



Samvardhan



Quarterly Newsletter of CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal

January-March 2026, Volume 1, Issue 4

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From the Director's Desk



I feel delighted to present Volume 1, Issue 4 (January to March 2026) of the quarterly newsletter 'Samvardhan' of CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal. During this quarter, the Honorable Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, DG, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, addressed the scientists and staff of CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal, through an online mode. Dr. Kalaiselvi launched the demonstration of Roller Compacted Geopolymeric Concrete Road and Sisal Plantation initiative under the 'Sisal Mission' with participation from CSIR-CFTRI, CSIR-CBRI, and CSIR-CRRI in online mode. An MoU was inked with NATRAX, Indore; Shinshu University, Japan; and NIMHANS, Bengaluru. Our team contributed to the Integrated Skill Initiative and Jigyasa. National

Science Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The CSIR-AMPRI team visited Janakpur Village, Dist. Raisen, under the CSIR Smart Village Project & demonstrated various technologies to be implemented for socioeconomic upliftment.

Looking forward to the development of internationally competitive technologies/products in the area of advanced materials for social benefits and to contribute to the government's vision to transform India into a developed nation by 2047.

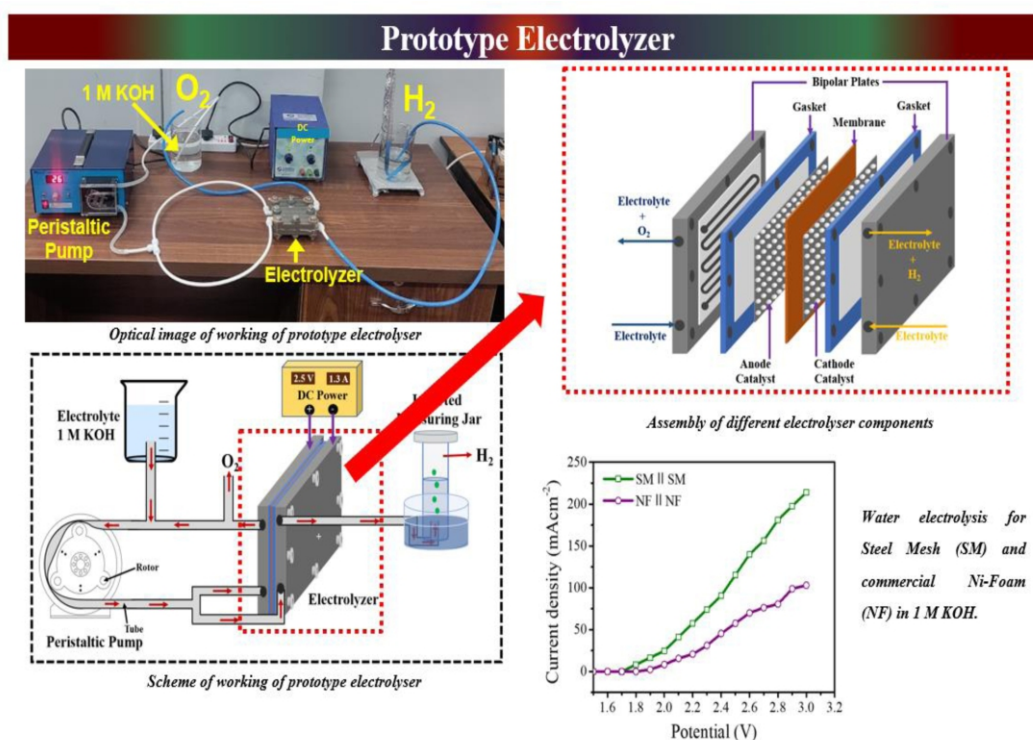
With best wishes,
- Dr. Thallada Bhaskar

R&D Highlights

Recycling of Spent NiMH Batteries for Development of Low-Cost Electrocatalysts for Green Hydrogen Generation

Green hydrogen is considered a key component of the global transition toward sustainable and clean energy systems. However, large-scale hydrogen production through water electrolysis is often limited by the high cost of noble metal catalysts such as platinum and iridium. At the same time, disposal of spent nickel–metal hydride (NiMH) batteries generate significant electronic waste containing valuable metallic components. This project under CSIR Waste to

Wealth Mission programme, addressed both challenges by converting waste NiMH battery components into efficient electrodes for efficient water splitting by alkaline electrolysis. The optimized electrodes demonstrated hydrogen evolution performance better than Pt/C at high current densities and low overpotential for oxygen evolution (~ 290 mV at 10 mA cm^{-2}). The system was highly stable during 48 hours of continuous electrolysis. Overall this is a cost-effective alternative to noble metal catalysts and also promotes waste-to-wealth and circular economy





New Projects

Implementation and Demonstration of makeshift hospital/housing technology (prefabricated structure based) for immediate preparedness in event of epidemic outbreak/post

disaster rehabilitation: Setting up of 8-Bed Hospital with prefabricated material, sponsored by: Infosys Foundation through CSR funds, Project cost: Rs. 50,00,000.

Patents

Patents Granted Abroad

1. Radiation shielding red mud based hybrid composite panels and process for preparing the same

Inventors: Manoj Kumar Gupta, Asokan Pappu, Sanjai Kumar Singh Rathore, Avanish Kumar Srivastava, Teerth Raj Verma, Anit Parihar

Patent number: 12500007, Country: US, Date of grant: 16 December 2025

Patents Granted in India

1. Hybrid composition comprising carbon nanotubes impregnated in nano sodium based gadolinium compound and the process for preparation thereof

Inventors: Sarika Verma, Sunil Kumar Sanghi, Mohammed Akram Khan, Sanjai Kumar Singh Rathore, Avanish Kumar Srivastava

Patent number: 577434, granted on

5th Jan 2026

2. Advanced hybrid sanitization equipment via ultra-violet radiations, its components and designing thereof

Inventors: Sarika Verma, Medha Mili, Chetna Dhand, Alka Mishra, Raju Khan, Jamana Prasad Chaurasia, Mohammed Akram Khan, Syed Azhar Rasheed Hashmi, Sanjai Kumar Singh Rathore, Avanish Kumar Srivastava

Patent number: 582717, granted on 10 March 2026

Patents Filed in India

1. Bamboo leaves derived composition for advanced 3D printed structures / composite materials and the process thereof

Inventors: Sarika Verma, Mohammed Akram Khan, Sandeep Singhai, Jamana Prasad Chaurasia, Avanish Kumar Srivastava



Application number: 202611017952

2. A monostatic SODAR (Sound Detection and Ranging) system for air quality management and method thereof

Inventors: Kirti Soni, Mahavir Singh, Nishant Kumar, Mohammed Akram Khan

Application number: 202611033603

Trademark Filed:



Title: AMPRI logo

Application number: 7478448

Date of filing: 14 Jan 2026

Publications

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4. S. Prakash, M. Ashiq, P. Raizada, P. Singh, A. K. Srivastava, A. Singh, Fe^{3+} Ions as Catalytic Enhancers: Unveiling Their Impact on CoFeZIF for Electrocatalytic Oxygen Evolution Reaction, *Chemistry Select*, 11 (2), e07232, 2026. IF: 2
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 8. N.Bisht, R.J. Yeo, S.Ramakrishna, S. K.R.S. Sankaranarayanan, C. Dhand, N.Dwivedi, Shape Memorable and Self-Healable Smart Hydrogels and Emerging Directions, *Advanced Healthcare Materials*, First published: 04 February 2026. IF:9.6.<https://doi.org/10.1002/adhm.202503361>.
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Honors/ Awards

1. Dr. Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal was the Chief Guest at “International Conference on Innovations in Chemistry: Bridging Science, Technology and Industry (ICBSTI-2026)”, 8 - 9 January, 2026, MANIT, Bhopal, India
2. Dr. Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal was the Guest of Honour in Kisan Mela-2026 organised by CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow, 30-31 January, 2026.



Dr. Thallada Bhaskar in Kisan Mela-2026, Lucknow



3. Dr. Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal delivered an invited lecture on “Reductive Catalytic Fractionation as a Novel Pretreatment/ Lignin-First Approach for Lignocellulosic Biomass Valorization” in International Conference on Catalysis for Industry, Environment & Economy (ICCIEE) – 2026 at CSIR-Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar, 12-13 February 2026.
4. Dr. Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal Delivered the lecture at Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Jamnagar for CSIR AMPRI’s Technology transfer and Technology Development with RIL on 17th February 2026.



Dr. Thallada Bhaskar in RIL Jamnagar

5. Dr Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal delivered the scientific talk on the occasion of National Science Day at Dr DY Patil Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Institute (DYPBBI), Pune and participated as a Chief Guest during the celebrations on 27th February 2026.



Dr Thallada Bhaskar at DYPBBI, Pune

6. Dr. Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal was the Guest and delivered a scientific talk on the occasion of National Science Day jointly organised by Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidya-

laya, Bastar, Chhattisgarh Council of Science & Technology (CCOST) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) at Agriculture College, Kumhrawand Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh (C.G) on 28th February 2026.



Dr. Thallada Bhaskar in National Science Day celebration at Jagdalpur(C.G.)



7. Dr. Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal was Distinguished Regional Faculty and Chaired the session on 'Expanding the potential of utilization of Artificial Intelligence in clinical decision support and healthcare delivery – Gaps and Challenges' at 1st Regional CME of NAMS, Dissemination Workshop & CME,

Organized by AIIMS Bhopal on Organ Donation and Transplantation Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, 25th March 2026.

8. Dr. Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal graced the Utkarsh 2026- Annual Award function of Career Group as the Chief Guest on 31st March 2026.

MoU Signed

1. CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal and NATRAX, Indore Inks Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Collaboration in Areas of Mutual Interest

MoU was signed between CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal and NATRAX Indore on January 10, 2026 by Dr. Manish Jaiswal, Director NATRAX and Dr.

Thallada Bhaskar, Director, CSIR-AMPRI in the presence of Mr. Manoj Kumar Madholia, Director (Auto), and officials from both organisations for cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest for the national development.



Signing of MoU between CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal and NATRAX Indore

2. CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal signed an International MoU with Shinshu University, Japan, for close linkage in research and academic activities on 23rd January 2026, for a duration of 5 years.

3. CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal signed an MoU with NIMHANS, Bengaluru, for close linkage in research and academic activities on 16th March 2026 for 5 Years

AcSIR

1. Mr. Anup Kumar Khare (10PP20A 35006), Ph.D. student of AcSIR and Senior Technical Officer, CSIR AMPRI, Bhopal, Supervisor: Dr. Gaurav Kumar Gupta, Scientist F, Co-Supervisor: Dr. Mohit Sharma, Scientist D, successfully defended Ph.D thesis entitled "Design and development of thermal battery system for solar energy storage" on 15th January 2026.

2. AcSIR Science club of CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal celebrated National Start-up Day 'From Lab to Market" (Jan.16, 2026) on 19th January, 2026. Mr. Shreyas Pande, founder of Rit-chies Lifestyle, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He shared key insights on entrepreneurship followed by an interactive Q & A session.



National Start-up Day celebration at CSIR-AMPRI

3. As a part of National Science Day celebration, a quiz competition was organized by AcSIR Science Club for students on Theme: "Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat"

on 27th February 2026. Winners were awarded during National Science Day celebration on 2nd March, 2026.



Glimpses of quiz competition at CSIR-AMPRI



Ph.D. Degree from Rabindranath Tagore University (RNTU), Bhopal

Ph.D. Degree has been awarded to Shri Vijay Kumar Nathile, Section Officer, Stores and Purchase Section, CSIR - AMPRI, Bhopal in Management on

Topic "A comprehensive Study on the Implementation of E-Procurement Practices in Central Government Autonomous Bodies & Public Sector Undertakings of Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)" from RNTU, Bhopal.

Skill Development

Various skill development programmes were organised at CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal as follows;

- 1. Programme Title- TechBiz,**
Duration- 5th to 6th February 2026,
No. of participants- 60, Participants institute - LNCT, Bhopal
- 2. Programme Title- CNC Turner, Conventional Turner, Welder & Fitter**
Duration- 11th to 12th March 2026,
No. of participants- 53, Participants institute's - Shramodaya Model ITI Bhopal, RGPV, Career College Bhopal, Global Skill Park
- 3 Programme Title- Basic Skills In Science Laboratory Techniques**
Duration- 11th to 12th March 2026,
No. of participants- 35, Participants institute's - LNCT Bhopal, RNTU, BU, Sri Sathya Sai College Bhopal
- 4 Programme Title- Advance Materials For Bio Medical Applications**
Duration- 11th to 12th March 2026,
No. of participants- 37, Participants

institute's - LNCT Bhopal, RNTU, BU, NITTR Bhopal

- 5 Programme Title- Computation Mastery For Advanced Material Modelling**
Duration- 11th to 12th March 2026,
No. of participants- 11, Participants institute's - LNCT Bhopal, RNTU, BU, Geetanjali Girls College Bhopal
- 6 Programme Title- Radiation Shielding**
Duration- 11th to 12th March 2026,
No. of participants- 8, Participants institute's - NITTR, LNCT Bhopal
- 7 Programme Title- Renewable Energy**
Duration- 23th to 24th March 2026,
No. of participants- 8, Participants institute's - Career College, IES College, MANIT Bhopal



Glimpses of Skill Development Programmes

Jigyasa

CSIR-AMPRI organised two programmes under CSIR Jigyasa in February 2026. The first programme was conducted on February 9, 2026, for 50 students from Hind Junior College, Shahajapur. It included a laboratory visit and a popular lecture by Dr. Sarika Verma, Scientist F, on “Turning E-Waste into Thermal Protection: Flexible Insulators from AC Waste,” along with a lecture by Dr. Avinash Tiwari, Scientist C, on “Polymer Sustainability.”

The second programme was organised on February 12, 2026 which comprised of educational visit for 127 students

along with 6 teachers from PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Vidisha, to CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal and a popular lecture by Dr. Sandeep Singhai, Scientist F, on “R&D for Strategic Applications”.

The visit of students and teachers of both the programmes to various laboratories/ facilities of CSIR-AMPRI was informative, interactive, and highly motivating. It provided valuable exposure to cutting-edge research and inspired students to pursue higher education and careers in scientific research and innovation.



Glimpses of Jigyasa Programmes

National Science Day 2026

CSIR- AMPRI, Bhopal, celebrated National Science Day on March 02, 2026. Prof. G.D. Yadav (Padma Shri), Bhatnagar Fellow (CSIR), National Science Chair (ANRF), Government of India, Emeritus Professor of Eminence, Institute of Chemical

Technology, Mumbai, and Consultant to Industry was the Chief Guest at the function. Prof. Yadav addressed the gathering, visited the exhibition hall showcasing processes/products developed at CSIR-AMPRI, interacted with scientists, and also planted a sapling on the occasion.



National Science Day Celebration at CSIR-AMPRI

International Women's Day 2026

International Women's Day celebrated at CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal on 11th March 2026. Ms Joyatri Ray, State

Head and Policy Specialist, UN Women Office for India, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.



International Women's Day Celebration at CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal

Electric Tractor & Electric Tiller Road Show

Electric Tractor & Electric Tiller Road show was organized by CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur on 13th March 26 at CSIR-

AMPRI, Bhopal. Shri R. Garg, CEO, MP State NITI Aayog; Dr. A. Khare, Adviser, MPCST, Bhopal; Dr. N. C. Murmu, Director, CMERI graced the occasion.



Glimpses of Electric Tractor & Electric Tiller Road Show

Hon'ble Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, addressed the scientists and staff (Virtual) of CSIR -AMPRI, Bhopal

Hon'ble Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, addressed the scientists and staff of CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal, through an online interaction on February 02, 2026. During the programme, Dr. N. Kalaiselvi inaugurated the Centralized Testing Facility 'TEJASVI' (Technical Evaluation and Joint Analysis System for Virtual Integration) and the FE-SEM Facility.

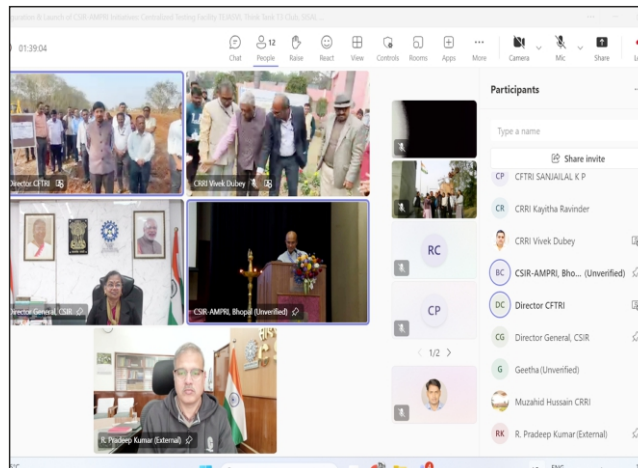
She also launched the demonstration stretch of Roller Compacted Geopolymeric Concrete Road and participated in the naming ceremony of the institute's auditorium as "TARA – Prof. T. C. Rao Auditorium," conducted in

online mode.

The Hon'ble DG released the quarterly newsletter of CSIR-AMPRI, 'Samvardhan', and inaugurated the Think Tank for Transformation (T3) Club. An MoU was also exchanged between CSIR-AMPRI and Mrs. Mona Dharamsey from Infosys Foundation for the "Implementation and Demonstration of Makeshift Hospital/Housing Technology," involving the establishment of an 8-bed prefabricated hospital for rapid deployment during epidemic outbreaks and post-disaster rehabilitation. Dr. Kalaiselvi launched several digital initiatives, including the Unified Portal for CSIR-AMPRI (Surya), the Guest

House Booking System, and the Dispensary Management Portal (Arogya). The Sisal Plantation initiative under the 'Sisal Mission' was also

formally launched at CSIR-AMPRI, with participation from CSIR-CFTRI, CSIR-CBRI, and CSIR-CRRI in online mode.



Glimpses of activities during online interaction of DG, CSIR with staff of CSIR-AMPRI

Contribution to Rural Sector

CSIR -AMPRI team visited Janakpur Village, Dist. Raisen under CSIR smart village project, organised meeting with local bodies & demonstrated Water Filter, Cement Free Paver Blocks, Sisal

& Bamboo Technology to be implemented for the socioeconomic upliftment on 17th February & 12th March 2026.



CSIR -AMPRI team at Janakpur Village, Dist. Raisen

Outreach Activities

1. CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal Team participated in the Science Fiesta at the Regional Science Centre, Bhopal during 12-14, January 2026 and

showcased technologies, products / prototypes and research related activities.



CSIR-AMPRI, Team at Science Fiesta, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal

2. Director, CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal, distributed food baskets to Tuberculosis (TB) patients at AIIMS, Bhopal, on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, 14th

January 2026, under Ni-kshay Mitra Drive. This initiative is a key component of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan.



CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal Team distributing food baskets to Tuberculosis (TB) patients, AIIMS, Bhopal

