

Today's Paper » NATIONAL » KERALA

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'Time to tap the sea for food'

Special Correspondent



It is time scientific institutions in India switched their attention to the development of technology for exploitation of marine resources to replace the fast depleting resources on land, Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Samir Brahmachari has said.

Delivering the inaugural address at the Foundation Day celebrations of the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), a constituent laboratory of CSIR located at Pappanamcode here on Friday, he said marine resources such as algae were emerging as a potential source of food, energy, and as raw material for products.

"These resources are yet to be exploited. CSIR laboratories, especially those situated near the coast, should look at developing technologies for tapping these fresh resources," he said. Tracing the history of CSIR, he said many laboratories, including CSIR NIIST, had grown in stature to become centres of excellence working on applied and basic research projects.

He said the Open Source Drug Discovery platform and outreach programmes of CSIR-NIIST had tapped the immense talent available in the State in the effort to develop drugs for tropical diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria.

He appreciated the large proportion of women scientists at NIIST. Prof. Brahmachari released the Hindi and Malayalam versions of the CSIR Vision Document for the period up to 2022. He also inaugurated a state-of-the-art photonics and photoscience laboratory.