



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

President awards S&T awards

Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented the Science and Technology awards on the foundation day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The awards are considered as the highest multi-disciplinary science awards in India.

NIMHANS and AIIMS joint study to explore bipolar disease

The study was jointly conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. The results indicated that the bipolar group had 'statistically significant' low scores on the speed of processing information as compared to healthy controls, although there was no significant difference in memory and executive functions.

Argon-40 detected in Moon

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said that the Chandrayaan 2 Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (CHACE-2) has detected Argon-40 from Lunar Exosphere. From an altitude of 100 km, the explorer has captured the day-night variations of concentration.

Micron opens office in Hyderabad

USD 30.4 billion semiconductor company, Micron Technology, opened its Global Development Centre in Hyderabad, which will play a key role in development of technologies.

Young Innovators Program

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur is all set to welcome 100 finalists from across Asia for the grand finale of the Young Innovators Program scheduled to be held from November 8 to 10, 2019. The competition tackles challenges in the field of energy, health, disaster management etc.

ISRO's Space Docking Experiment

ISRO has revealed its plan to carry out a space docking experiment, Spadex, in 2020. The announcement was made by ISRO Chairman Mr. Kailasavadivoo Sivan. Two experimental modules will be sent into space, on board a PSLV rocket, and the two modules will be docked with each other. On building a space station, ISRO said that the project was still some distance away, and would be taken up only after the Gaganyaan mission, which is to take astronauts to space and bring them back to earth safely, through the rigours of re-entry into earth's atmosphere. Gaganyaan is expected to happen in December 2021.

Successful test-launch of supersonic cruise missile BRAHMOS

BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile featuring Indian propulsion system, airframe, power supply and other major indigenous components was successfully test-fired from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in Odisha. The missile was successfully test-fired for its full range of 290-km during the launch jointly conducted by Department of Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and BrahMos Aerospace. The indigenous content in the formidable weapon has reached a high value, thus bolstering India's defence indigenisation and the flagship 'Make in India' programme.

Drone Startups in India

India has at least 50 drone start-ups operating with increasing room for growth and innovation. To date, Indian drone start-ups have demonstrated their ability to detect mosquito breeding grounds to help eradicate blood-borne illnesses, assist city planners in mapping urban environments with cost-effectiveness and precision and even deliver fast food to local communities in a safe and reliable way. In May 2019, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) released an invitation for collaboration on Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone technologies often seen as the Holy Grail of drone operations. While many nations have tried such experimental programmes, what makes India's approach different is its framework for collaboration as a consortium, which brings internal and external experts together and enables data sharing in a cohesive way.

Special Update: Agrometeorological services in India

The prime objective of Agricultural Meteorology Division, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune is to minimize the impact of adverse weather on crops and to make use of crop-weather relationships to boost agricultural production. The Agricultural Meteorology Division was established at Pune in 1932 and since its inception the Division supports and participates in multi-disciplinary activities in this field. It is also the centre for research programmes in agricultural meteorology and has field units in various parts of the country. Besides this, forecasts and advisories for farmers are issued by IMD's Forecasting Offices located at different State capitals.

To meet the farmer's need in real-time and to have a state-of-art Agromet Advisory Service (AAS), Integrated Agromet Advisory Service in the country involving all the concerned organizations viz., Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture (Centre & State), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and other agencies has been started from April 2007.

Further details can be found at:
http://www.imd.gov.in/pages/services_agrimet.php