



The ICT is India's premier centre in the specialisation of chemical technology. It was established in 1933 under University of Mumbai and is today regarded as one of the top centres in the world for research and higher education in the field. In recent years it has developed deep experience and cross-disciplinary capacities in advanced energy biosciences. It is already generating and deploying innovations in the important field of bioenergy and biofuels.

The DBT-ICT Centre of Biosciences is now in its second five-year phase. The minister said that it is now diversifying into second and third generation biofuels and biochemical solutions. "These areas are based on handling the diverse kinds of waste available all over India and adding value to the bio- constituents of those wastes with a view to develop them into fuels."

This is not the only institution under the Ministry of Science and Technology which is actively pursuing the "Swacch Bharat" agenda. As an example he pointed to the Nagpur-based National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

"They are developing a technology which will make biofuels like biogas by treating solid waste at the community, village and small town levels. This is remarkable because not only will it lead to the decentralisation of solid waste disposal but has the potential to develop a direct interface between rural people and cutting edge science," the Minister said.

Dr Harsh Vardhan visited all the laboratories at the DBT-ICT Centre and also went around the campus of ICT and saw for himself the facilities for research. He was accompanied at the occasion by Vice-Chancellor of the Institute Dr.G.D.Yadav, MD of Godrej Industries Limited Mr. Nadir Godrej, Head of the Centre Dr. Arvind Lali and the Dr.Sangita Kasture from Department of Biotechnology.

He also interacted with the students, teachers and officials, and complimented the Institute and its faculty and students for maintaining high standards in research and development.

Source: DBT.