

Inter-disciplinary research future of the country: Ahamed

Staff Reporter

KOZHIKODE: Minister of State for Human Resource Development and External Affairs E. Ahamed opened a two-day workshop on biocomputing, jointly organised by the National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NIT-C) and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), the United States, at the Taj Gateway hotel here on Monday.

The workshop, an initiative of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at NIT-C in cooperation with the School of Biotechnology, is being attended by several prominent scientists and researchers from the country and the U.S..

Appreciating the spirit of collaborative research envisaged by these divergent streams, Mr. Ahamed said interdisciplinary research would be the future of the country. "The days of research in isolated islands of learning is fast disappearing and I am glad scientists and technologists of our nation are moving with the times," he said.

The event, according to the organisers, aimed to provide a



NEW REALMS: *Union minister of State for Human Resource Development and External Affairs E. Ahamed inaugurating an Indo-U.S. workshop on biocomputing at NIT-C in Kozhikode on Monday.*

— PHOTO: K. RAGESH

synergic platform for researchers in Computer Science and Life Sciences to exchange their ideas and to develop improved bioinformatics algorithms and tools.

Presenting a paper on the growing importance of alternative fuels, Pramod Wangikar from IIT- Bombay threw light on the possibility of producing biofuel from Cyanobacteria. Stressing on the concept of biofuel production through sustainable technologies as the need of the hour, he went on to present the challenges faced by agricul-

ture-based approach in addressing the situation.

Noted researchers from the U.S. and experts from various reputed institutes in India shared their research experiences in various aspects of biocomputing on the first day of the workshop. About 90 researchers from India, UK, Iran, and Belgium are participating in the workshop.

M.K. Raghavan, M.P. and Sandeep Sancheti, Director of NIT-C, were present at the inaugural function, among others.