

The 95<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) was organised at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam during 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.

Beginning with the vision of sustainable development envisaged by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1989, followed by the specific goals set in the United Nations 2000 Millennium Declaration for sustained development, poverty eradication, environmental protection, controlling population explosion, urbanization and food security, conservation of species and ecosystems, energy and water, an international consensus to address these issues has emerged as the need of the hour. The problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century with special reference to sustainability requires contemporary scientific solutions to bridge the gaps in cultural, geographical, socio-economic and environmental diversity awareness. Keeping this in view the focal theme of the 95<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ISCA was proposed as **Knowledge based society using environmentally sustainable science and technology.**

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Manmohan Singh inaugurated the 95<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Science Congress on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008, in the august presence of Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Govt, of India, Shri Y.S. Rajasekar Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh and other distinguished dignitaries.

The five-day scientific congress was attended by more than 6,000 participants including three noble laureates (*Robert Curl Jr., Paul Nurse and R. Kornberg*), 200 Foreign Delegates and many distinguished past presidents of Indian Science Congress Association, scientists, policy makers and experts from India.

Children Science Congress, Science Expo, Virtual Congress of Mahila Kisans, as well as many cultural events were organized during the congress.

**Water literacy** and bring about a paradigm shift from the quantitative to the qualitative aspects of water use for domestic, agricultural and industrial needs. In addition to water use efficiency, there has to be emphasis on the prevention of water pollution. **The Jal Swaraj movement can be spearheaded by Pani Panchayats set up by Gram Sabhas and Nagarpalikas.**

#### **E. MANAGEMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL:**

The Science Congress welcomes the steps taken at the global and national levels to meet the challenges arising from climate change. However, the adverse impact of unfavourable changes in temperature, precipitation, sea level and pest pandemics will be felt mostly at the local level. The coping capacity of local communities to withstand the harm that may occur to agriculture and livelihoods will have to be enhanced through education, social mobilization and regulation. Fortunately, India has elected local bodies with one third representation to women. These grassroot democratic institutions will have to be empowered technically, administratively, financially and legally to introduce appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures. For this purpose, the Science Congress recommends that one woman and one male member of every Panchayat / Nagarpalika / local body may be trained to serve as Climate Managers. They should become familiar with methods of introducing drought and flood codes, in the event of drought or floods. In the case of agriculture, contingency plans, alternative cropping strategies, food, feed, fodder and water banks and other proactive calamity management measures should be developed. **Just as grain reserves are essential for food security, seed reserves are necessary for crop security.**

#### **F. BIO-HAPPINESS:**

Jawaharlal Nehru often said that, "we are poor people inhabiting a rich country". This situation prevails even now. How can we break this linkage? Appropriate combinations of biodiversity, biotechnology and business can help to end this irony. Biovillages where biodiversity is converted into jobs and income with appropriate micro-enterprises operated by Self-help Groups of women and men, can help to promote and sustain an era of biohappiness.

It is requested that an earmarked provision of Rs.100 crores may be made in the budget of Department of Science and Technology which is the nodal Ministry for the Indian Science Congress Association. While making this request, the Indian Science Congress wishes to recall the statement made by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru 60 years ago, "**the future belongs to science, and to those who make friendship with science**".

At the end of 60 years of India's tryst with destiny, it would be useful to keep the above statement as our guide to the future.

95<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Science Congress  
January 03-07, 2008

**TOWARDS A KNOWLEDGE BASED SOCIETY  
USING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**



**NATIONAL CHALLENGES &  
SCIENTIFIC RESPONSES**

Indian Science Congress Association