

**Dr Shekhar C Mande, Director General, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR, Govt. of India  
delivers 59<sup>th</sup> CSIR-NEIST Foundation Day Lecture**

CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology celebrated its 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 17 March 2019 with much zeal and fervor at its premise. Held on the eve of the actual Foundation Day i.e 18 March, the 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day was celebrated in gracious presence of Dr Shekhar C Mande, Director General, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR, Govt. of India who incidentally was also visiting CSIR-NEIST for the first time. Befitting the occasion, a special Foundation Day programme was held at Dr J N Baruah auditorium wherein Dr Shekhar C Mande graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Dr G N Qazi, Chairman, Research Council, CSIR-NEIST was present as Guest of Honour. The event was attended by a galaxy of scientists, dignitaries, and invitees, besides CSIR-NEIST fraternity. Notable among them were members of Research Council, CSIR-NEIST viz., Dr P G Rao, Former Director, CSIR-NEIST; Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director, CSIR-IHBT, Palampur and Dr C T Rao, Sr. Vice President & Head, Medicinal Chemistry, SPARC Ltd. Vadodara; Prof Samit Chattopadhyay, Director, CSIR-IICB, Kolkata; Prof Alok Dhawan, Director, CSIR-IITR, Lucknow; Dr D Ramaiah, Former Director, CSIR-NEIST; Dr U S N Murty, Director, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Guwahati; Dr V Y Mudkavi, Head of CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute, Bangalore, Prof Bhabesh Ch Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, Guwahati; Shri Srinivas Lanka, Mentor-Industrialists, Corporate Boards and Govt. Initiatives; Air Commodore S K Verma, VSM, 10 Wing AF; Group Captain Abhay C Deshpande, 10 Wing AF; and Shri Amit Jain from Aroma India Pvt.Ltd., Guwahati. In his welcome address, Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST expressed his deep gratitude to the founding fathers and acknowledged the contribution of the past leaders & employees who steered the Institute to its present status. Sharing his vision for the Institute for the coming years, Dr Sastry stressed on creating knowledge for empowerment and converging the Institute's strength to create a new paradigm of science in the area of computational modeling and data sciences.

Delivering his Foundation Day Lecture on 'Science & Technology in India- then and now.... Role of CSIR', Dr Shekhar C Mande spoke in length about technological & scientific journey of CSIR since inception and discussed the different eras and how CSIR has evolved over the years while building & nurturing India's S&T ecosystem. Dr Mande shared important insights on some CSIR's technological interventions such as DRISHTI- an Indigenous Visibility Measuring System which are now fully operational at various airports across the country, he said. Dr Mande also elaborated on CSIR's role in preservation, protection and documentation of India's rich Traditional Knowledge and urged everyone to preserve the country's rich heritage. He urged upon everyone to accelerate public engagement, develop cutting edge technologies, and strive for becoming a global S&T leader.

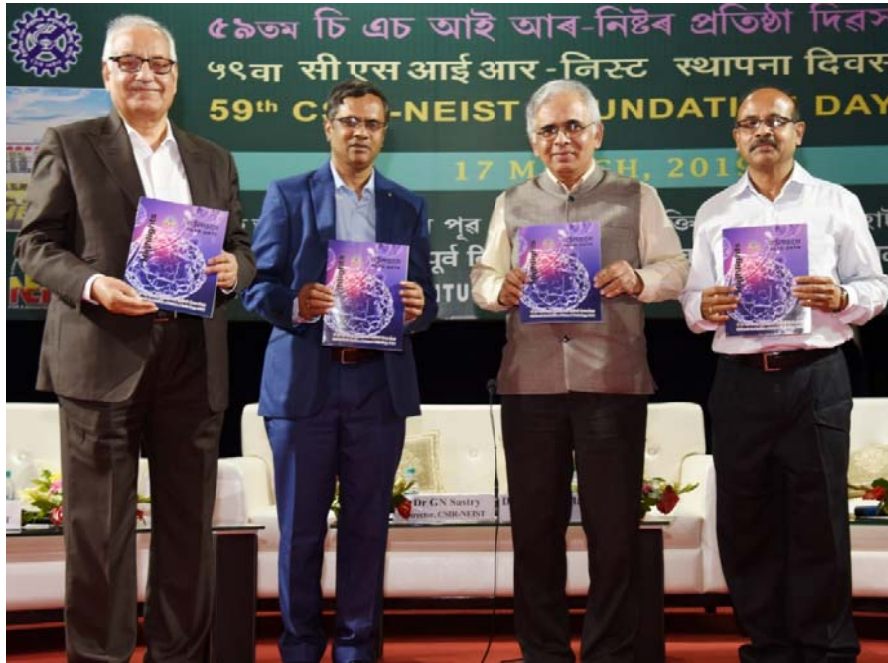
Dr Qazi emphasized the importance of plant breeding and aroma chemicals and mentioned vast scope available in North East for generating newer materials. He encouraged that CSIR-NEIST has vast potential to work in this line considering the immense biological resources of the region.

In an effort to leverage documentation, digitization, deposition of data and data analysis by using machine learning and artificial intelligence applications, CSIR-NEIST created a new division christened, 'Advanced Computation and Data Sciences Division' which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Guest, Dr Shekhar C Mande on the occasion. The annual publication, 'Highlights 2018-19' of CSIR-NEIST was also released by the Chief Guest. Further, the employees who retired during March 2018 to February 2019 were felicitated with mementoes. Also, 'Certificates of Appreciation' were awarded to employees for exemplary performance during 2018-19 in different categories. The function concluded with vote of thanks by Er S C Kalita, Chief Scientist & Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

Earlier during the day, a tree plantation ceremony was held wherein Dr Shekhar C Mande and other dignitaries planted various tree saplings in the campus, followed by the inauguration of 'Kids' World of Science' in presence of Director, CSIR-NEIST and Chairman & Members of Research Council.

### ***Glimpses of the Foundation Day Celebration Programme***





*Release of 'Highlights 2018-19' by the dignitaries during the function*



*Online inauguration of Advanced Computation and Data Sciences Division by Hon'ble Chief Guest, Dr Shekhar C Mande in presence of the dignitaries*



*Dr Q N Qazi, Chairman- Research Council, CSIR-NEIST delivering his speech as Guest of Honour*



*Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST delivering welcome address*



*A section of audience attending the Foundation Day celebration programme*





*Inauguration of Kids' World of Science by Dr Shekhar C Mande*



*Dr Shekhar C Mande interacting with students at Kids' World of Science*

***Glimpses of lab visit by Dr Shekhar C Mande accompanied by Dr G Naharai Sastry,  
Director, CSIR-NEIST***



