

## New Delhi event of Mega Science Exhibition ‘Vigyan Samagam’ to be launched on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020

The New Delhi event of India's first-ever multi-venue, traveling, Mega Science Exhibition, "Vigyan Samagam will be launched in New Delhi from 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at the National Science Centre, New Delhi. The Curtain Raiser for the event was held at New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> January detailing out the objectives and activities of the final edition of Vigyan Samagam.

A Joint Press Conference giving the details of the final edition of Vigyan Samagam announced that the exhibition will be inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Shri Arun Srivastava, Secretary, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Head, Institutional Collaboration & Program Division, DAE, Mumbai; Dr. Praveer Asthana, Head, INSPIRE and Mega Science Division, Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Shri N.R. Iyer from National Science Centre, New Delhi, jointly announced the programme and explained the objectives and various activities related to Vigyan Samagam.

Speaking on occasion, Shri Arun Srivastava said, Vigyan Samagam which started in a caravan mode is a culmination of global science projects and a wholehearted effort to encourage science enthusiasts and student fraternity by bringing them closer to advance science. This initiative shows how India has grown at par with its global peers in terms of research and how important is its contribution to the scientific community. He added that they have targeted three categories of the audience through Vigyan Samagam namely Students, Industry and Academia.

Explaining the objectives and journey of Vigyan Samagam, Shri Arun Srivastava added, "This Mega Science exhibition will be a scientific hotspot at New Delhi for students and science enthusiasts.



Dr Praveer Asthana emphasised the relevance of Vigyan Samagam in establishing science as an attractive career option and said, "The scientific community in India needs more scientists and the best way to encourage youngsters was providing them with a platform to experience the thrill of science through mega science projects".

He further added that Vigyan Samagam will have much more than just projects as we have arranged many lectures and talks by the scientists in which students can participate and gather

more knowledge in their areas of interest. This can help motivate school children and college going students to take up science.

The exhibition will be open for public display, unveiling the efforts of the international community in understanding the Universe, and will showcase the scientific knowledge and curiosity from micro to macro scales across. After 8 weeks, the exhibition will conclude on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The National Science Centre, New Delhi will host the final leg of the 11-month-4-cities traveling exhibition after overwhelming success in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata. In the three preceding editions, Vigyan Samagam witnessed enormous response evident from the footfall of about 5.5 lakh visitors. The National Capital is all geared up to host the Mega Science exhibition, expecting large number of visitors.

The exhibition will highlight India's contributions towards the world's largest scientific experiments and major fundamental breakthroughs in modern science, and deepen the awareness about the exciting world of front-ranking science and technology.

Vigyan Samagam exhibition is aimed at providing a common interactive platform for the three pillars of mega-science in India, namely, industry, academia and students. It will host a broad spectrum of audiences and will pave the way for greater interaction between all stakeholders resulting in the cross-fertilization of ideas.

The inauguration will also be attended by Dr. R. Chidambaram, Former Principal Scientific Adviser to Gol, Chairman, AEC and Secretary, DAE, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST, Dr. Paul Ho, Director General, East Asian Observatory, Hawaii, USA and Shri K. N. Vyas, Chairman, AEC and Secretary, DAE.

DAE, DST and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) are jointly organizing this multi-venue mega-science exhibition hosting some of the world's biggest science projects under one roof.

The Mega Science Projects in which India is participating are the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR). India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO), International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO), Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiments (MACE), Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT).

The final edition is expected to see massive participation, bringing together world-renowned scientists from India and abroad, budding scientists, science enthusiasts, students, Industry academia, institutions and people from New Delhi and adjoining states.

As part of the project, each participating project will be carrying out week-long activities consisting of popular talks, science demonstrations, interactive quiz programmes, and so on. Grass-root level outreach involving school is also an integral part of the event for which updates are shared on the digital and social media platforms of Vigyan Samagam.