

Special Service and Features



Jigyasa ATL Workshop – Student–Scientist Connect

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CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC), Chennai, a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in association with CSIR Chennai Campus (CMC), organised a Jigyasa ATL Workshop (Student–Scientist Connect) as part of the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) Adoption and Mentoring Programme on 13 and 14 August 2026 in schools located in Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu.

The programme was conducted at four Government Higher Secondary Schools: Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Vembakkam; Government Higher Secondary School, Kuppam, Polur Taluk; Government Higher Secondary School, Azhividaithangi, Vembakkam Taluk; and Government Higher Secondary School, Vanapuram, Thandarampet Taluk.

The Jigyasa programme is a national initiative of CSIR aimed at strengthening Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) by connecting school students with scientists and research institutions. Launched during CSIR's Platinum Jubilee year, the programme is inspired by the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to build a scientifically aware, innovative and knowledge-driven India. The programme seeks to bridge classroom learning with real-world scientific experiences through interactions with scientists, demonstrations and hands-on activities.

As part of the workshop, scientific lectures, demonstrations and hands-on sessions were conducted for the students. The scientists explained the scientific principles behind the demonstrations in a simple and engaging manner, enabling the students to relate scientific concepts to practical applications. The activities encouraged the students to observe, question, experiment and develop innovative ideas, thereby fostering scientific curiosity and problem-solving skills.

The sessions were conducted by Dr. S. Parivallal, Scientist-G & Advisor (M), CSIR-SERC; Dr. S. Maheswaran, Scientist-G, CSIR-SERC; Dr. R. Balagopal, Scientist-F, CSIR-SERC; Dr. M. Keerthana, Scientist-E, CSIR-SERC; Dr. S. Prabhakaran, Scientist-E, CSIR-CSIO; Dr. A. Mercy Latha, Scientist-F, CSIR-CEERI; Dr. M. Saravanan, Scientist-E, CSIR-SERC; Shri E. Ashok Kumar, Scientist-D, CSIR-SERC; and Shri R. D. Sathish Kumar, Principal Technical Officer, CSIR-SERC.

The workshop provided students with an opportunity to interact directly with scientists and gain a better understanding of how scientific knowledge and experimentation can be applied to address real-life challenges. The programme was well received by the participating students and teachers and contributed to creating greater interest in science, creativity, innovation and scientific thinking among school students.

Through the Jigyasa ATL initiative, CSIR-SERC and CSIR Chennai Campus continue to strengthen the Student–Scientist Connect and promote a culture of scientific curiosity and innovation among young learners.

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