with prior appointment after checking my availability. You may kindly approach the Controller of Administration for administrative clearances and clarifications. And, as you know, I am always available for the research guidance.

“One thing that you can't fake is chemistry - Blake Shelton”