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CSIR, a jewel in India's crown: FICCI

New Delhi, Nov 12 (IANS) Describing the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as a 'jewel in India's crown', FICCI secretary general Amit Mitra Friday said its role is 'fundamental in shaping Indian technical research and innovation'.

'CSIR has done the greatest good for India by tapping its best resource, its massive human capital. Its approach has always been that of direct intervention by exposing the country's young to the best technological advances,' Mitra said at a conference to announce CSIR's participation in the India International Trade Fair (IITF) beginning here Sunday.

He said the need of the hour was to expose the country and its people to the breakthrough solutions that CSIR has produced in the past 60 years.

'This should be done to spread knowledge to the masses and to inspire India's youth to take up scientific research more seriously,' Mitra of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) said.

The CSIR Friday announced its exhibition 'CSIR Technofest 2010' for the IITF, to be held at Pragati Maidan Nov 14-27.

'It will be an opportunity for us to showcase the work being done by about 4,000 scientists at CSIR laboratories,' CSIR director general Samir K. Brahmachari said.

The themes on which the CSIR will focus are aerospace and the strategic sector; minerals and materials; chemicals, petrochemicals and energy; ecology and environment; healthcare and food; agriculture and floriculture; engineering infrastructure and mining.