

Environment/Science/Wildlife

India will be envy of the world: PM

India Blooms News Service

Pune, Apr 1 (IBNS) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday urged the scientific community to come forward and build a 'new and resurgent India which will be the envy of the world.'

He was speaking at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) here.

Established in 1950, the interdisciplinary research centre has a wide research spectrum and specialises in polymer science, organic chemistry, catalysis, materials chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemical sciences and process development.

"The NCL is one of the first research laboratories conceived by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. It was born of a dream of a nascent nation, awakening to freedom and aspiring to harness the potential of science and technology for the benefit of its people" he said.

Laying out the contribution of the NCL in the development of India, he noted that the Laboratory had made a seminal contribution to the emergence of Indian pesticides industry which was critical to the success of the Green Revolution.

"The research conducted at the National Chemical Laboratory gave birth to the Indian generic drug industry, a forerunner to the vibrant Indian pharmaceutical industry of today" he added.

Saying that India looks up to its premier scientific institutions like the NCL for finding solutions to some of the most vexing problems that confront our society, he said that India's scientific laboratories must align their priorities even more closely to the national needs and contribute to the creation of wealth in our society.

"It is our scientific capabilities that will determine our ability to overcome challenges which lie ahead in areas such as climate change, clean energy, environment friendly technologies, water management, affordable healthcare, food security, and biotechnology" said the Prime Minister.

He said that the Indian Government had declared 2010-20 as the 'Decade of Innovations' and it was imperative that the spirit of innovation be instilled into young minds to achieve the goal of inclusive and sustainable growth.

He spoke about about the need to improve the quality of teaching of science in schools, Ofocus on faculty development, increase expenditure on science and technology from the current low level of about 1 % of the GDP, and further strengthen academia-industry interface.

Prime Minister Singh said "I am happy to learn that an ambitious proposal to establish a CSIR Innovation Complex in this campus in a public-private partnership mode is under consideration."

At the event, he also laid the foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) saying the idea was

to 'create world class institutions for undergraduate as well as postgraduate education in science with an intellectually alive atmosphere for research'.

Highlighting the need for innovation, he said, "Our competitive advantage in the R&D sector maybe lost unless we ensure that the country produces, on a continuing basis an adequate number of competent and motivated young people who could lead our national laboratories, science agencies and knowledge based industries."

"I urge the scientific community to come forward and make the IISER system a unique brand of academic excellence and help in realizing our dream of making India the knowledge hub of the world" he said.