

National

Modi moots hackathon on climate change



CHENNAI, Sep 30 (Agencies) | Publish Date: 9/30/2019 11:06:40 AM IST

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday proposed a hackathon involving Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries to offer innovation for reducing global warming and climate change.

“Let the best brains of Asean countries compete to offer innovation for reducing global warming and climate change,” said the PM while addressing the gathering at Singapore-India Hackathon 2019 at IIT-Madras’s research Centre in Chennai.

Modi was proposing a similar hackathon on the lines of the Singapore-India Hackathon involving those Asean countries that may be interested in participating in support from NTU (Nanyang Technological University) and governments of Singapore and India.

The PM said that he had proposed the hackathon during his last visit to Singapore. "Technology unites people. India is poised to grow into a \$5 trillion economy. For that, innovation and startups will play a crucial role. Already India is among the top three startups-driven economies," he said. Calling every participant of the hackathon as winners, Modi said hackathon was great for youngsters and the participants could take their ideas and innovative skills.

Those initiative would bring people together from governments, industries and experts, he noted.

The government has been creating an ecosystem. "We are encouraging innovation and incubation for two reasons. One is, we want easiest solution to solve the problems to make life easier and another is we India want to find solution for the whole of the world," he said. Modi said that India is among the top 3 Startup Friendly ecosystems. He said India had given great emphasis to innovation and incubation in the last five years. "Programmes like Atal Innovation Mission, PM Research Fellowships, Start-up India Abhiyan are the foundation of 21st century India, an India that promotes a culture of innovation. We are now trying to give exposure to modern technology like Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain to our students as early as in 6th grade. From school to research in higher education, an ecosystem is being created that becomes a medium for innovation."

Urging the students to find easy solutions to the problems being faced by India, the Prime Minister said that India would like to offer its solutions to the entire globe and especially the poorest of the nations.

"We are encouraging Innovation and Incubation for two big reasons, One is – we want easy solutions to solve India's problems, to make life easier. And another, we, in India want to find solutions for the whole world..."

PM Modi reaches out to Tamil Nadu people after Hindi row

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday Tamil is now echoing across America as he extolled its rich antiquity at the convocation ceremony of IIT Madras here, days after praising it as the most ancient language of the world in the United Nations.

The Prime Minister's praise for Tamil is seen as an attempt to reach out to the people of Tamil Nadu after a row broke out with Home Minister Amit Shah's pitching for Hindi as a common language which was condemned as "Hindi imposition," by parties in the State. Modi was on his first visit to Tamil Nadu after his address to the UN General Assembly and his party's big win in the Lok Sabha elections months ago. Addressing a reception here hosted by the BJP, Modi referred to his usage of an ancient Tamil saying in the world forum and he then went on to mention its positive implication in the US.

“...so even today Tamil is echoing in the whole of US,” he said to rounds of applause from BJP supporters. He said it was always a delight for him to be back in the state capital of Tamil Nadu.

“Chennai makkalai santhithil magilchi,” he said in Tamil which meant “happy to meet the people of Chennai.” Later, addressing the 56th convocation of the IIT Madras, Modi said “We are in the state of Tamil Nadu, which has a special distinction. It is home to the oldest language in the world, Tamil.” The Prime Minister’s praise was received with applause from the students and other participants.
