

# 'Made in India devices in hospitals in 5 to 10 years'

## DRDO DG Speaks At Neeri Event

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**DRDO DG U K Singh said the country needs structural and institutional reforms to make it a \$30 trillion economy by 2047. India can become 3rd largest economy by 2030, a milestone coinciding with parity in rural and urban incomes, he said**

**Nagpur:** In the next 5-10 years hospitals in the country will be well-equipped with Made in India equipment, ending reliance on imports of high-end medical devices, said Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) director-general (life sciences) UK Singh on Monday. "Currently, India is importing medical equipment worth Rs40,000 crore every year," he said.

Talking about projects underway in various DRDO labs, Singh said they have achieved partial success in developing Cochlear implants too. "The device is being imported on a large scale," he said.

Singh was delivering a talk on various projects ranging from infrastructure, biofuels, agriculture, biotech, health and information technology during the 66th foundation day of CSIR-Neeri at its auditorium. "The govt is supporting production-linked investment in areas where most of the medical equipment are being manufactured. Investigation machines like MRI have already been made in Mumbai and Bengaluru," he said.

Regarding biotechnological advancements, Singh said a lot of research needs to be done in genomic interventions. "Diseases like cancer can be intercepted much in advance. Some pharma

firms are offering services on predicting disease one is likely to suffer based on genomic sequences. We intend to develop models for human organs like guts," he said.

DRDO labs are also engaged in developing chemical biological radiation and nuclear (CBRN) warfare drugs and antidotes, he said. "In case of clashes with enemies, drugs and antidotes could be used. There are various specific drugs being made by DRDO labs. We have already achieved more than 50% of requirements," he said.

According to Singh, India is much ahead in drug development and production than any other country. "Indigenous sources are being utilized. India is also the biggest vaccination, drug development and drug production centre," he said.

He said DRDO has developed many medicines for the armed forces and naval ships venturing in high sea. "One junior doctor is allowed to go with them but what if there is a major trouble. Helicopter too has a limited range. So, do they abort the mission? We have developed telemedicines which can be delivered and configuration is given where it is required. It can also help elderly people living alone.

Earlier, CSIR-Neeri director Atul Vaidya outlined the genesis of the institute.

He said the institute has positioned itself to address the challenges posed by environmental issues. He described various parameters on which CSIR-Neeri is performing well, including technological developments and planning aligned with the vision for 2047 to ensure sustainable development.

## Moral, legal duty of all to save nature'

Expressing concern over climate change, BN Goswami, SERB Distinguished Fellow, Department of Physics, Cotton University, Guwahati, said we have already reached the tipping point. "We need to first address local issues to resolve global issues," he said. Goswami, who was a guest of honour at the function, said that it is moral and legal responsibility of all to save the environment, as environment and climate are interconnected.

He described the iconic 'hockey stick' graph devised by Michael Mann, which illustrates global temperature trends spanning the last 2,000 years and unveils a notable pattern of temperature fluctuations. He pointed out that over the past 200 years, human activities have significantly disrupted the natural balance. **TNN**