

Report of the State Level Seminar held on 28th and 29th January 2011.

A two day state level seminar on “**Chemistry Our Life Our Future**” was hosted by the Chemistry department to celebrate the *International year of Chemistry*.

Incidentally this year also marks the 100th year of the Nobel Prize in chemistry received by **Madame Marie Curie** in recognition of her work in Radioactivity. Hence, as a fitting tribute to her, **The First Presentation was on Madame Curie and her contribution to the chemical world, delivered by Dr. (Mrs.) Z. R. Turel (a pioneer in the field of nuclear chemistry).**

The chief guest for the seminar was **Prof. M.M. Sharma (Emeritus Prof. of Eminence, ICT, Mumbai)** who also delivered the keynote address reiterating in no uncertain terms that the world requires chemists and chemical industries. He explained the importance of chemistry in daily life by taking the example of the tooth paste we use early in the morning to the foam bed we use when we finish for the day. He emphasized that research in chemistry will continue only with the corrected vision that chemical process should be compatible with nature and not destroy our planet and deplete our natural resources.

There were in all eight resource persons who spoke on diverse topics in chemistry, highlighting the importance of chemistry in various fields like nanotechnology (**Dr. A. K. Tyagi, Head, Solid State Chemistry Section, BARC, Mumbai**) nuclear medicine, (**Dr. Meera Venkatesh, Head, Radiopharmaceutical BARC, Mumbai**) advanced textiles, (**Dr. Mangesh Teli Head, Textile Chemistry, ICT, Mumbai**) smart materials, (**Dr. S.K. Kulshreshtha, Chairman, Atomic Energy Education Society**) high energy materials, missiles and rockets (**Dr. S. G. Kulkarni Dept. of Explosives and Applied Chemistry**)

Dr. V. Chandrashekar (Visiting Professor ICT, Advisor Pharma R&D) made us swim through the various reactions right from the age old Wittig reaction to the recent Shi epoxidation. Dr. C. Nandi, R & D Manager, Nocil India, explained how existing processes can be replaced by ones which are more eco friendly and have greater atom economy. Mr. Mohan Anvekar from Newreka spoke on “Reduce wastage by recycle at source.”

There were in all eighty participants from various institutions in Maharashtra and they were highly appreciative of the seminars as was evident from the feedback received by us.

Posters prepared by under graduate and post graduate students were also displayed outside the seminar hall on *kitchen chemistry* and various other applications of chemistry and was appreciated by the participants and resource persons as well.

The valedictory address was delivered by **Dr. S. H. Mashraqui - UDC, Kalina** who again emphasized the scope of chemistry and the *need for students to choose chemistry as a career*.

This seminar was an eye opener for the student community since correlation of chemistry with everyday life will make them realize its importance and the need to pursue chemistry as a career.