

NATIONAL

Call for industry-R&D ties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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NIIST signs MoU with five firms

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has called on scientists to forge better ties with industry to develop economically viable technologies and products for the betterment of society.

Delivering the inaugural address at an R&D-Industry interactive meet organised by the CSIR National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) here on Friday, he said the disconnect between industry and research institutions had hampered India's efforts to become a major player in product development. While progress in science and technology was key to industrial growth and national development and improvement in the quality of life, it should also cater to the needs of poor people like food, sanitation, and affordable health care and ensure sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

Pointing out that many technologies developed by NIIST in various sectors had proved to be viable and popular, he called for focussed research on scientific validation of Ayurvedic formulations. The NIIST, he said, could provide technical and consultancy support for small and medium enterprises in traditional industries and agriculture.

In his presidential address, O. Rajagopal, MLA, called on research institutions to provide technological solutions to dispose of municipal and plastic waste.

Shashi Tharoor, MP, exhorted private companies to come forward to invest in research and help R&D institutions shed their dependence on government funds.