CSIR-Central Building Research Institute
Roorkee (Uttarakhand)

JANJATIYA GAURAV VARSH

22nd January, 2025

An educational visit organized by CSIR-CBRI, Roorkee, on January 22, 2025, including 220 students and 6 staff members from PM Shree KV, Raiwala, Uttarakhand. This visit highlighted a significant program to promote the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh 2024–25 celebrations, an initiative aimed at honoring the rich heritage and contributions of tribal communities. This event also provided a unique opportunity to explore and understand the Institute's R&D efforts, presented in an interesting and unique manner. Through this initiative, the participants gained valuable insights into the role of science and innovation in societal progress, highlighting the intersection between cultural pride and scientific advancement.

In honor of Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary, the Indian government promulgated 2025 to be Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh. Additionally, this Varsh aims to honor and conserve the priceless history of India's tribal groups for promoting greater awareness and respect for their way of life.

The students and the faculties were courteously received by the Institute. Sh. Nadeem Ahmed, Chief Scientist cordially greeted the students & their faculties at Rabindranath Tagore Auditorium along with Dr. Hemlata (Sr. Scientist), Dr. Tabish Alam (Sr. Scientist), Dr. Soumitra Maiti (Principal Scientist) and Dr. Naveen Nishant (Scientist).

The lecture session began with motivational opening remarks from Sh. Nadeem Ahmed, Chief Scientist. He gave a thorough overview of the history of CSIR-CBRI, highlighted its founding, goals, and mission as well as its contribution to the advancement of science and technology for the benefit of the country. He notified the students about various R&D divisions including Advanced Concrete, Steel & Composites, Architecture, Planning & Energy Efficiency, Building Materials & Environmental Sustainability, Fire Safety Engineering and others. He also highlighted the R&D supportive Outreach and dissemination group activities. He emphasized the essentials requirement for the foundation of societal development, enabling innovation in agriculture, textiles, and sustainable housing. By prioritizing these areas, society creates a stable platform for further scientific innovations. He provided insights into the Outreach and Dissemination Group of CBRI, detailing its key objectives, the initiatives under the Jigyasa 2.0

program, and its significant contributions in guiding students toward career opportunities in science and research.

Further, Dr. Soumitra Maiti, Principal Scientist presented a lecture session on the theme of "Waste to Wealth" focused on utilizing waste materials in the production of building materials such as concrete and cement. He addressed the problem associated with the depletion of natural resources and emphasizes the need for alternative solutions to mitigate this issue. This approach aligns with sustainable development, promoting resource conservation and environmental responsibility. The key highlights focused on the need for effective strategies in waste management, particularly for the management of solid waste.

Subsequent to the event, another lecture was delivered by Dr. Tabish Alam, Senior Scientist on “Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh” with elaborating its significance, its objectives, and how it honors the accomplishments of tribal heroes—Birsa Munda in particular—and his contributions to civilization. He provided a historical summary of the fight against British authority and clarified the roles played by Birsa Munda as a freedom warrior. Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is a major focus of this celebration, honoring tribal warriors Birsa Munda and their history, unwavering fight against exploitation, support of women's rights, and role in socio-religious changes.

The session also featured other notable tribal leaders who created the way for their tribes' recognition and prosperity by breaking social barriers. Among the notable individuals were Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, the former Chief minister of Jharkhand and numerous others.

The conversation shed light on the government’s dedication to tribal welfare, emphasizing efforts to ensure sustainable development while preserving the rich cultural heritage and traditions of tribal communities. Notable initiatives include the establishment of museums to showcase their achievements and contributions. The discussion also acknowledged the vital role of indigenous knowledge, particularly in advancing traditional medicine and holistic approaches to health and well-being.

Thereafter, a questionnaires session was conducted, leading to a vibrant and engaging discussion. Sh. Nadeem Ahmed actively motivated the students, inspiring them to make informed decisions and choose the right path in life.

Later on, the students went to the Exhibition Gallery, which showcased the technologies and research carried out at CSIR-CBRI. During the visit, Dr. Naveen Nishant, (Scientist) and Dr. Hemlata, (Senior Scientist) offered in-depth knowledge of R&D work in the Notable Projects like Fire Testing Facilities, Fire resistant panels and waste utilisation in buildings, Energy Efficient Rural Housing, Zero Peak Energy Building Design, Confined Masonry: Earthquake Resistant Building, HVAC Test Bed Facility for testing Covid-19

disinfectant technologies, Test on Beam-Column Specimens and Structural & foundational design of Ram Mandir etc. The emphasis was focused on creating accessible, economical, and environmentally sustainable technologies. The program was enriched by the active participation of Dr. Hemlata, Dr. Tabish Alam, Dr. Soumitra Maiti, Dr. Naveen Nishant and Staff members of ODSO Department. The seamless coordination of the event was expertly handled by Sh. Nadeem Ahmed, Chief Scientist, ensuring its smooth execution and success. At the event's conclusion, students and faculty expressed gratitude to CSIR-CBRI for providing an inspiring learning experience. The showcase of innovations in building science and sustainable technology motivated attendees to critically consider their role in shaping a progressive and sustainable future.


Scientists – Students Connect Program
Theme: "Waste to Wealth"