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4 KARNATAKA

Nano is the way forward, says

‘It should be used for solving problems in fields like agriculture’

Special Correspondent

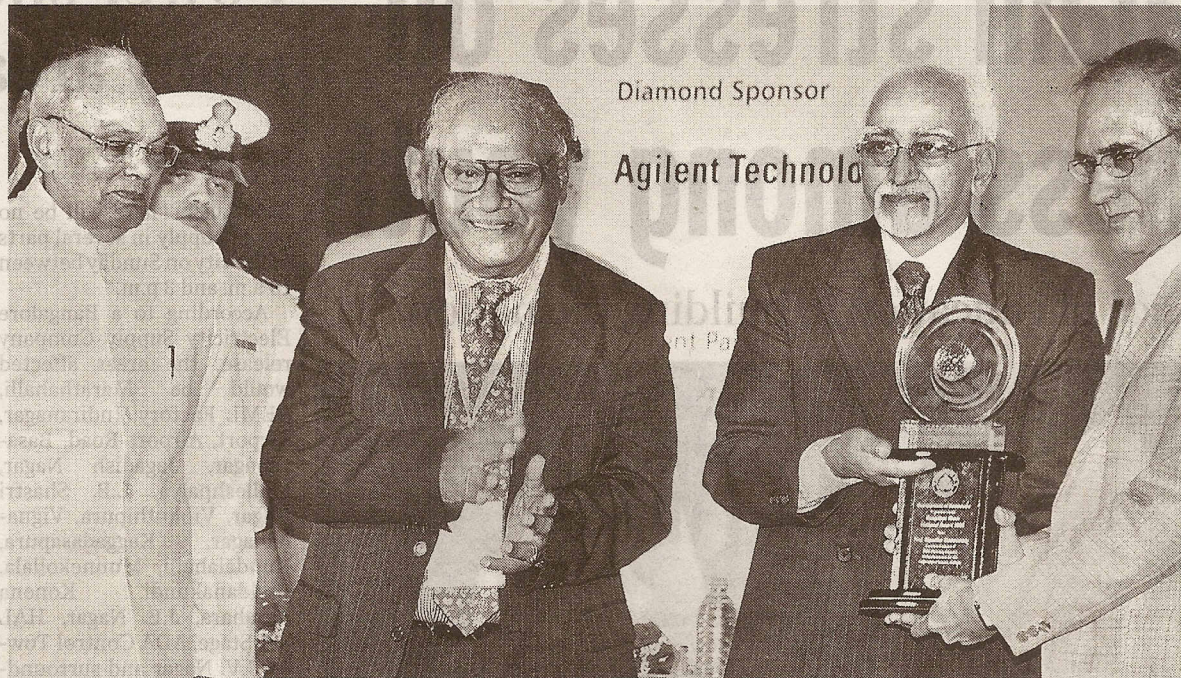
BANGALORE: Vice-President M. Hamid Ansari said that the challenge of nanoscience in India is to focus on what the technology can contribute to the masses, especially in the field of agriculture and to people living in rural India.

Mr. Ansari was addressing a meeting which adopted the Bangalore Nano Declaration at the Second Bangalore Nano in the city on Saturday.

Mr. Ansari said since government public funding was premised on furthering public welfare, it was important to ensure wider public participation while developing the agenda for the science in India.

The success of nanotechnology depended on it delivering solutions to problems such as clean water, clean energy, housing and health, which were important for most people. Since new technologies “always comes as a package,” practitioners of nanotechnology should “recognise people’s safety and environmental concerns.”

He warned that nanotechnology, which had a “wide array of potential applications ranging from aerospace to



NANO STAR: Vice-President Hamid Ansari presenting the Nano National Award to Deepankar Chakravarthy (right) at the inauguration of the second Bangalore Nano on Saturday. Governor Rameshwar Thakur (left) and C.N.R. Rao, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, are seen. — PHOTO: V SREENIVASA MURTHY

miniature arts, can also have disruptive influence because of the moral and legal dilemmas they may pose.”

Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory

Council to the Prime Minister, said India could not succeed in the field of nanotechnology without “competing hard”.

Pointing out that nanos-

science is a “young science,” he said India had the advantage of a relatively young population.

It was important to draw young people, particularly

from the rural areas, nanoscience, he said. Minister V.S. Achary Bangalore, with a “available knowledge was a natural choice o