

Dibrugarh University Organized DST-PURSE sponsored One day Industry-Academia meet on 18th March, 2024

Dibrugarh University organized a DST-PURSE sponsored one day Industry-Academia meet titled “**SYNERGIES IN SCIENCE: A One-Day Industry-Academia Exchange**” on 18th March 2024. Prof. Jiten Hazarika, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University, Mr. Pranjal Changmai, Managing Director, BCPL, Prof. Sarat Ch. Kakati, Dean, Science & Engineering, Prof. Dipak Chetia, Dean, Research & Development and Prof. Pankaj Das, Coordinator, DST-PURSE, Dibrugarh University graced the inaugural session of the meet.

Prof. Pankaj Das delivered the welcome address. He briefed the recent activities of Dibrugarh University under DST-PURSE programme. Prof. Das mentioned that a year back the University has received a grant of approximately INR 11 crore under the PURSE programme of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. High end equipments of approximately INR 7.5 crore are under procurement to facilitate research in the University. A significant number of high quality research papers are already published with the financial aid of DST-PURSE. Under Scientific Social Responsibility policy of PURSE programme Dibrugarh University has successfully organized a one day teacher training event. Dibrugarh University has also provided funding to two start-ups under handholding of start-ups policy of DST-PURSE. Prof. Das emphasized that for welfare of the society it is the bridge the gap between industry and academia. Keeping this in mind, as a part of the DST-PURSE activities of Dibrugarh University, this one day industry-academia meet is organized. Prof. Das ended his welcome address with expectation of better industry-academia collaboration as an outcome of this meet.

Prof. Jiten Hazarika, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University delivered the inaugural address. He expressed his satisfaction about the research output of the University in terms of quality research publications with the financial aid of DST-PURSE. He also mentioned about the increasing international collaboration of the University showcased by the academic visits of the faculty members and students of the University across the globe. As many as 16 numbers of faculty members and students have visited various academic institutes abroad in the last one year. The Vice Chancellor has emphasized that such industry academia meet are the need of the hour as industry and academia brings different skill sets for the development of the society. Academia through fundamental research might provide breakthrough ideas while industry converts these ideas to technology and products. Meets

like this will bring in the best of both the worlds. Together industry academia collaborations can work for the betterment of the country. The Honourable Vice Chancellor pointed that in this regard the role of the industry is to provide internships, scholarships and employment opportunities to the students. Industry aligned R&D projects must be funded by the industry. He also emphasized that joint curriculum development for skilled and industry oriented manpower development is necessary.

Thereafter, Dr. Shivaprasad Amaravayal, Scientist B, DST, India has provided a glimpse about the PURSE programme of DST. He mentioned that PURSE is a infrastructure and capacity building programme of DST, India. Till 2020 50 universities are funded under the PURSE scheme. A total of approximately INR 800 crore are granted to these universities. Presently, after 2020, 32 universities are granted approximately INR 600 crore under this scheme. More than 750 equipments with 1.5 lakhs users are installed across the country, more than 1.2 lakhs publications and 250 patents are granted as the outcome of the PURSE funded activities. However, he pointed out that there is translational gap from research to real world applications. He emphasized that such industry academia meets may play important role in bridging this gap. He also mentioned that with the advent of National Research Foundation industry now has major role in the funding of various research projects across the country. He also mentioned that the University should handhold nearby colleges and students as a part of Scientific Social Responsibility. He concluded with the hope that effective industry academia collaboration will lead to Viksit Bharat.

The chief guest of the event Mr. Pranjal Changmai, Managing Director, Brahmaputra Crackers and Polymers Limited enlightened the gathering with his perspective on industry academia collaboration. He emphasized that today synergy is needed not just between science and industry but also across all the disciplines including arts, humanities and commerce. He pointed out the necessity of both big industries and academia to handhold small industries for better success. He also mentioned industry and academia can collaborate to develop joint curriculum to create industry ready manpower. Mr. Changmai said academia can help industries to improve the quality of their products. Research in academia can be aimed at solving practical problems of industries. He specifically mentioned some of the problems that BCPL faces where academia can provide helping hand.

Thereafter a panel discussion on probable industry academia collaboration was conducted. The panel consist of Mr. Pranjal Changmai, MD, BCPL, Dr. Dipakjyoti Kalita, OIL, Mr.

Sobhan Konwar, NRL and Mr. Parteek Dhiman, HUL. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Amrita Kashyap Chaliha. The panellists answered various queries from the participants. They explained how academia can help their industries and provide consultancy services. They also answered many queries from the student participants of various departments of Dibrugarh Universities ranging from job opportunities, required skills for such jobs to discussions on the role of AI and Machine Learning on future job market. Overall it was a very fruitful and informative discussion focussed on probable industry academia collaboration.

Invited lectures were presented by Dr. Dipakjyoti Kalita, OIL, Mr. Sobhan Konwar, NRL and Mr. Parteek Dhiman, HUL. Dr Dipakjyoti Kalita briefed upon the CSR activities of OIL. He discussed about the technology required for drilling of matured oil fields which are declining phase. Mr. Sobhan Konwar explained various activities, and major projects taken up by NRL. He discussed how NRL is approaching towards the target of net zero and their emphasis green hydrogen. Mr. Parteek Dhiman of HUL delivered a talk on how artificial intelligence and machine learning is shaping the new industry at every level of their processes starting from product quality maintenance to packaging and distributing.

The meet ended successfully with the Vote of thanks by the convener of the meet Dr. Kalyanjyoti Deori.





