

Need for inclusive growth stressed

Special Correspondent

MYSORE: Eminent scientist and former chief of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) R.A. Mashelkar, on Tuesday, said India can become a leader in inclusive innovation as its engineers were admired worldwide for their excellence.

Affordable innovation results in social transformation, Dr. Mashelkar said, while speaking at the Annual Leadership Series (ALS) at Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute for Management Development (SMD-IMD) here.

He said innovations must give affordable access to quality goods and services. However, the biggest challenge for emerging economies is growth. Inclusive growth is vital in view of the increasing divide between the rich and the poor. Accelerated inclusive growth is essential to bridge this gap, Dr. Mashelkar opined.

In India, both income

and income inequality were increasing and this could trigger social disharmony. Inclusive innovation was an immediate solution for achieving accelerated inclusive growth, he said.

Dr. Mashelkar gave examples of how inclusive innovations have improved the lives of people. The world-famous Jaipur foot is one such innovation. It is considered to be among the world's cheapest and most user-friendly artificial limbs. Such innovations ensure equal access is a game-changer, he said.

A combination of public policy innovation, technological innovation and business process innovation was necessary to ensure access equality, Dr. Mashelkar explained, citing the example of the mobile phone revolution. Combination of innovations is a must to achieve excellence, he said.

Radical thinking and creative reinvention was essential for accessing high quality goods at affordable prices, he observ-



Scientist R.A. Mashelkar speaking at the Annual Leadership Series in Mysore on Tuesday. —PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM

ed. Observing that affordability brings equity and excellence brings competitiveness, Dr. Mashelkar said advanced technologies change the life of the poor. Parashuraman, director of SMD-IMD, and Neetu Ganapathy, chairperson,

PGDM program, SMD-IMD, were present.

Course

Dr. Mashelkar Tuesday felt highlighted the need for launching a course on inclusive innovation and encouraging research at an early age.

“Instead of waiting till the completion of post-graduate courses, the youth must take up research early. If students of foreign universities can bring inclusive innovations, why not the students from our universities,” he said.