



Embassy of India, Berne

# INDIA SCIENCE AND INNOVATION WEEKLY

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*Ask the right questions, and nature will open the door to her secrets  
- Dr. C.V. Raman, The Nobel Prize in Physics 1930*

## IIT-Guwahati Researchers New Materials to Help Power-Up Low Power Electronics

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Guwahati and Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST), South Korea developed set of new materials for devices that help convert biomechanical energy into electrical energy. Researchers published a report on their work in Elsevier's journals, Materials Letter, and Nano Energy.

## Ministry of Science & Technology Launched Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- "Dare2eraD TB"

Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology announced the launch of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- "Dare2eraD TB". "Dare2eraD TB" would be the umbrella TB program of DBT comprising key initiatives like, Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium, Indian TB Knowledge Hub- Webinar Series and Host Directed therapies against TB and developing an evidence-based regimen for treating extra-pulmonary TB. Analyses of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) is increasingly gaining traction as an important molecular tool for Tuberculosis surveillance. WGS technology would allow rapid identification of the origin and drug resistance (DR) profile of the TB strains in the patients. This would in turn facilitate treatment strategies for better control of TB transmission to reduce disease burden.

## Digital India Programme

Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt. of India, reported that as part of Digital India Program, which is focussed on promotion of digital payments ecosystem & digitizing the financial sector and economy with consequent benefits of efficiency, transparency and quality, digital payment transactions have grown multifold from 2,071 crore in FY 2017-18 to 5,554 crore in FY 2020-21. Further, Bharat Interface for Money-Unified Payments Interface (BHIM-UPI) has emerged as the preferred payment mode and has achieved a record of 452.75 crore digital payment transactions with the value of INR 8.27 lakh crore till Feb. 2022.

## Government of India to Set-up 50 Solar Parks

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy reported that Government of India is implementing a scheme for setting up of 50 Solar Parks of aggregate capacity 40,000 MW in the country. The Solar Parks would provide developed infrastructure to facilitate installation of solar power projects.

## Special Update: MeitY Initiatives & Steps for Promotion of Digital Payments

Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has taken following steps for promotion of Digital Payments:

- i. Incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M) has been initiated by MeitY to give a further boost to digital transactions in the country.
- ii. Various other Incentive/cashback schemes were launched by MeitY for changing the customer/merchant behaviour for faster adoption of digital payments
- iii. MeitY issued advisories to Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs to improve payments acceptance infrastructure
- iv. MeitY launched the scheme titled "Pradhan MantriGramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India.
- v. MeitY has integrated Digital Payment Grievances along with Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MoCA) for utilizing it with National Consumer Helpline (NCH) platform of Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA).
- vi. In order to ensure safety and security of digital payments, various steps have been taken by the Government and Reserve Bank of India(RBI).