

BAGASSE TO BUILDING BLOCKS

## NCL signs technology transfer deal with Godavari Sugar Mills

An agreement for transfer of a technology for chemical fractionation of sugarcane bagasse to its constituent polymers and chemicals was signed on July 16, 2008 between CSIR's National Chemical Laboratory (NCL, Pune) and Mumbai-based Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd. (GSML). The agreement will enable NCL and GSML to further jointly develop a commercially viable technology based on the results of laboratory work and pilot plant demonstration, which began in 2002. GSML was an industrial partner of the project in a public-private partnership mode under New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) programme of CSIR. GSML is planning to make substantial investments into scaling-up the process and validating the technology at a commercial level. A 100-kg batch demonstration unit has been designed by NCL and installed at GSML, Sameerwadi, Karnataka.

### Making use of abundant bagasse production

The process developed consists of



Pre-fractionation plant at GSML, Sameerwadi

a novel method to fractionate bagasse, a by-product of sugar production, into its constituent polymers, like cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin. Each of these is a platform material used to produce a variety of industrial chemicals and can re-

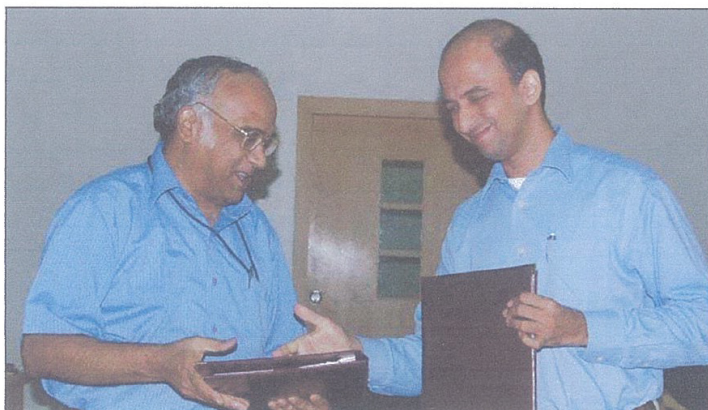
place several petrochemical-derived materials. According to a NCL press note, the project assumes importance in view of the fact that about 90-mt of sugarcane bagasse is produced every year and can provide a valuable source of raw material for obtaining pure value added materials. The NMITLI programme of CSIR is the largest public-private-partnership in R&D domain in India. NMITLI has so far evolved fifty-seven networked projects in diverse areas like agriculture & plant biotechnology, general biotechnology, bioinformatics, drugs & pharmaceuticals, chemicals, etc.

### PAINTS

## Jotun shifting powder wing to Pune

Jotun Group, a player in the paints industry, is shifting its entire powder division from the Union Territory of Daman to Pune. Mr. Claes Jansson, Managing Director, Jotun India P. Ltd., revealed that two lines have already been set up in the Pune facility and two more would be shifted out from Daman by August-end. The Daman facility has been in existence for the past four years. It manufactures around 10,000-tons of powder.

The Pune facility is located at Ranjangaon and has been set up with an investment of US\$25-mn. The commercial production of paints from this facility began in June this year and has an installed capacity of 50-mn litres in wet paint. Mr. Jansson noted that the full capacity utilisation would happen in the next five years. The company caters to the industrial, marine and decorative segments in India.



Dr. S. Sivaram, Director, NCL and Mr. Samir Somaiya, Executive Director, GSML exchanging the agreement document