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HYDERABAD: A centre that will link up universities, monitor their functioning and improve their capability levels is being proposed in the city by Prof K R Sreenivasan, Abdus Salam Professor and first Indian director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Italy.

The professor was in the city on Monday and spoke to mediapersons. He said he was exploring possibilities of setting up such a centre with assistance from the University of Hyderabad and B M Birla Science Centre.

"India has a large number of universities with many resources but it is difficult to bring them up all at one level. Such a centre could help not only in encouraging hardcore physics and mathematics research but can also act as an interface between physicists and mathematicians and vice-versa," he said.

Prof Sreenivasan expressed concern at the lack of quality people growing in universities and how the best are put off by universities. He said such an upliftment of universities is needed in the context of the rapid progress India is making that will lead it to be the third most developed nation in the world after the US in 30 years.

He also spoke of having set up a network of scientists from various countries in Asia right from Iran to Indonesia who will develop a common programme for earth sciences.

"Two scientist from each country will develop a common programme transcending boundaries and understand issues related to earth sciences which will include measuring seismic activity and how to handle calamities," he said. There is also a network of scientists working on particle physics, climate module and other such topics. Speaking of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, he said it is a place where scientist from developing countries can come and interact with scientist from developed countries. "They can seek support and help scientists working on similar ideas and form a network to exchange ideas," he added.

Sreenivasan said he was worried that the scientific human resource was not of quality

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in India. He said that his main concern was future generation scientist would not be up to the standard. Although India is known for abstract scientists, the number of mathematicians is very small and needs to be changed, he said. He said leaders and scientists should come together to provide the right environment to breed top quality scientists.



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