



Dr G Satheesh Reddy, the scientific advisor to the defence minister, delivers the 21st convocation address at NITK, Surathkal. DH PHOTO

'India should become world's innovation hub'

. MANGALURU, DHNS

Scientific advisor to the defence minister Dr G Satheesh Reddy said innovation and technology will take the country to the top of the world.

Dr Reddy, who was also the Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), delivered the 21st convocation address at NITK, Surathkal.

He said the youth should develop state-of-the-art products that are of high quality and cost-effective.

"India has become self-reliant in missile technology, radars, aircraft, guns, communication systems, submarines, surface-to-surface missiles, anti-tank missiles and many other varieties of missiles developed in the country," he said.

"Make in India' is a unique initiative launched by the Centre to create opportunities for the private sector to partner in the manufacturing of equipment in various sectors, including defence," he said.

Stating that the youth have become entrepreneurs and many startups have come up in the country, Dr Reddy said the youth have developed a globally competitive mindset and want to develop products for developed countries across the world.

He said the Ministry of Defence had

exported Rs 16,000 crore worth of equipment, arms and ammunition during the previous fiscal.

CSIR-NIIST Director Dr C Anandharamakrishnan stressed the need for scientific intervention to address issues bothering health, food, energy sector and climate change in the country.

"We need to work on energy, water and food security of a country which will have 150 crore population by 2033. To achieve Amrit Kaal by 2047, we need to work together and plan for the next 24 years," he said.

"The global population will be 9 billion by 2050. About 54% of the cities face high water stress. There is a need to work on how to address the issues," he said.

NITK Director Prof B Ravi said the work on a lecture hall complex-D, an Olympic-size swimming pool and an elevated sky track to connect two sides of the campus is in progress.

Within a year, NITK's testing and consultancy services had crossed Rs five crore, compared to less than Rs 3 crore in the previous fiscal. NITK's student placement continues to be strong as over 1,500/1,730 students got placed at an average CTC of nearly Rs 16 lakh.