



INDIA SCIENCE AND INNOVATION WEEKLY

Ask the right questions, and nature will open the door to her secrets.

- Dr. C.V. Raman, The Nobel Prize in Physics 1930

14th CII Sustainability Summit

The 14th CII Sustainability Summit took place on 28 August to 29 August in New Delhi. Speaking there, Mr Kant noted three-point agenda for sustainable development: eliminating single-use plastic; shared, connected and electric mobility; and tackling climate change.

India as a USD 1 trillion digital economy doable by 2025

NASSCOM organized a leadership meet on the theme “Industry-Government Partnership for realising the vision of USD 1 trillion digital economy by 2025”, in Bengaluru. There are close to 20,000 startups in India, with 8000 being technology startups.

ATOS and C-DAC tackle together quantum computing

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and French technology firm ATOS have signed a cooperation agreement for technology advancement in the areas of quantum computing, artificial computing and exascale computing.

10th Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam IGNITE Awards 2019

National Innovation Foundation (NIF), an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, has invited creative technological ideas from students studying in a class up to Standard twelve or the age of 17 years for the national competition.

Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute(SATHI)

IIT Delhi has been selected for setting up SATHI. It will have high-end instruments that will serve the needs of industry and also startups. 20% of the time utilization on the machines would be by IIT Delhi and 80% by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), others including Industry and Startups.

Chandrayaan-2 third lunar-bound maneuver successfully performed

The third Lunar-bound orbit maneuver for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was performed successfully on 28 August 2019, using the onboard propulsion system. The duration of the maneuver was 1190 seconds. On 23 August the lunar surface was imaged by Terrain Mapping Camera 2 (TMC-2) at an altitude of roughly 4375 km showing impact craters such as Jackson, Mitra, Mach and Korolev. The Mitra crater is named after Prof. Sisir Kumar Mitra, who was an Indian physicist and Padma Bhushan recipient known for his pioneering work in the field of Ionosphere and Radio-physics.

Demonstration Plant to convert Plastic Waste into Diesel

Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated on August 28 a demonstration plant for converting plastic waste to diesel at the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) in Dehradun. One tonne of polyolefinic waste can be converted into 800 liters of diesel every day. The fuel will be of automotive grade. This type of waste accounts for about 70 per cent of total plastic waste in India and is the least biodegradable. IIP and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have planned to roll out the technology nation-wide after six months of operation of the pilot plant.

Indian startups raise USD 624 million

About USD 624 million of equity funding was raised last week spread across 19 deals. While there were only three late-stage deals, last week saw 14 early-stage deals that together raised a majority (USD 254 million) of the total funding amount. One of the biggest deals was Udaan, a company founded in 2016, which raised USD 300 million. The funding comes at a time when the fastest-growing unicorn in India is bringing the benefits of online commerce to manufacturers, traders, suppliers, wholesalers, in smaller towns and creating new entrepreneurs in the process.

Special Update: Startup India

Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. The Government through this initiative aims to empower startups to grow through innovation and design. Launched on 16 January 2016 in New Delhi, the Startup India Initiative has rolled out several programs with the objective of supporting entrepreneurs, building a robust startup ecosystem and transforming India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers. These programs are managed by a dedicated Startup India Team, which reports to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Startup India Hub, India's largest online entrepreneurship platform allows startups to network, access free tools & resources and participate in programs and challenges. The key pillars of support for startups are simplification and handholding; funding and incentives; and incubation and industry-academia partnerships. The Startup India Portal website is the single largest online platform for startups and entrepreneurs in India, which connects them to startups as well as other key stakeholders such as large amount of investors, mentors and incubators.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.startupindia.gov.in/>