

# निस्ट न्यूज NEIST NEWS

सी एस आई आर-उत्तर पूर्व विज्ञान तथा प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, जोरहाट  
CSIR-NORTH EAST INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, JORHAT

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## SHRI Y S CHOWDARY, HONORABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA VISITED CSIR-NEIST, JORHAT



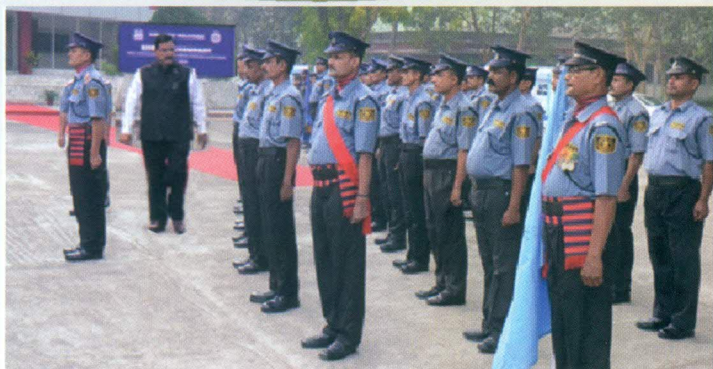
Shri Y S Chowdary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India, interacting with a beneficiary in the exhibition stall accompanied by Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST, Shri Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat and other officials.



Hon'ble Minister delivering his address in the interactive session with the beneficiaries & entrepreneurs of CSIR-NEIST technologies.

Shri Y S Chowdary, Honorable Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India, visited CSIR-NEIST during 25-26 January, 2016. On arrival at Jorhat on 25 January, 2016 the Hon'ble Minister visited an exhibition of CSIR-NEIST technologies accompanied by Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat constituency and Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST. The beneficiaries and entrepreneurs of CSIR-NEIST technologies exhibited their products in the exhibition stalls and interacted with the Hon'ble Minister. The Hon'ble Minister was happy to learn about the dissemination of small scale technologies like Mushroom cultivation & Banana fibre extraction to medium scale technology like TP-16 Biofertilizer in the region. He also appreciated the impact of Common Facility Centre set up by CSIR-NEIST (supported by DST, Govt. of India) in Mariani (Assam) for the local weavers to boost their skills and products with appropriate S&T intervention. An interactive program was further held at Dr J N

Baruah Auditorium wherein the beneficiaries and entrepreneurs of CSIR-NEIST technologies besides CSIR-NEIST fraternity interacted with the Hon'ble Minister. Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST delivered the welcome address and gave an overview of the Institute and its activities. Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Y S Chowdary, emphasized on lab to land approach while mentioning the importance of commercialization and marketing aspects of technologies and products developed by the Institute. He encouraged the scientists to identify the gaps still present and take immediate remedial steps. Shri Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament in his address spoke about the potentiality of the region in terms of rich biodiversity and natural resources and urged the scientists & stake holders to further explore and reach out more to the people. During the open interaction & discussion, the Hon'ble Minister addressed the queries and issues raised by the beneficiaries & entrepreneurs such as fund for more cluster-wise projects for societal development, facilities for solar



Hon'ble Minister inspecting the guard of honour on the occasion of 67th Republic Day celebration at CSIR-NEIST on 26 January, 2016.



Hon'ble Minister visiting the NEIST Experimental Farm.

power systems for rural entrepreneurs, etc. It may be mentioned that on the occasion, Mr Mustafa Ahmed, a class 8th student of Cinnamara Hr Secondary School, Jorhat was felicitated by the Hon'ble Minister in appreciation of his work on 'Scientific Seed Storage Device' for which he was honoured as the only child scientist from Assam at the National Children's Science Congress held in December, 2015. The interactive program was followed by Press Meet held at Director's Conference Room.

On 27 January, 2016 the Hon'ble Minister graced the 67th Republic Day celebration at CSIR-NEIST as Chief Guest. He inspected the Guard of Honour and unfurled the National Flag followed by the National Anthem.

Addressing a gathering of CSIR-NEIST family and students & faculty members of KV-NEIST, he urged everyone to review their responsibilities as a citizen and to follow the constitution in the right spirit with utmost respect and patronage for the country. A short cultural program was held later at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium wherein students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, NEIST performed various song and dance performances. Shri Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, also graced the program. Dr D Ramaiah delivered the welcome address wherein he extended his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for his dedication and sparing valuable time to visit the institute despite his busy schedule. Addressing the occasion, Hon'ble Member of Parliament extended his greetings and expressed his appreciation to the Hon'ble Minister for gracing the Republic Day celebration and said that this may be the first time not only for the Institute but also for the entire district that any Central Minister has hoisted the flag on 26 January. Hon'ble Minister in his address extended his gratitude to the Institute and the school for organizing various programs to commemorate his visit. "I see a



Essential Oil Distillation Plant (300 L/Day capacity) inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister in presence of Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST, Sh. Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble MP, Jorhat and other officials from CSIR-NEIST.



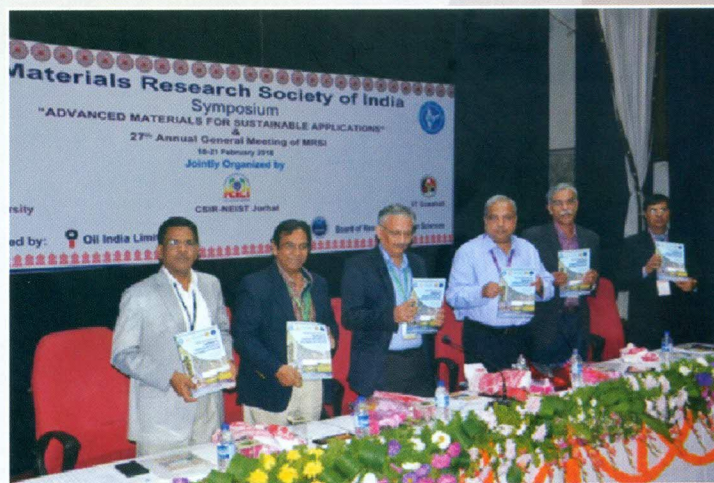
Hon'ble Minister visiting the Geosciences Division.

huge potential in the region and in the young people to progress and excel in various spheres of life", he said. He further mentioned that the Institute in collaboration with the Ministry may fund exposure trips for the students and young researchers to visit other Institutes and organisations in the country to broaden their horizon. The program concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr N C Barua, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEIST.

Later during the day, the Hon'ble Minister inaugurated an Essential Oil Distillation Plant (300 L/Day) at NEIST Experimental Farm. To mark the visit, Hon'ble Minister and Hon'ble Member of Parliament also planted saplings of *Mesua ferrea* L. (Family: Clusiaceae, Common name: Iron wood tree) in the Experimental Farm

As a part of Republic Day celebration, Sports Event was organized at CSIR-NEIST playground. Hon'ble Minister hoisted the CSIR-NEIST Staff Club Flag and addressed the gathering during the inauguration of the Event. Further, he laid the Foundation Stone of Experimental Animal House in Chemical Sciences Block and visited various divisions like Chemical Sciences & Technology Division (CSTD), Geosciences & Technology Division (GSTD), Biological Sciences & Technology Division (BSTD) and Herbal Drug Processing Unit (HDPU) and interacted with the staff members. He showed keen interest and discussed about the Microzonation study and Earthquake Risk Assessment for Cities undertaken by Geosciences Division and asked to submit projects under Smart Cities Mission program. He lauded the work carried out by the Institute in Bioremediation of crude oil contaminated land in Assam and encouraged to submit more such projects for funding from the Ministry to reclaim other contaminated sites.

## CSIR-NEIST HOSTED THE MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY OF INDIA (MRSI) SYMPOSIUM & 27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MRSI



Left: Dr G Sundararajan, Emeritus Scientist, ARCI-Hyderabad speaking during the inaugural program as Chief Guest. Right: Release of Souvenir by the dignitaries (from left), Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST & Chairman- Organizing Committee; Prof S B Krupanidhi, Vice President & General Secretary, MRSI; Dr Suresh Das, President, MRSI & Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science & Technology, Trivandrum; Dr G Sundararajan, Professor, IIT-Madras & Distinguished Emeritus Scientist, ARCI-Hyderabad and Chief Guest; Dr Vijayamohan K Pillai, Director, CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi & Acting Director, CSIR-NCL, Pune and Guest of Honour and Dr P Sengupta, Convenor cum Organizing Secretary.

The four-day program of Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) Symposium on "Advanced Materials for Sustainable Applications" was organized for the first time in North East India at CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat. The event which ran concurrently with the 27th Annual General Meeting of MRSI during 18-21 February, 2016 was hosted by CSIR-NEIST jointly with Tezpur University and Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.

The four-day program started off with a glittering inaugural program which was attended by eminent personalities, stake holders, council members of MRSI, dignitaries, student participants & researchers from various parts of the country besides CSIR-NEIST fraternity. Dr G Sundararajan, Professor, IIT-Madras & Distinguished Emeritus Scientist, ARCI-Hyderabad and Dr Vijayamohan K Pillai, Director, CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi & Acting Director, CSIR-NCL, Pune graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST & Chairman-Organizing Committee delivered the welcome address wherein he spoke briefly about CSIR-NEIST and the background of the Symposium. Prof S B Krupanidhi, Vice-President & General Secretary- MRSI spoke about MRSI and said that it is dedicated to attract & foster young scientists & researchers by exposing them to the world of Materials Science and the various advancements taking place by holding such events.

In his address, Dr Vijayamohan K Pillai mentioned the impact of MRSI in the scientific community and emphasized the need to develop affordable materials to address critical issues like water, energy, etc. Dr Suresh Das, President, MRSI &

Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science & Technology, Trivandrum, in his Presidential Address, spoke in detail about the importance of developing new materials and applications of R&D to address problems in harnessing Solar Energy for mitigating the energy crisis in a sustainable way. Making a strong reference about the 'Valley of Death' that exists between basic research and industry, Dr Das stressed upon a systematic approach to cross over the gap. Later, the Souvenir of the Symposium was released by the Chief Guest. The inaugural program concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr P Sengupta, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEIST and Convener, Organizing Committee.

On the eve of the inaugural function, the Asia Pacific Academy of Materials (APAM) India Chapter Meeting, 2016 was also held on 18 February, 2016, which was chaired by Prof SB Krupanidhi, IISc Bangalore in presence of Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST and Prof C Jagadish of ANU Australia. During the chapter meeting, three talks were delivered by the senior scientists of CSIR-NEIST Jorhat (Dr RL Goswamee: Hydrotalcite based nanocomposites- A group of materials with wide prospects; Dr (Mrs) S Hazarika: Development of indigenous membrane for emerging applications; and Dr T Goswami: Technology driven R & D for society: An Odyssey). About 70 scientists/faculty members and students from IISc Bangalore, Australian National University, CSIR-NEIST Jorhat, CSIR-NIIST Thiruvananthapuram, CSIR-CECRI Karaikudi, CSIR-CGCRl Kolkata, IACS Kolkata, IIT Jodhpur, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Kharagpur, S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences Kolkata, NIT Rourkela, Bharathidasan University Tiruchirapalli and Central Research Laboratory, BEL, Bangalore participated in the meeting.

