

Will introduce collective leadership at decision-making level: NCL director

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DECEMBER 1

SOON AFTER assuming office as the director of National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) on Wednesday, Sourav Pal said he would introduce collective leadership at the decision-making levels at the NCL. He said other plans such as promotion of more creative ideas and sensitisation of scientists to integrate teaching with research work are also on his list.

According to Pal, funding is not a big problem for research in India as is

originality of ideas is. "The biggest problem with Indian R & D is that it is obsolete. While in the West, particularly in the US, the concept of university spin-offs has caught up majorly, Indian institutions and universities are still engaged in basic research. So, an initiative like the Venture Centre, which will be run from the NCL campus, needs to be promoted in a big way as it will help good ideas reach the market. We

have created an enabling atmosphere. Now, we need creativity to pour in."

He further said massive industry-laboratory partnership is the need of the hour as till now most laboratories in the country worked with industries on a short-term contract basis. He said it needs to be taken to the next level.

Throwing light on the recent initiative of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and

the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), he said the main agenda behind promoting inter-disciplinary research has been received very well. The first batch of M.Tech students has started in Pune.

"Till now, the director used to make all the major decisions, but we need a horizontal leadership instead of the top down approach. So, now there will be a council of about 3-4 senior scientists under an academic council to recommend important matters," Pal said.



SOURAV PAL