



# 108th INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY for **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** with **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**



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108th Indian Science Congress 2020-2021



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Theme:

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY for SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT with WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

**By the year 2050, it is estimated that our global population will likely reach 9 billion people.** And we have to ensure that every single one of these people will be able to enjoy a substantial quality of life without being detrimental to our natural resources & environment. Sustainable Development can be said to be Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**There are 3 primary objectives** of SUSTAINABLE Development; **Economic Growth**-building a strong & competitive economy, **Environmental protection**-contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural & developed environment and **Social inclusion**-supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities.

**To promote sustainable and inclusive development the issues of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are paramount.** Access to new & appropriate technologies promote steady improvements in living conditions, which can be life saving for most vulnerable populations and drive productivity gains which ensure rising incomes.

**It is important that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) be integrated** into public policy goals, giving particular focus to the nexus between STI, culture, education and development. Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) will need to be made more participatory including women, young people and indigenous communities. Boosting the number of women and girls entering careers involving STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) is vital to achieving Sustainable Development.

**A well-functioning STI ecosystem needs to include** an educated workforce; sound research and education infrastructure and linkages between public and private innovation actors; enterprises committed to research and development; as well as a balanced intellectual property rights (IPRs) framework. As the United Nations Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation noted, innovation and technology are





needed to transform countries from reliance on the exploitation of natural resources to technological innovation as the basis for development.

**Women have played a significant role in the field of Science since the emergence of modern civilization.** Women should be encouraged to bring their vision and leadership, knowledge and skills, views and aspirations into the development agenda from the grassroots to international levels. Science and technology brings economic growth and well-being to people and it is not only the empowerment of women through science and technology, but also the enrichment of science and technology through women's participation.

**It is necessary to recognize that the participation of women in science and technology is no longer simply an issue of gender equity:** it is also an issue that should be considered in national economic development. Women are both consumers and producers, they can make a difference if they are involved and considered in economic development plans. With science and technology at the heart of economic development, women's participation in science and technology is therefore an essential part of economic development strategies.

**Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) can also help women grow** business & social enterprise and provide opportunity for greatly improving health outcomes. Science and technology squarely underlie the enjoyment of human - and women's - rights and are intrinsic to sustainable development, citizenship and personal empowerment. It is imperative that we enhance the use of enabling technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

**The 108th Indian Science Congress will discuss issues** of Sustainable development, Women empowerment and the role of Science & Technology in achieving this in all its dimensions. 108th ISC will discuss and deliberate on ways to increase the number of women in higher echelons of Teaching, Research and Industry. It will focus on all the issues that are obstacles to the growth of Women in the fields of Science & Technology.

**The 108th Indian Science Congress** will find ways to provide Women with equal access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education, Research opportunities, economic participation which are fundamental requirements to fuel holistic growth, renewed economies and achieve sustainable development.





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