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Title: The Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences made a statement on India International Science Festival (IISF) – 2016.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): Madam Speaker, I have risen to apprise all my colleagues here about India International Science Festival (IISF-2016) – the largest festival of science in this country with its focus on "Science for the Masses".

As hon. Members are well aware that, our nation has achieved a pre-eminent position in the field of Science and Technology, in the field of Space, Atomic Energy, Information Technology and also newly emerging technologies such as Nano Technology and Bio Technology. In this process, we have created one of the world's largest network of scientific laboratories and research institutions.

Our hon. Prime Minister has directed that the benefits of our advancements in Science and Technology must reach to the masses. Towards this, Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences has taken the initiative of launching India International Science Festival (IISF).

IISF-2016 is not only a festival but a movement to connect common people with science and its contributions to our day-to-day life.

I would like to inform the Members of the House that IISF-2016 will be held at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) Campus, New Delhi during 7-11 December, 2016. The event will be formally inaugurated by hon. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh Ji on 8th December, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

India International Science Festival (IISF) as a major science event was conceptualized last year when we organised the 1st IISF at IIT, Delhi during 4-8 December, 2015 which was visited by about four lakh people. It was a great

success and also won the distinction of Guinness Book of World Record for successful conduct of Largest Practical Science Lesson by 2,000 school students.

The success of first IISF in 2015 gave the impetus to launch IISF-2016 with expanded scope, mandate and operation.

The IISF-2016 aims to encourage and develop scientific temper and attitude, promote exchange of knowledge and ideas among young minds including showcasing of recent developments and contributions of India in science and technology involving all our scientific departments.

I am happy to inform that IISF-2016 will be showcasing India's S&T Prowess, technological developments, history of Indian Science and Science Education involving more than 10,000 young researchers, school students, academicians and top level Indian scientists. It will witness several scientific activities such as Young Scientists Conclave (about 3000 young scientists), DST-INSPIRE Camp (1000 brightest minds to join with 200 teachers), International Science Film Festival (more than 80 entries from 10 countries), Industry-Academia Meet (with participation of 200+ industry and academic representatives) and Mega Science & Technology Expo (projecting technological developments through 400+ scientific models and exhibits)...(*Interruptions*)

Let me reveal one fact. Many of you have already participated in the event by nominating students from your constituency on my request. This has led to organisation of a unique event – "Science Village" which will have a conglomeration of 3000+ school students from all across the country. I am really grateful for your support. These students from village level schools will be exposed to many scientific activities like interaction with scientists, watching scientific films apart from laboratory visits and visits around Delhi...(*Interruptions*)

IISF-2016 is expecting a large number of visitors (about five lakh) from all walks of life to experience the festival of science and to interact with Indian scientific community. I have written to all my colleagues with a request to join us in the movement by visiting IISF-2016, which will be the morale booster for our young scientific minds who are going to reshape the future of our country...(*Interruptions*)

I would like to reiterate my invitation to all of you to visit IISF-2016 to make it a grand success...(*Interruptions*)

Thank you.

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