

» TODAY'S PAPER » KERALA

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At the helm

- Special Correspondent

Ajayaghosh takes over as CSIR-NIIST Director

A. Ajayaghosh has assumed charge as Director, CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. Ajayaghosh took over from acting Director Gangan Prathap on Monday after he received the letter of appointment issued by the Prime Minister, who is also the president of the CSIR.

A CSIR Outstanding Scientist, Dr. Ajayaghosh is a recipient of several major awards, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Chemical Sciences (2007), Infosys Prize for Physical Sciences (2012), the World Academy of Sciences Prize for Chemistry (2013), and the J.C. Bose National Fellowship (2015). Born in Kollam, he completed his B.Sc. from the University of Kerala and did his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at Calicut University.

He is a Fellow of all the three major Science Academies of India, an honorary fellow of the Kerala Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, London.

He is also actively involved in the popularisation of science among school and college students. Currently, Dr. Ajayaghosh's research interests are focussed on applications in counterfeit prevention, authentication of documents, and in non-invasive diagnosis of disease markers.

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