

## **CSIR NIIST is doing cutting edge research: Dr Tharoor**

Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 5: Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development Shashi Tharoor today said social consciousness is the main factor which distinguishes Indian research institutes from their foreign counterparts. He was addressing the scientists of National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) here. NIIST is a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India's premier industrial research organization. Dr Tharoor said he was tremendously impressed by the world class research performed by CSIR-NIIST scientists. 'India is constantly criticised as being inhospitable to cutting edge science. 'But I'm proud and delighted that a research organization from my own constituency does quality research in frontier areas of high relevance,' he said.

Dr Tharoor said, "It is also commendable that the research conducted at CSIR NIIST is anchored locally and oriented at finding immediate applications." Later, he unveiled the technology products developed by CSIR NIIST under the CSIR 800 programme, an initiative of CSIR for income augmentation and improvement in quality of life of 800 million fellow Indians through interventions of science and technology. He inspected the polymer coir composite developed by CSIR-NIIST as a promising substitute for wood, anaerobic digester and samples of natural fibres (pine apple leaf fibre, banana fibre, coir fibre etc.) extracted by the biological process developed at CSIR-NIIST. Dr Tharoor wailed each house in Kerala to have the anaerobic digester cum biogas plant developed by CSIR-NIIST, so that there would be solution to the heaps of waste mounted in the cities.

- Agencies

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