

**Shri Y S Chowdary, Honorable Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India visited CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat**

Shri Y S Chowdary, Honorable Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India, visited CSIR-NEIST during 25-26 January, 2016. He was received at Jorhat Airport by Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST. From Airport he proceeded to CSIR-NEIST, where an exhibition of CSIR-NEIST technologies was organized. At CSIR-NEIST, the Hon'ble Minister accompanied by Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat constituency and Director, CSIR-NEIST, visited the exhibition stalls and interacted with the beneficiaries and entrepreneurs of CSIR-NEIST technologies. He showed keen interest and satisfaction in the dissemination of small scale technologies like Mushroom cultivation & Banana fibre extraction to medium scale technology like TP-16 Biofertilizer. Hon'ble Minister also showed keenness on the impact of Common Facility Centre set up by CSIR-NEIST (supported by DST, Govt. of India) in Mariani (Assam) for the local weavers to boost their skills and products with appropriate S&T intervention.

Thereafter, a formal interactive program was held at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium. Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST delivered the welcome address and gave an overview of the Institute and its activities. Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Y S Chowdary, emphasized on lab to land approach while mentioning the importance of commercialization and marketing aspects of technologies and products developed by the Institute. He urged to all the scientists and everyone in general to contribute in addressing the problems of our country and work towards its growth & development. He appreciated the work carried out by the Institute during its last more than five decades and encouraged the staff to identify the gaps still present and take immediate remedial steps.

Shri Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament in his address spoke about the potentiality of the region in terms of rich biodiversity and natural resources and urged the scientists & stake holders to further explore and reach out more to the people. Later in the open interaction & discussion, the Hon'ble Minister addressed the queries and issues raised by the beneficiaries & entrepreneurs such as fund for more cluster-wise projects for societal development, facilities for solar power systems for rural entrepreneurs, etc. Hon'ble Minister extended an open invitation to them to come to New Delhi and propose such projects for funding by the Government under suitable schemes/programs. It is also worthwhile to mention here that on the occasion, Mr Mustafa Ahmed, a class 8<sup>th</sup> student of Cinnamara Hr Secondary School, Jorhat was felicitated by the Hon'ble Minister in appreciation of his work on 'Scientific Seed Storage Device' for which he was honoured as the only child scientist from Assam at the National Children's Science Congress held in December, 2015.

The interactive program was followed by Press Meet held at Director's Conference Room with the Hon'ble Minister and Hon'ble Member of Parliament.

On the second day, the 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of our country was celebrated with much zeal and enthusiasm at CSIR-NEIST. The Hon'ble Minister graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He inspected the Guard of Honour and unfurled the National Flag followed by the National Anthem sung by CSIR-NEIST family members. Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Y S Chowdary, extended his greetings to all and spoke about the importance of the day. He urged everyone to review their responsibilities as a citizen and to follow the constitution in the right spirit with utmost respect and patronage for the country.

To mark the celebration, a short cultural program was held at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium wherein students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, NEIST enthralled the audience with various song and dance performances. Shri Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, also graced the program. Dr D Ramaiah delivered the welcome address wherein he extended his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for his dedication and sparing valuable time to visit the institute despite his busy schedule.

Addressing the occasion, Hon'ble Member of Parliament extended his greetings and expressed his appreciation to the Hon'ble Minister for gracing the Republic Day celebration and said that this may be the first time not only for the Institute but also for the entire district that any Central Minister has hoisted the flag on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Hon'ble Minister in his address extended his gratitude to the Institute and the school for organizing various programs to commemorate his visit. "I see a huge potential in the region and in the young people to progress and excel in various spheres of life", he said. He further mentioned that the Institute in collaboration with the Ministry may fund exposure trips for the students and young researchers to visit other Institutes and organisations in the country to broaden their horizon.

The program concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr N C Barua, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEIST.

Later, the Hon'ble Minister inaugurated an Essential Oil Distillation Plant (300 L/Day) and then had a look around the Experimental Farm area. To mark the visit, Hon'ble Minister and Hon'ble Member of Parliament also planted saplings of *Mesua ferrea* L. (Family: Clusiaceae, Common name: Iron wood tree) in the Experimental Farm. As a part of Republic Day celebration, Sports Event was organized at CSIR-NEIST playground. Hon'ble Minister hoisted the CSIR-NEIST Staff Club Flag and addressed the gathering during the inauguration of the Event.

Further, he laid the Foundation Stone of Experimental Animal House in Chemical Sciences Block and visited various divisions like Chemical Sciences & Technology Division (CSTD), Geosciences & Technology Division (GSTD), Biological Sciences & Technology Division (BSTD) and Herbal Drug Processing Unit (HDPU) and interacted with the staff members. He was apprised about the activities of each division during the visit. He showed keen interest and discussed about the Microzonation study and Earthquake Risk Assessment for Cities undertaken by Geosciences Division and asked to submit projects under Smart Cities Mission

program. He lauded the work carried out by the Institute in Bioremediation of crude oil contaminated land in Assam and encouraged to submit more such projects for funding from the Ministry to reclaim other contaminated sites.

### *Glimpses*



Hon'ble Minister, Sh. Y S Chowdary, visiting the exhibition stalls along with Sh. Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat, Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST and other guests & officials.



Left: Hon'ble Minister, Sh. Y S Chowdary, addressing the gathering in the interactive program with beneficiaries & entrepreneurs. Right: Sh. Kamakhya P Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat delivering his address in the program.



Left: Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST presenting an overview about the Institute and its activities in the interactive program. Right: A section of audience in the program.



Beneficiaries/entrepreneurs of CSIR-NEIST technologies speaking during open discussion & interaction.

### **67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebration at CSIR-NEIST**



Inspection of Guard of Honor by the Hon'ble Minister, Sh. Y S Chowdary.



National Flag Hoisting by the Hon'ble Minister.



Sh. Y S Chowdary, Hon'ble Minister addressing the gathering on the occasion of 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebration at CSIR-NEIST.



Inauguration of Essential Oil Distillation Plant (300 L/Day) by the Hon'ble Minister.



Plantation of *Mesua Ferrea* L. saplings by the Hon'ble Minister and Hon'ble Member of Parliament.



Visit around CSIR-NEIST Experimental Farm.



Foundation stone laying of Experimental Animal House by the Hon'ble Minister.

***Visit to various Labs***

