

DeshGujarat

17th National Children's Science Congress begins in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, DeshGujarat, 27 December, 2009



The 17th National Children's Science Congress was formally inaugurated on Sunday by Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, in the presence of Dr. (Shrimati) Kamla, Governor of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat, Professor Yash Pal, President of NCSTC – Network, Shri D. Rajgopalan, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat and **Shri Ravi Saxena, IAS, Principle Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Gujarat Government.**

Hailing efforts made by the great scientist Dr. Vikram Sarabhai for promoting scientific research, Professor Yash Pal, President, NCSTC Network, the national organizer of the event, said, "Generally children lose the curiosity as they grow and we, the elder generation, are responsible for the phenomenon. When they wonder at the mystery of some developments taking place during the normal course of life and inquire about the same, we ignore them. As a result, they start believing that raising this kind of questions doesn't make any sense.

This kind of attitude is not fair. Instead of that, actually we, particularly teachers, should always try to generate curiosity in the young minds and also help them in satisfying their curiosity. In fact, teachers

should treat students as their teachers, take lead from their curiosity and act accordingly for the sake of science popularization”.

“Knowledge exists everywhere and we don’t need to go to laboratories to gather knowledge. The world, the surrounding all over – itself is a laboratory and we should do experiment everywhere. Similarly, principles of science can be applied for solutions to any kind of problem faced during the routine life,” Prof. Yashpal added.

Pointing out that most of the people mistake technology as the science, Gujarat’s Chief Minister Narendra Modi said that to know how the technology work is the science. “For students, who want to make career as a scientist, should develop skill for minute observation, as it is a must for them.” Shri Modi also urged the child scientists to try their best in order to find solutions to the problems caused by the climate change. As an act of motivation, he also cited a Gujarati scholar Pranav Mistry saying that the significant innovations made by Mistry is going to change the dimensions of the world of technology and everybody should visit his website to know about his miraculous achievements.

While addressing the function, Dr. Shrimati Kamla, Governor of Gujarat, said, “Science is a source of wonder, excitement, and fascination for all children. Exploring, experimenting and thinking about the world around them give each one of them skills that last for a lifetime – skills all children should have, regardless of their career plans.”

Before declaring the 17th NCSC open, Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, said, “The theme of the 17th NCSC – ‘Planet Earth – Our Home, Explore, Care and Share’ is quite relevant, as exploring, sharing and caring of the existing resources has become a judicious task in the present era. At the same time, Indian is far behind in comparison with it peers on scientific research front and lack of clear focus is responsible for the same. With absolute commitment, the child scientists can do a lot for the interest of the country.”

While delivering the welcome address at the inaugural function, Mr. Rajgopalan, Chief Secretary of Gujarat said “Science should be made simple and understandable for the all-inclusive development and National Children’s Science Congress is the right platform to promote scientific research among the children.” He expressed hope that unlike Copenhagen, all the child scientists gathered at the 17th NCSC would find out some solutions to the problem of climate change. The inauguration function began with a patriotic song – Maa Tuze Salam.

Pronouncing the vote of thanks, **Shri Ravi Saxena, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat and convener of NCSC**, said that the 17th National Children’s Science Conference would act as a stimulus for child scientists and prepare the next generation to face the challenges of the climate change. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi hoisted the flag and participants took oath in the. Shri Modi also inaugurated the Science Exhibition, being organized as a part of the event. Thousands of students from different schools of Gujarat thronged the Science City, Ahmedabad to attend the inaugural function. Later after the inauguration, students also participated in various technical sessions and activity corners, being organized as a part of the event. The prestigious national academic event, being organized for the first time in Gujarat at Gujarat Council of Science City,

in association with SGVP International School, Ahmedabad, will conclude on December 31, 2009. The central theme of the event is 'Planet Earth – Our Home, Explore, Care and Share'.