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# Process to select this year's best State University for Chancellor Award has begun: Governor

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**T**HIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The process for selecting the Best University in Kerala for the Chancellor Award in the current year has begun and the government has earmarked Rs 5 crore for that, said Governor P Sathasivam.

Inaugurating the foundation day fete of National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), he said that in the last four decades since its inception in 1975 as a CSIR complex, NIIST has made rapid strides in developing scientific innovations for the benefit of society. He stressed on the need for grass root innovation and value-addition.

Further on the selection of the Best University in the state, he said the process will be posted on the website by October end. The best University will be selected by a committed team constituted with leading academicians who had served as heads of reputed institutes along with Rajbhavan officials. The process will be complete by November and before this Christmas, the best University will be selected and conferred the award. The parameters for selecting the best university will include infrastructure, faculty staff, research work and students' performance and their employability among others, he said.

The Governor urged the young scientists to strictly adhere to ethical practises and credibility of research even under tremendous pressure to perform. It is imperative that they remain brave to publish even the negative results. He also stressed on the need for more societal interaction to deliver the fruits of research to the common man to change the public perception that 'the scientists are sitting in ivory towers'. He also released the CSIR-NIIST's annual report 2015-16.

Research institutions like NIIST shall continue to develop technologies for preservation and value-addition of Agricultural products to ensure better livelihoods to farmers to avoid distress sale of their produce. He congratulated NIIST researchers for utilizing the bio-diversity of Kerala effectively for developing technologies for Ayurveda, natural products and nutraceuticals sectors. He was very appreciative about the anaerobic digester developed by NIIST, having read from newspapers, that it would address the burning issue of waste management in Kerala. He also congratulated NIIST for developing the bio-process for converting black and green Pepper to white pepper, which has a huge export market and bio-retting of coconut husk which is environment friendly. He said the contribution of NIIST to basic science and laurels fetched by the researchers are commendable.

CSIR-NIIST director Dr A Ajayaghosh reminded the researchers reminded the researchers about the Prime Minister's advice to CSIR on the need for timely delivery of technologies and products suitable to the society. He also highlighted the efforts of CSIR-NIIST in the sustainable utilization of regional resources and cooperation of industries in the need based technology development. Chief scientist Dr. A Sunderesan thanked all the participants.