

**Address of the Hon'ble Minister for Science and Technology  
and Earth Sciences at the Inaugural Ceremony of the 100<sup>th</sup>  
session of Indian Science Congress on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 at  
Kolkata**

*The Chief Guest for the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of Indian Science Congress and Hon'ble President of India, Sri Pranab Mukherjee ji; General President and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh ji; His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal Sri M.K. Narayanan Ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms. Mamata Banerji ji, my Cabinet Colleague Sri Kapil Sibalji, Ministers of State , Government of India, Cabinet ministers from the Government of West Bengal, MPs, Dr Sobti, Dr Saxena and Dr Chakraborty and other members of the Council and executive committee, science leaders and distinguished speakers from India and abroad, guests, delegates, representatives of the media, friends, ladies and gentlemen, let me wish you all a happy new year and great beginning to the year 2013.*

1. I am delighted to be able to offer my own words of welcome to this august assembly of celebrated scientists as well as promising scientists,. The occasion is historical. "History of Science" is being recast. I am privileged to be part of the history being written today.
2. Indian Science Congress is observing the year 2012-13 as its centenary year. My Ministry has worked closely with Indian Science Congress Association in organizing this mega scientific event. I am confident that the occasion will remain memorable for the simultaneous participation of the President and Prime Minister of India and the quality of the programmes that have been chalked out.
3. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, as General President for the centenary year, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012, revealed some of the important plans for the year-long celebrations. I am happy to report about the successful implementation of several of the plans.
4. We have launched the Prime Minister's Doctoral Research Fellowships under a Public Private Partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industries. I am happy to report that there has been overwhelming response from the both aspirants and the industry partners. Of the 100 fellowships, we have already awarded 30 fellowships to doctoral students. May I request the students selected for the PM Doctoral Research Fellowship and our industrial partners present here to please rise. To me this is a landmark initiative and I hope that in coming years the recipients of the Fellowship will be instrumental in shaping a glorious future of India. My Ministry has also developed a scheme for supporting doctoral research fellows from a few of our neighbouring countries.

5. The Centenary year was celebrated nation wide with three regional level events organised at Vadodara, Coimbatore and Delhi on the focal theme. One more event is planned later in the year in Arunachal Pradesh. Besides, inspirational documentaries for motivating children to take to science, and a Hall of Scientific Fame are all ready for launch at this function. The Nobel Prize winning discovery of Sir CV Raman, as a part of his work at the Indian Association of Cultivation of Sciences, has been enshrined in a Hall of Scientific Fame at Goenka College here in Kolkata.
6. My Ministry is also processing the proposals for supporting the establishment of a corpus fund for construction of a new building for the Indian Science Congress in commemoration of the centenary year.
7. As an ardent admirer of Pandit Nehru, I share his enlightened and passionate faith that science and technology alone could solve the multitude of challenges facing our nation. 'Science for shaping future of India' has thus been chosen as a focal theme for the Congress. As Pandit Nehru has written in the Discovery of India and I quote: "Science ignored the ultimate purposes and looked at facts alone. It made the world jump forward with a leap, built up a glittering civilization, opened up innumerable avenues for the growth of knowledge, and added to the power of man to such an extent that for the first time it was possible to conceive that man could triumph over and shape his physical environment..... We live in the scientific age, so we are told, but there is little evidence of this temper in the people anywhere or even in their leaders." This is true even of India of today. Our collective survival and progress is predicated on sound values of rational thinking, individually and collectively. One should not be in isolation to the other, because, successful societies are those which combine both harmoniously.

8. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have assembled here in large number to carry the message and methods of science and scientific temper to the people of India. There is a duty ahead of all of us i.e. to shape the future of the country. Actions of the present will determine our future. To achieve bold and beneficial outcomes, we need both grand visions and planned perseverance. Science community is being called upon once again to connect the dynamics of Indian science to India's future.
  
9. Pursuant to the decision taken at the last years' session of the Science Congress a new policy on science, technology and innovation is ready for release today. The Policy is truly aspirational and seeks to accelerate the pace of discovery and delivery of science-led solutions for faster, sustainable and inclusive growth. A set of strategic actions to follow are also outlined simultaneously. Actions needed have been identified and developed by the scientific community itself. Therefore, one could observe the profound resolve of the Government and the STI enterprise to move on the path of the new policy.
  
10. The new policy on science, technology and innovation is a rare and resounding expression of collective will and wisdom of the Indian scientific community. This is at once a product of and a clarion call of the scientific community. From here, let us move into a future,, to put in the words of Gurudev Tagore: *".... where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit, and where the mind is led forward by thee into ever widening thought and action ..."*

11. Indian science needs to play a decisive part in the sustainable and inclusive development of India. Our global competitiveness in trade will depend on the strength of our technologies. Inclusiveness of our national development will rely heavily upon the availability, accessibility and affordability of the products of innovation. Indian scholars must gain leadership in discovery processes in frontier areas of science. I see a bright horizon for Indian science. As the Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences of the country, I foresee Indian science writing a new chapter in the history of India in golden letters. Let me wish the Indian Science Congress the very best in their march from its first century to its second century.

**Thank you.**

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