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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

The 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica launched by India

The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, which manages the entire Indian Antarctic program, successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station Maitri. Four more batches should be landing in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility and onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasilii Golovnin by mid-January 2022. Indian Antarctic program has completed 40 scientific expeditions, and built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, named DakshinGangotri (1983), Maitri (1988 / fully operational) and Bharati (2012 / fully operational).

Ministry of Science & Technology inaugurated world's most sophisticated, MRI facility at NBRC

Union Minister of State Science & Technology inaugurated first of its kind, world's most sophisticated, MRI facility at the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar, which is India's premier institute dedicated to Neuroscience Research & Education. The facility would embark India on new frontiers of human Neuroscience with powerful 3T MRI platform as it can run intense scanning modalities very fast, reducing scanning time by almost a quarter earlier generation machines.

Indian Astronomers at IIA Bangalore evolved a new method to understand the atmosphere of extrasolar planets

To understand the atmosphere of extrasolar planets, Indian astronomers at Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), GoI, evolved and developed three-dimensional numerical method and simulated the polarization of exoplanets. The method have provided information that the planets going around stars other than the Sun can also be studied by observing the polarisation of light and studying polarisation signatures or variations in scattering intensity of light. The new polarimetric method can detect and probe exoplanets orbiting with a broad range of orbital inclination angles in contrast to the traditional methods such as Transit Photometry and Radial Velocity methods that can detect planets that are viewed almost edge-on only, which was noted in an official press release.

Inauguration of new Biotechnology Centre in Kimin, Arunachal Pradesh

A new 'Centre for Bio-resources and Sustainable Development' was inaugurated in Kimin, Arunachal Pradesh, which aims at conservation and sustainable utilization of the local bio-resources using biotechnological tools. The new Biotechnology Center is supported by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology and would help in improving the socio-economic status of tribal people in the State. The Biotech Centre covers 4 districts and over 50 villages would benefit over 10,000 farmers in next 2 years.

Special Update: 'Digital Payment Gateway' launched by Ministry of Electronics and IT

With the mission to make the internet accessible to everyone and to facilitate customers and partners, National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), which is not-for-profit Company under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched *Digital Payment Gateway* across its three business units by integrating payment gateways on all its customer-facing websites. This integration would lead to increased ease of use for NIXI's customers by offering real-time payments, providing uninterrupted services and ensuring seamless experience to all stakeholders and would ensure more digital independence and transparency in NIXI's own ecosystem.