



Embassy of India, Berne

# INDIA SCIENCE AND INNOVATION WEEKLY

15 January 2024

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

## Inauguration of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research in Guwahati, Assam

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research and the permanent campus of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Guwahati, Assam. In a significant boost to healthcare infrastructure in the Northeast, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers dedicated five new facilities in the Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Science (RIPANS) in Aizawl, Mizoram. The Ministry further laid the foundation stone for over 80 units of health infrastructure in 7 Northeastern states including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura under the Pradhan Mantri - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PSSY) and the National Health Mission (NHM).

## IISF Challenge 2023

To celebrate the spirit of scientific inquiry and foster innovation Ministry of Science & Technology (MeitY) announced the Indian Institute of Science Festival (IISF) 'IISF Challenge 2023' to be held on 18 January 2024. IISF is a collaborative endeavour between Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy in partnership with VijnanaBharati.

## IIT Bombay Developed an Indigenous Equipment for Mechanical Recycling of Waste Thermoplastic Polymers to Composites

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay developed an indigenous equipment called single screw extruder (named GoldN (pronounced as Golden) for mechanical recycling through melt-mixing of waste thermoplastic polymers and inorganic particulate fillers could help manufacture and characterize polymer composites that could be molded to the required shape for making paver blocks, tiles, and bricks. The technology, developed with the support of Department of Science and Technology (DST) through Waste Management Technologies, is now ready for commercialization for carrying out melt-mixing operations in a laboratory environment. It could bring down the cost of this instrument to INR 5 lakhs (by 6-8 times at least) by avoiding the complex design and operating tools and including the indigenous fabrication that are required.

## MeitY Launched ERNET India's Newly Developed Integrated Web Portal for Educational Institutes

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launched ERNET India's newly developed integrated web portal for educational institutes in the country. The portal would offer domain registration, DNS and value-added services viz. Website as a Service (WaaS) and Learning Management as a Service (LMaaS). The users could select from the variety of available templates for schools, colleges, universities as per their requirement and create their own website and Learning Management System. The ERNET India is a not-for-profit scientific society under MeitY. It is the exclusive domain registrar for all the education & research institutes having 'ac.in', 'edu.in' & 'res.in' as domain name.

## Special Update: DRDO Conducted Successful Flight-Test of New Generation AKASH Missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The flight-test was conducted against a high-speed unmanned aerial target at very low altitude. The test validated the functioning of the complete weapon system consisting of the missile with indigenously developed Radio Frequency Seeker, Launcher, Multi-Function Radar and Command, Control & Communication system. The system performance was also validated through the data captured by a number of Radars, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking System deployed by ITR, Chandipur. The successful flight test has paved the way for User trial and the system would further enhance the air defence capabilities of the country.