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From the Desk of Director



I am glad to put forward the executive summary of the work carried out by our Institute and its Regional Centres at Bangalore and Kolkata from April 2004 to March 2005.

The study of salt workers in the little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat entered into its final stages. The use of personal protective devices appears to reduce systolic and diastolic blood pressure at the end of the day 5. There is also concomitant reduction in the levels of urinary sodium and potassium. The preliminary results of the research on stabilometric approach for postural control analysis reiterates that the stabilometric approach has a high promise in understanding the postural behaviour and control, which have ergonomics implications in workplace design. There is global concern on exposure to persistent organic pollutants (POPs) like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxins. Very few laboratories in the world have established methods of analysis of these compounds. The Institute has now established the methodology for estimation PCBs congeners and dioxins in biological fluids. The initial results of these studies indicate significant human exposure in the country. A study in spray painters exposed to organic solvents suggests that they are at higher risk of developing renal function impairment. The psychosomatic problems reported in the policeman need an action by the concerned authorities. The exposure of petrol fillers to benzene call for a need for intervention. The study at Kolkata revealed higher pollution due to PM₁₀ and VOCs in ambient air, which was associated with respiratory morbidity.

The Institute in collaboration with Nirma University organized 92nd Indian Science Congress which was inaugurated by Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. It was attended by about 5,000 Scientists from India and abroad. During the same period the Institute also organized Indo-German workshop on environmental toxicology.

