

'Make India the most advanced lab of modern science'

Our Bureau

Pune

Fulfilling the country's needs in diverse areas such as energy, healthcare, agriculture and food security should be at the root of all inspiration for the entire scientific community said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the 108th Indian Science Congress at Nagpur.

The focal theme of this year's science congress is "Science and technology for sustainable development with women empowerment" and the role of science technology in achieving this target.

"Science in India should make the country Atmanirbhar", the Prime Minister said, pointing out that 17-18 percent of the global population resides in India



SERVE HUMANITY. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the 108th Indian Science Congress, at Nagpur, via video conferencing 271

and scientific developments should benefit the entire population.

"When the spirit of national service gets infused in science along with passion, results are unprecedented. I am sure, India's scientific community will ensure a place for our country of which it was always deserving," he said underlin-

ing the central role science and technology will play over the next 25 years, the Amrit Kaal, as the country move towards 100 years of independence.

ENERGY NEEDS

He emphasised the need to work on subjects that are of importance to the entire humanity. To address the

growing energy needs of the country, work is on under the National Hydrogen Mission and stressed the need for domestic manufacture of critical equipment like electrolyzers to make it a success.

CROP IMPROVEMENT

The Prime Minister noted that it is a matter of pride for every citizen that, on India's call, the United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Work is needed to improve millet crops including reducing post-harvest losses with the help of biotechnology.

FUTURISTIC NEEDS

Modi emphasised the need to focus on cutting edge areas which are yet to be tapped. Keeping AI, AR and VR as priorities, he told the scientific community. Scientists need to come up

with innovations in the semiconductor chips and be future-ready. "If the country takes initiative in these areas we will be in a position to lead Industry 4.0", he said.

Modi also referred to integrated disease surveillance for the timely detection of diseases. For this, he stressed the need for coordinated efforts of all the ministries. Similarly, LIFE i.e Lifestyle for Environment movement may greatly be helped by the scientists in terms of water conservation and sustainability, he said.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister hoped a clear roadmap will be prepared on various constructive points during this session of the Indian Science Congress. "In Amrit Kaal, we have to make India the most advanced laboratory of modern science", he said.