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CSIR laboratories to be recast for better research: Joint Secretary

Special Correspondent

It is important for the laboratories to stop unproductive tasks

Automation: Indian Council of Industrial Research Joint Secretary K.Jayakumar speaking at the CECRI Foundation Day in Karaikudi on Monday. — Photo: L. Balachandar

K. Jayakumar, Joint Secretary, Administration, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, said that a framework had been designed to effect organisational and administrative changes in the CSIR laboratories across the country to give fillip to research.

Delivering the foundation day lecture of Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) at Karaikudi near here on Monday, he said the process was on to develop "Enterprise Applications" to automate a number of administrative functions, simplify tasks in keeping with re-engineered process architectures, institutionalise mechanisms and sustain the change initiatives aligned with the functions being performed in various divisions and units of CSIR laboratories and at the headquarters.

Mr. Jayakumar added that it was important for the laboratories to stop unproductive tasks. A number of new activities, roles, and responsibilities for human resource development, facility management, contracting, vendor management, professional outsourcing, quality assurance, safety and security audit were mandated to enhance the quality of research support and efficiency.

Novel Assessment Unit for Training Innovation Capacity Augmentation and Learning (NAUTICAL) would be set up in every CSIR laboratory to facilitate institutionalised interventions for capacity building and training.

He said that "an eLearning portal that will be part of the enterprise application being developed for use by all CSIR labs will enable employees access learning resources that focus on various domain areas, take online tests to ascertain their competencies, develop and pursue a development plan and engage mentors, resource persons in a collaboration workspace.

Mr. Jayakumar added that the proposed framework of reconfigurable human computer interfaces was aimed at acting on system, transaction logs, past activity records and others to invoke changes in software behaviour and active system intervention. There was a need to transform CISR into the modern institutions focus on finding result-oriented new technologies and serving the society in a better manner.

V. Yagnaraman, Director, CECRI, said coping with the major initiative of the government on solar energy, CECRI had undertaken a variety of research programmes that would harness the solar energy by different approaches like solar chemical, solar-photovoltaics, and solar-thermal routes.

During the Tenth Five Year plan, under the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative, the CECRI had initiated a major programme on fuel cells, which had started yielding fruitful results.

M. Palanisamy, Senior Scientist, S. Syed Azim, Scientist, and others spoke.

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