

## **Press Release**

### **CSIR-NEIST celebrated 76<sup>th</sup> CSIR Foundation Day**

CSIR-NEIST celebrated the 76<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of its apex body, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) with a day-long programme at its premise on 25 September 2017. Having traversed seven and a half decades of its glorious existence, the year 2017 is significant for CSIR since it marks the culmination of the year-long Platinum Jubilee celebration of the organization with a befitting programme at CSIR Hq., New Delhi on 26 September 2017 in the graceful presence of Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India & President-CSIR, Shri Narendra Modi.

At CSIR-NEIST, a special function was held under the aegis at Dr J N Baruah auditorium at 10.00 am wherein Dr Mukul R Jain, Senior Vice President, Zydus Research Centre, Cadila Healthcare Limited, Ahmedabad graced the function as Chief Guest and delivered the Foundation Day Lecture. Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST presided over the function.

In his welcome address, Dr Ramaiah conveyed his warm greetings & gratitude on the occasion. He also briefly spoke about some of the significant contributions of CSIR over the years and urged all to take a pledge to work unitedly with renewed vigour to create a better CSIR for a new and vibrant India. He also mentioned about the association of CSIR-NEIST with Zydus Cadila for various research programmes on drug development.

Delivering his lecture on the topic, 'Should Indian Pharma Industry Change its Generic Mindset? Can India Discover New Drugs?', Dr Jain contemplated deeply on the general psyche and position of our nation particularly in the Pharmaceutical industry in development of novel drugs. He mentioned that although the Indian Pharma Industry is stereotyped as a Generic Industry, it is indeed a global hub for pharmaceutical products which is reflected in the no. of products manufactured. He said that as per current statistics, Indian Pharma Industry shares 2.4% of the global industry in value terms and 10% in quantity terms. The Indian Pharma Industry is valued at 10 billion dollars comprising 70% Generic, 21% OTC (which are also generic in nature) and only 9% patented drugs in the country. Reiterating the potential of the country to innovate and develop new drugs, he highlighted the various growth drivers for Indian Pharma Industry such as skilled manpower, state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities, and policy support from the Govt. Dr Jain further touched upon the evolution of Indian Pharma Sector vis-a-vis Patent scenario and said that the vision of Zydus is to establish itself as a fully research based pharma company by 2020. Dr Jain also spoke in detail the success story of novel Saroglitazar drug developed by Zydus and sold under the brand name, 'Lipaglyn' which has worked effectively against type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Dyslipidemia. Sharing his message on the occasion and in tune with the CSIR vision for 2022, he urged everyone to strive for a new India and focus for global scientific impact.

On the occasion, CSIR-NEIST publication, 'Annual Report 2016-17' was released by the Chief Guest. Later, the employees who retired during September'16 to August'17 were felicitated with CSIR Sanman Patras and Mementoes and also those who completed 25 years in Council's service were felicitated with token gifts. Also, certificates and prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions held under the occasion like Drawing, Essay, Debate and Quiz competitions held among the school students and staff members. It is also to be mentioned that like previous years, this year also, CSIR-NEIST awarded cash prizes to SC/ST students of NE region who secured the highest percentage in class X from various state boards under the 'CSIR scheme of cash award for SC/ST students'. Under this, 3 students who could turn up for the programme, two from Mizoram and one from Meghalaya were felicitated. Further, 'CSIR-NEIST Golden Jubilee Scholarship scheme for bright students of NE region' which started in 2013 with an aim to enthuse North East students towards basic science (in UG level) was continued this year also and the scholarship for 2016-17 was awarded to selected 2 meritorious students from Assam who secured at least 70 percentage and belonging from economically weak background. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr P Sengupta, Chief Scientist. The programme was attended by dignitaries, invitees, eminent personalities from in and around Jorhat district, besides CSIR-NEIST fraternity.

As a part of the celebration, CSIR-NEIST also observed 'Open Day' during 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm during which students from in and around Jorhat and general public visited the Institute and interacted with scientists.

### ***Glimpses of the Foundation Day Celebration Programme***



(From left) Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST and Dr Mukul R Jain, Senior Vice President, Zydus Research Centre, Cadila Healthcare Limited, Ahmedabad.



Dr Mukul R Jain delivering the 76<sup>th</sup> CSIR Foundation Day Lecture



ST/SC students felicitated on the occasion with Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST and Dr Mukul R Jain, Chief Guest of the function

Sd/-  
(A Sengupta)  
Head, RPBD Divn.