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### Adopt interdisciplinary approach, researchers told

Special Correspondent

*Need to reinvent management of science: Vice-Chancellor*

*'Decline of basic science research cause for concern'*

*'Curriculum should include material science concepts'*

Thiruvananthapuram: University of Kerala Vice-Chancellor A. Jayakrishnan has stressed the need for researchers in the country to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to the development of advanced materials for various applications.

He was speaking after inaugurating an 'International Conference on Advanced Functional Materials,' organised by the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) and the Indian Ceramic Society, here on Wednesday.

#### 'Gear up varsity system'

Dr. Jayakrishnan said it was time to gear up the university system in the country for the development of materials for thermal insulation, bullet proofing and magnetic and optic properties. The university curriculum, he said, should include basic concepts about material science.

"India once had a great tradition in material science. The Damascus sword, the Iron Pillar in Delhi, the Aranmula mirror, bronze products and the zinc distillation technology in ancient India are examples."

Dr. Jayakrishnan said the decline of basic science research in the post-Independence period was a cause for concern. "If basic science is not understood well, imported technology will be difficult to understand."

He underlined the need for young researchers to think out of the box.

"Youngsters should be enthused to take to basic science. They should be encouraged to think afresh and ask questions," he said.

Dr. Jayakrishnan emphasised the need to reinvent the management of science in India. "21st century science cannot be done with 20th century management," he said.

Suresh Das, Director, NIIST, presided over the function.

Dipankar Banerjee, chief controller, R&D, Defence Research and Development Organisation, delivered the keynote address. B.C. Pai, vice-chairman of the conference, K.G.K. Warriar, Head, Materials and Minerals Division, NIIST, and M.T. Sebastian, convener of the conference, were present.

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