

## Innovation must bridge rich-poor gap: Scientist

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mysore:** Noted scientist R A Mashelkar on Tuesday suggested inclusive innovation to bridge the rising gap between the rich and the poor.

"The challenge before emerging economies like India is balancing the inequalities, given that the gap is widening. Inclusive growth is the key. To achieve that, we need innovation that make technologies affordable to the masses," Mashelkar, who is the former director general of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, said, pointing out that India can take a lead in inclusive innovation as her engineers are known worldwide for their excellence. According to him, affordable innovations lead to social transformation.

Delivering a special lecture at SDM Institute for Management Development, the noted scientist said:

"Inclusive growth is crucial as the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing by the day. Accelerated inclusive growth is essential to bridge this gap, and innovation plays a key role," he stated, pointing at Jaipur foot, which, he said, is helping scores of physically challenged people stand on their own.

"It has made special persons be considered on a par with the able-bodied. That is why I insist inclusive innovation will be a game-changer," he stated.

The scientist highlighted the need for launching a course on inclusive innovation and encouraging research for children. "If students in foreign universities can innovate, why not students studying in the Indian universities?" he asked the gathering which comprised noted personalities, industrialists, academicians and scientists.

Pics: TOI



**ALL EARS:** Noted scientist R A Mashelkar (inset) gives a special lecture at SDM Institute for Management Development on Tuesday