



CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre

CSIR Campus, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai – 600113

Tele: 044-22549145; Email: bkmd@serc.res.in

Press Release

CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre, Chennai celebrated its 53rd Foundation Day on 10 June 2017

Chennai. 10 June 2017. CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC), Chennai, one of the national laboratories under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, celebrated its 53rd Foundation Day with great enthusiasm, on 10 June 2017, at its campus in Taramani, Chennai. Established in the year 1965, the centre has grown into one of the major centres of structural engineering research in the national and international arena. In its 52 years of existence, CSIR-SERC has amassed great expertise in the areas of materials for concrete, steel structures, computational mechanics for analysis design of special structures, structural dynamics, earthquake engineering, wind engineering, bridge engineering, disaster mitigation, non-destructive techniques for condition assessment of concrete structures, durability of concrete structures, light weight structures, composite construction, alternate materials, nano engineered materials and repair and rehabilitation of structures.

The foundation day function was presided over by Prof. Santosh Kapuria, Director, CSIR-SERC and Coordinating Director, CSIR Madras Complex. Padmabhushan Dr. T. Ramasami, Former Director, CSIR-CLRI, Former Director General, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR and Former Secretary, DST, was the chief guest of the function. In his welcome address, Director, CSIR-SERC, mentioned in brief the contributions of CSIR-SERC since its genesis in 1965. He also briefed about the achievements made by the centre during the last one year, and highlighted the cost-effective technologies of CSIR-SERC that are recommended for various societal missions and initiatives of Govt. of India.

In honour of Prof. G.S. Ramaswamy, the Founding Director of CSIR-SERC, the chief guest Dr. T. Ramasami delivered the Prof. G.S. Ramaswamy Memorial Lecture on “Founders and Founding Principles – Their Lasting Impacts”. In his lecture, Dr. T. Ramasami recalled the glorious contributions of Prof. G.S. Ramasamy, in making the organization what it is today. Also, citing examples of great organizations from national and global arena, he emphasised on the importance of 25 foundational parameters for an organization to achieve sustained excellence laced with relevance.

During the function, **a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed** between CSIR-SERC and M/s. Smart Built Prefab Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, *for technology transfer for manufacturing*

textile reinforced concrete (TRC) panels for the construction of rapid built, affordable, light weight and durable toilets. The TRC panels are manufactured using textile reinforced concrete prototyping technology (TRCPT), an innovative all-in-one technology developed by CSIR-SERC.

The panels are light weight, non-corrosive, durable and cost-effective. These panels are used as wall, roof, door and base of the toilet. The total weight of TRC toilet is around 500 kg and 2 persons can complete the entire installation in just 3 to 4 hours' time without the need for special material handling equipment such as cranes. With all these advantages, the TRC toilet can substantially contribute to achieve the Swachh Bharath mission of the Government of India to construct large number of toilets within the next couple of years. TRCPT is the first of its kind development in the area of textile reinforced concrete which completely avoids the use of moulds for constructing structural components. Both on site and factory production is possible using TRCPT technology at mass scale. TRCPT has the potential to serve as an effective indigenous technological solution for precast construction industry and can be instrumental in addressing various requirements of infrastructure development of our country.

As a part of the function, Octogenarian members of CSIR-SERC and CSIR Madras Complex were honoured by Prof. Santosh Kapuria, Director, CSIR-SERC.

Dr. Selvi Rajan, Chief Scientist, CSIR-SERC, proposed vote of thanks. In memory of the function, tree saplings were planted in the campus.