



# 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*

## Mumbai startup Strom Motors to introduce affordable EV cars

Mumbai Startup Strom Motors to introduce Strom-R3, a three-wheeled vehicle, for 4 lakh rupees in the Indian automobile market. The Electric Vehicle (EV) costs considerably less than Hyundai and other EV models and travels up to 200 km if fully charged.

## T-Hub and Facebook empower 10 Indian AI startups

T-Hub, a Hyderabad-based global start-up catalyst, with the help of Facebook, will give further impetus to 10 Artificial Intelligence (AI) focussed companies and support the India Innovation Accelerator programme in the field of healthcare, climate change, agriculture, education etc.

## Bajaj Auto invests in electric scooter rental startup Yulu

Bajaj Auto, the world's third-largest motorcycle company, has invested USD 8 million in bicycle and electric scooter rental startup Yulu. Yulu, a dockless, lithium-powered scooter, plan to increase their fleet size by from 15,000 to 100,000 vehicles by 2020.

## India's first underwater drone; EyeROV Tuna

Kerala-based startup, IROV Technologies, develops India's first commercial portable drone, called EyeROV Tuna, that can be used for underwater inspections. The startup was selected by Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDex) to modernize Indian military.

## Bizongo: fastest growing tech company in India

Bizongo (Smartpaddle), a company that solves packaging design, development, and procurement challenges with a technology-enabled platform, has been declared as the overall winner of the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 India programme. The firm provides solutions to healthcare, e-commerce firms etc.

## Prime Minister Modi commends scientists

PM Modi wrote to two groups of scientists congratulating them for developing indigenous technologies – a set of dental implants developed by researchers from Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences and Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi and a process of making “zero-waste” potash from the waste in sugar mills developed by the researchers from Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI) in Bhavnagar, Gujarat.

## T PSLV-C47 / Cartosat-3 Mission

India's PSLV-C47 successfully launched Cartosat-3 and 13 commercial nanosatellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. PSLV-C46 was the 74th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota. This was the 21st flight of PSLV in 'XL' configuration (with 6 solid strap-on motors). Cartosat-3 satellite is a third generation agile advanced satellite having high resolution imaging capability; it will address the increased user's demands for large scale urban planning, rural resource and infrastructure development, coastal land use and land cover etc. 13 commercial nanosatellites from USA were also successfully injected into designated orbit. These satellites were launched under commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

## Antibiotic Drug Target identified by Indian researchers

A novel set of proteins (MarR) has been identified in *S. aureus* that could be targeted by antibacterial agents in order to tackle severe infections. A new molecule - indole based quinone epoxide (IND-QE) - has been developed which can cross the bacterial cell barriers and disrupt the functioning of MarR proteins. This may help develop new antibacterial drugs in the future. IND-QE were synthesized at IISER Pune, while researchers at CSIR-CDRI screened the compounds against a panel of pathogens. It was again followed by the experiments at IISER Pune to identify and validate the protein targets of these compounds.

## India's National Maritime Heritage Museum

The National Maritime Heritage Museum will be set up at Lothal, a Harappan site on the Saurashtra coast in Gujarat. The museum will also be an independent research centre of underwater archaeology for reconstruction of maritime history, archaeology of boat building and materials traded. It will have on display salvaged material from shipwreck sites in the Indian Ocean waters. Lothal is the site of one of the oldest ports in India dating back to the Bronze Age.

## International Workshop on weather prediction

A four day *International Workshop on Prediction skill of extreme Precipitation events and Tropical Cyclones: Present status and future Prospect (IP4) & Annual Climate Change Workshop* was organised by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune from 25-28 November. This workshop is a follow up of an earlier International workshop (INTROSPECT) held during Feb 2017 on improving the physical process parameterization of the model.