

# Expert stresses on need for disruptive thinking in driving innovation

MANGALURU, DHNS

A five-day national symposium on 'Advances in Functional Materials for Energy and Catalytic Applications (AFMECA) began at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) on Wednesday.

The event is being organised by the Department of Chemistry, and Central Research Facility (CRF), NITK, Surathkal.

Dr Ajay Mehta, Vice President, Shell India, stressed on the critical role of research and collaboration in fostering innovation.

Highlighting challenges such as CO conversion, industry electrification and electric vehicle penetration, he emphasised the importance of forums like AFMECA in uniting experts to address pressing global issues.

Prof Kannan Srinivasan, Director, CSIR-CSMCR, Bhavnagar, highlighted the potential of youths in shaping the future through advancements in science, technology and collaboration.

Noting the complexity of modern challenges, he stressed on the necessity for



**Dr Ajay Mehta, Vice President, Shell India, speaks at the inauguration of the five-day national symposium that began at NITK, Surathkal, on Wednesday.**

disruptive thinking and unconventional perspectives in driving innovation.

Prof Srinivasan emphasised the transformative potential of functional materials, catalysis and molecular innovations, urging the attendees of the symposium to apply these technologies to solve real-world problems.

Prof Uday Bhat, Dean,

Research and Consultancy, NITK, appealed to young researchers to transcend academic publications and focus on innovation, prototyping and commercialisation.

He encouraged students to develop commercially viable products, fostering entrepreneurial success through bold and agile approaches.