

1st January, 2015

Dear CECRIans:

At the outset, let me wish all my CECRI family members a wonderful New-Year. You all have worked very hard (“some of you even beyond my expectations”) and I would like to say a big THANK YOU. Tell me which CSIR Lab has simplified the NDC at the time of superannuation from 64 to 24 signatures? Which other CSIR lab has generated the balance sheet in ERP, at least in principle? Which CSIR lab has got three years consecutively both Young Scientist Award and MRSI Medals together? These remarkable achievements were possible only because of the strong commitment and hard work put in by several of our staff members, no matter where they are from; Administration, Finance, Purchase, ETS, HLS, Civil, Scientific division, Support staff etc. This indicates that many outstanding people are there in this great institute and we can expect a higher level of performance in 2015!

I am very much positive that this New Year too will bring many more laurels to our institute along with unparalleled academic accomplishments, perhaps more than what we have witnessed in 2014. Last year we all had a dream to make our institute a top-class research destination attracting the highest rated talent pool globally and to some extent we were successful. We had been successful in many things both academically and administratively enabling higher performance. This was possible because, all of you have focussed on what you are best at.

On this occasion, let us recollect a few noteworthy events :

1. Accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).
2. Young scientist award (for the third consecutive year) to Dr. V Ganesh under Chemical science, MRSI Medal to Dr. Gopukumar (third time consecutively again), Fellow of the Academy of Sciences, Chennai (FASc.) to Dr. B Subramanian, NGIS Award to Dr. R Vedalakshmi, International Highest Publication Award to Dr. S Vasudevan are few examples of accolades gathered by our employees. Also Dr. Gopukumar got nominated as a member of the Solar Energy Enabling R & D Expert Group (SEER - EG) of DST, New Delhi, and Dr. P Subramanian as a member of the Academic Council of Anna University. Along with these awards, there are few prestigious fellowships awarded to our staff such as Bhaskara Advanced Solar Energy (BASE) to Dr. Subhendu Kumar Panda, Raman Charpak Award to Mr. Saravanan.
3. Publications in the prestigious journal such as ACS Nano, Nat. Commun. and Nature Materials.
4. Development of Solekshaw LITE and NXR-4D with Mahindra REVA under NMITLI mode of true Public-Private Partnership(PPP) and more number of Industry Sponsored Projects with notable collaborations with Colgate Palmolive, Boeing, RIL Group, Nissan Technology group etc
5. Successful organization of the 46th SSBMT (Indoor) without any complaints
6. A large (75%) increase in the number of patents perhaps due to a separate IP unit.
7. Rise in the number of visiting scientists from the developing countries under the TWAS fellowship.
8. Successful organisation of two national conferences with the active support of - SAEST and NCCI
9. Setting up of a Mobile canteen unit for three months on a trial basis and also Tennis Court for sports enthusiasts.

10. Inauguration of Intel-coat Building by Prof. R.A. Mashelkar, former DG, CSIR.

An important and encouraging news is that CSIR HQ has increased our Group IV strength to 155 from 120, which will allow us recruit few people in selected areas of eminence in this year and I request all leaders to focus on global excellence without any bias or parochial feelings.

There are few areas where we have not progressed well and let us hope that this year we will be able to move with more momentum.

1. Translation of Flagship project R&D outcomes involving B.Tech Students to visible demonstrations.
2. A Shuttle Court to facilitate more sports activities.
3. Student evaluation of teachers for both B.Tech. and Ph.D. course work.
4. Organization of Annual English Workshop and Nobel Evening by SAC.
5. More wider operational access of instruments to Ph.D. students

Technology and innovation have always played a critical role in our lives and our dreams should be connected to them. For example, all over the world countless batteries are being used in mobiles, i-pads, laptops, hearing aids, power tools, vehicles, necessitating such a large production. If CECRI scientists do not make Li-ion rechargeable cells of acceptable quality to industry, please think what type of opinion our public will have about Indian Scientists in general and CECRI Scientists in particular, irrespective of all other factors.

Let's make a promise to each other that the coming year should be an innovation year for our institute with revolutionary outcome in all our planned projects. To achieve this, we all have to embrace the glorious distinctive resources within and make the best use of those talents. We should aim to spin-off companies selling anticorrosion formulation or high-performance Li batteries or doing alloy plating, which will create a huge impact on society. I am sure that many such ambitious outcomes are possible with team work and passionate involvement of all CECRIans.

"The difference between the amoeba and Einstein is that, although both make use of the method of trial and error or elimination, the amoeba dislikes erring while Einstein is intrigued by it. He consciously searched for his errors in the hope of learning their discovery and elimination."
~ Anonymous

I once again WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 2015!