

need to be funded. And, the initial funding requirements are also not expected to be huge.

- e) Both international and national MSPs are required. We need to have a properly-phased national programme so that it acts as a reservoir of underlying know-how's and technological capacity and helps us effectively participate in, and derive maximum benefit from, international collaborations. We also need to effectively leverage the experience gained in international collaborations for the benefit of national projects/programmes.

In conclusion, therefore, the author would like to submit that given India's demography and strong tradition of doing science, it must have a strong global footprint in all areas of science and technology, including those that employ MSPs for making further progress. Combined with increasing industrial capacity in high-tech areas and strong economic performance, it is natural for the Indian scientific community to be ambitious to take part in such front-ranking scientific instrumentation. Mega Science Projects are here to stay. The only questions are, which ones, and at what scale?

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