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# 5 CSIR's labs get directors 60 days after minister's Lucknow visit

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**L**UCKNOW: Five new directors of institutes, which come under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have taken charge. Of the five directors, two are heading Lucknow-based laboratories. Dr Madhu Dikshit has been appointed as the new director of the Central Drug Research Institute, while Dr Alok Dhawan takes over as the new director of Indian Institute of Toxicology (IITR).

The appointments come almost after a gap of two months (April 11), when Union science and technology minister Harsh Vardhan during his two-day tour of Lucknow promised to expedite the process of the appointment of directors of CSIR labs, which were running virtually headless for a long time.

Speaking about the institute on the sidelines of a conference being held in Dehradun, Dr Madhu Dikshit, said that CDRI is into development of new medicines that meets international standards for diseases that are becoming a common phenomenon. The institute will strive to bring the medicines from research to availability for the public in the least possible time, yet meeting all safety & efficacy parameters, she said.

Union minister for science & technology Dr Harsh Vardhan complimented newly joined Directors, in his opening remarks at the CSIR Director's Conference.

Dr S Chandrashekar who is now appointed as the Director of the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad

stated that his team of researchers and scientists will make efforts to make India a disease free country. The lab he is heading is working tirelessly to develop medicines for the common man at affordable prices, which are also most effective and advanced in terms of tackling emerging diseases. He said his team at the lab is very particular about developing technologies which are environment friendly.

Dr Ajay Ghosh, new Director of the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science & Technology, NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram said that he feels excited on being designated as the Director of the Institute. He said that he was fully aware of the excellence & capabilities of Scientists & world-class infrastructure of the Institute. NIIST develops molecules for photo devices and techniques for making natural mineral resources in coastal areas. NIIST develops technologies for the future & contributes to strategic development of technology in space & defence applications. He said that we are on the verge of developing technology in waste management which will convert household waste into wealth for the nation.

Dr Sanjay Kumar has joined as Director of Institute of Himalayan Bioresources Technology, Palampur. He has been associated with the institute for over 25 years. He said that Himalaya has a gold mine of opportunities in terms of its bio-resources. Institute under his leadership is developing technologies for industry & environment. IHBT is committed to develop floriculture & enzyme discovery for furtherance of human healthcare. His institute is also working on developing alternatives to sugar as sweeteners for diabetics. Research related to climate change in Himalayas will be his priority as Director.

Director general CSIR MO Garg said that these appointments have been approved by the Prime Minister as the President of the CSIR. Dr Garg said a few other vacancies in CSIR are also being processed in a speedy manner now.