

# 108th Indian Science Congress

January 6, 2023

**In news**– The Prime Minister has recently addressed the 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) via video conferencing.

## **About 108th ISC-**

- The largest gathering of scientists and students in the country, the Science Congress is an annual five-day event from January 3 to 7, a permanent fixture on the Prime Minister's calendar, and usually his/her first public engagement in the new year.
- **The focal theme of 108th ISC is "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment".**
- The 108th annual session of ISC was held at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, which is also celebrating its centenary this year.
- **With a history dating back to 1914, the Science Congress is a one-of-its-kind event in the country, bringing together scientists and researchers** not just from the premier institutions and laboratories but also science teachers and professors from colleges and universities, and offering a platform for their interaction with students and the general public on matters related to science.
- **The event is organized by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), an independent body functioning with the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in the central government.**
- The salaries of the permanent staff of ISCA are paid by the DST.
- **For organising the Science Congress, the government provides an annual grant**, which has been increased to Rs 5 crore from this year – it used to be Rs 3 crore earlier.
- **Several other government agencies, like the Science and**

**Education Research Board, also make financial contributions** because the event is seen as an effort to promote science.

- Additional resources are raised through sponsorship and fees for renting out exhibition spaces.
- **The government has no role to play in the selection of the panelists or speakers, the papers to be presented, or the subjects to be discussed.**
- But because of the support it provides, and also due to the presence of the Prime Minister, other ministers, and officials, the event gets closely associated with the government.

**Several other programmes were also organised alongside ISC-**

- **Children's Science Congress** is organised to help stimulate scientific interest and temperament among children.
- **Farmer's Science Congress** is organised to provide a platform to improve the bio-economy and attract youth to agriculture.
- **Tribal Science Congress** is also organised which is a platform for the scientific display of indigenous ancient knowledge systems and practices, along with focusing on the empowerment of tribal women.