

## **Secretary DBT delivered Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture**

The ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), hosted the 55<sup>th</sup> Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture, commemorating the enduring legacy of India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri (1964–1966). The event highlighted his humility, integrity, and deep commitment to the nation, values that continue to inspire generations.

Renowned for his visionary leadership, Shastri Ji's famous slogan, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," was celebrated during the event, emphasizing his unwavering support for soldiers and farmers. The memorial lecture provided an opportunity to reflect on his contributions and the relevance of his principles in today's world.

The event was graced by Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi, who delivered the Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture. Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, and former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, New Delhi, presided over the ceremony. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi warmly introduced and welcomed the Chairman of the event, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, along with the esteemed speaker, Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale.

During the event, speakers emphasized the urgent need for concerted sustainable interventions to address critical global challenges. Three pressing issues were highlighted:

First, Climate Change – The increasing impact of climate change necessitates immediate and sustainable action to mitigate its effects. Second, Unsustainable Material Consumption – The overuse of resources is leading to environmental degradation, calling for responsible consumption and production. And third, Waste Generation – The rising levels of waste require innovative waste management solutions to ensure environmental sustainability.

A key discussion at the event focused on the role of technological evolution in shaping society for the better. Adapted from the Technology and Innovation Report 2023, the presentation outlined major industrial revolutions that have transformed economies. The discussion concluded with a look into the future: The Industrialization of Biology (2020–2047), signaling an emerging Bio-Revolution that is expected to redefine industries, economies, and sustainability.

Speakers emphasized how harnessing biotechnology, precision agriculture, and biological innovations will be critical for sustainable development in the coming decades. The lecture underscored the need for policy reforms, investments in research, and collaborative efforts to ensure that technological advancements benefit society at large. The IARI remains committed to fostering innovation in agriculture while addressing contemporary global challenges for a better and more sustainable future.

In the concluding remarks, the Chairman of the session, Dr. Himanshu Pathak emphasized the importance of innovation, sustainability, and collaboration in addressing the global challenges facing agriculture and society. He acknowledged the profound contributions of Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose vision of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" remains more relevant than ever in ensuring food security and national resilience.