

## DST Conclave: India retains 3rd spot in nanotech publications

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The union minister of science and technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan, has called upon scientific institutions to refocus their scientific pursuit to realize the dream of Prime Minister's national dreams of Swasth Bharat, Swatch Bharat and Digital India. Dr Harsh Vardhan was inaugurating a two days Conclave of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), government of India, at Hyderabad on July 07, 2015. He said that this conclave is a unique opportunity to introspect sincerely as to how much we can do to serve humanity by converting knowledge to solutions.

The conclave has been organized to brainstorm on the achievements of the ministry and also set the future directions for implementing S&T based interventions for meeting the challenges faced by the country. Secretary, DST, Directors/Heads of Statutory Bodies, 21 Autonomous Institutions, Survey of India, National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation and Programme Divisions of DST are participating in the conclave.

The minister suggested that the autonomous institutions of the department should actively engage in fulfilling the National Agenda such as Swasth Bharat, Swatch Bharat, Digital India as outlined by the Prime Minister. He appealed to the scientific fraternity to provide their valuable inputs and vision for application of S&T based interventions to achieve global competence, focus on alleviating the sufferings of the common man and develop S&T based approach to fast forward the process of socio-economic development of the country.

In his address Mr Y S Chowdary, minister of state for science and technology and Earth Sciences flagged some of the challenges faced by the country and called upon Scientists to give a thought for efficient utilization of our huge human resource through proper skilling so that this becomes an asset to the country. He suggested the scientific institutions to work in a network mode and connect R&D with the people. He also suggested the scientific institutions to prepare a blue print of the needs and potentials and come out with actionable programmes.

Prof Ashutosh Sharma, secretary, DST presented an overview of the recent activities and achievements of the Department. He emphasized the role of DST in promotion of Basic Research on new and emerging areas which had led to the emergence of several new Science Ministries/Departments such as Environment and Forests, New and Renewable Energy, Biotechnology, Scientific and Industrial Research, Earth Sciences. He also mentioned that the autonomous institutions of DST are "Hot-Spots of knowledge" wherein R&D is being cultivated and nurtured in unique areas of science. He informed that over the global average of 4 percent in scientific publication, India has achieved 13 percent growth rate during last few years. India has achieved 3rd rank in the world in terms of scientific publications in the area of Nano Science and Technology largely due to efforts of Nano Mission of DST. He also emphasized to evolve mechanisms for faster technology commercialization.