

**Minutes of the meeting taken by the Prime Minister on issues related to Science and Technology.**

**Date: 18.07.2017**

**Time: 06.30 p.m.**

**Venue: 7-LKM**

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List of participants is **Annexed**.

2. A meeting was held on **18.07.2017** under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on issues related to Science and Technology. Secretary, Department of Bio-Technology, gave a presentation on the subject matter during the Meeting.

3. The **main points of discussion** and the decisions taken in the meeting are as under:

(i) Many times, while taking up new projects, the relevance and appropriateness of the location is not taken into account. The Scientific Departments should be conscious of such relevance, usefulness to the society and overall national interests while formulating projects and deciding on their locations.

**(Action by: All Scientific Departments)** ✓

(ii) It has been observed that due to misplaced priorities and lack of understanding of local problems, our new technologies and products are not very relevant to our societal needs. It is therefore the responsibility of the Secretary of each Department to ensure that their projects are supplementary to the priorities of the Government.

**(Action by: All Scientific Departments)** ✓

(iii) All the Ministries/Departments and Government Agencies need to change the thinking and orientation for adapting to new technologies, while implementing projects. The Scientific Departments should work in tandem with the developmental

Ministries and Government agencies to support and provide technological solutions to their problems.

***(Action by: All Deptts. & Ministries/All Scientific Departments)***

(iv) Country needs more of Applied Science Research to fulfil the requirements of socio-economic priorities. Therefore, Scientific Departments should keep a judicious balance between Applied Science Research and Fundamental Research while taking up research projects.

***(Action by: All Scientific Departments)*** ✓

(v) Scientific Departments should find out solutions to the emerging problems in urban areas/cities, particularly waste disposal and waste management.

***(Action by: CSIR & DBT)***

(vi) Last year, there was a big problem of pollution in cities like New Delhi in Northern India on account of burning agricultural residue in northern plains. A coordinated effort should be made to address this problem in next one year.

***(Action by: All Scientific Departments)*** ✓

(vii) The cyber physical reconstruction of architectural heritage for Hampi can be expanded for some other heritage sites and monuments.

***(Action by: DST / M/o Tourism & Culture)***

(viii) It was informed that the pilot project for development of Molecular Diagnostic Tool Kit to detect the tuberculosis is almost complete. The Department may work out a plan with timelines for its usage and scale up.

***(Action by: ICMR/ DBT)***

(ix) Few research projects are being implemented by Scientific Departments to develop important products and processes to solve socio-economic challenges faced by the country. PSA may review these projects and regularly monitor the progress with strict timelines for major activities/milestones. Departments should also

chalk out action plan for the usage and scale up of developed products and methods well in advance.

***(Action by: PSA / All Scientific Departments)***

(x) Ministries/Departments may also identify few areas, where India exports raw-material but imports finished products, e.g., Castor and Bauxite. The research should develop low cost technologies for value-addition in raw material within the country.

***(Action by: PSA / All Scientific Departments)***

(xi) The Government to set up Medical Technology Park to conduct research and develop new products which can substitute some of the products monopolized by certain companies. The effort should be to channelize resources on few products to get concrete outcomes in next few years.

***(Action by: All Scientific Departments)***

(xii) BARC has developed some Bio products to be used in medical fields. Departments may examine and take action for their usage in larger scale.

***(Action by: ICMR / DBT)***

(xiii) A proper study should be conducted to identify and map areas/pockets prone to malnutrition in the country. The location specific factors should be identified and recommendations be made for addressing the same. ***(Action by: ICMR, DoHFW & M/o WCD)***

(xiv) An online certificate course should be devised (including in regional languages) for prospective mothers (girl students of X-XII standards) on food habits and other aspects of life-style for improving nutrition level in children. M/o WCD may also examine, how grandmothers can be trained to support prospective and lactating mothers to help them keep high nutritional level in children.

***(Action by: ICMR / DoHFW & M/o WCD)***

(xv) DG, ICMR proposed for introducing Millets in PDS for improving nutritional support. The proposal may be jointly examined by ICAR, DoA, D/o F&PD and ICMR under the leadership of Niti Aayog. They should come up with recommendations within a period of 6 months. **(Action by: Niti, ICAR, DoA, DoFPD and ICMR)**

(xvi) Creating special opportunities for the scientists below the age of 45 on a competitive basis for addressing significant scientific challenges. These special opportunities may include early recognition and support, creation of special groups such as Academy of Young Scientists, involvement in scientific committees that set the directions and evaluate projects, Centres of Excellence headed by a young scientist etc. **(Action by: All Scientific Departments)**

(xvii) Some of the Laboratories should have young Scientists, especially in the age group of 35-45 years for conducting R&D in resolving bigger problems affecting our society. The selected Laboratories should be functional by 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018. 4

**(Action by: CSIR/**

**ICMR/ICAR)**

(xviii) The Scientific Departments to focus on few important areas, in fundamental research and achieve excellence, rather than spreading limited resources over many items without any long term plans and vision. 4  
**(Action by: All Scientific Departments)**

(xix) Each region at the level of District or City or State should develop a Centre of Excellence in S&T. The senior scientists should provide vision and momentum for development of these centres of excellence.

**(Action by: All Scientific Departments)**

(xx) Toys should be developed which inspire and develop scientific temper in children. **(Action by: CSIR)**

(xxi) As instructed on earlier occasions by the Prime Minister, Scientific Departments were once again requested to channelize their resources and activities to meet the socio-economic needs in the fields of Health, Water, Sanitation, Waste Management, Smart Cities, Solar Energy, Irrigation, Food, etc.

**(Action by: All Scientific Departments)**

(xxii) It was again reiterated that the priorities and instructions given by the Prime Minister from time to time should be implemented. PSA may regularly review the progress. ←

**(Action by: PSA/ All Scientific Departments)**

4. Doordarshan under M/o I&B may telecast a reality program dedicated to the indigenously developed innovative technologies. The industrial units may be actively involved for showcasing these technologies and also allowing them to bid for commercial exploitation of the same.

**(Action by: M/oI&B, CSIR, ICMR and ICAR)**

5. A suggestion was made for preferential market access to indigenously developed products and technologies. NITI Aayog may examine the proposal and come out with its recommendations in 3-months time.

**(Action by: NITI Aayog / MoF)**

6. Science Departments should fix certain big targets/milestones to be achieved in the field of Science & Technology by the year 2022, i.e. the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence.

**(Action by: All Scientific Departments)**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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## Annexure

### List of participants:

1. Dr. R. Chidambaram, PSA to GoI
2. Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member (Science), Niti Aayog
3. Shri Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Cabinet Secretary
4. Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog
5. Prof. K. Vijay Raghvan, Secretary, Dept. of Biotechnology
6. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Dept. of Science and Technology
7. Dr. M. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences
8. Shri Girish Sahni, Director General, CSIR
9. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, D/o Agri. Research & Education
10. Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Secretary, D/o Health Research

### **From PMO:**

1. Principal Secretary to PM
2. Addl. Principal Secretary to PM
3. Shri Tarun Bajaj, Joint Secretary to PM
4. Shri Anurag Jain, Joint Secretary to PM
5. Shri Brajendra Navnit, Joint Secretary to PM
6. Shri Birjesh Pandey, Deputy Secretary

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