



# 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

## New scientific social responsibility policy in the offing

India is going to be the first country to implement a Scientific Social responsibility (SSR) policy on the lines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to strengthen linkages between science and society. A draft of the new policy is made available by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) on its website.

## India's National Supercomputing Mission

As part of first phase of India's National Supercomputing Mission, 2 more supercomputers will become functional at IIT Kharagpur and IISER, Pune. These computers are all indigenously designed as part of 'Make in India'.

## Wipro and IISc: Industry-Academia collaboration

Bengaluru-headquartered IT company Wipro plans to collaborate with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, in a hybrid Industry-Academia collaboration project. This project aims to develop autonomous cars and design India's first metal 3D printing machine.

## Acculi Labs secures angel funding

Early-stage diagnostic company Acculi Labs said that it has secured undisclosed pre-seed funding. Acculi Labs will use the funds to complete all the necessary steps needed to secure the intellectual property and certification before mass commercialization of its product, Lyfas, an electrocardiogram (ECG) device.

## Tata Group to establish two IISs

Inspired by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) model of education, the Tata Group will invest over ₹500 crore to establish two Indian Institutes of Skills (IISs) - one in Mumbai and another in Ahmedabad in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

## India-Switzerland Science and Innovation Alliance

Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Switzerland on a State Visit from 11-15 September, 2019. During the State Visit, a Letter of Intent was signed between Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India (GoI) and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation for establishment of the India-Switzerland Science & Innovation Alliance. India has a large startup ecosystem i.e. close to 50,000 startups as of 2018, while Switzerland ranks first in the Global Innovation Index.

## 5 new technology missions to make India-future ready

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India is set to launch five technology missions to prepare the country to meet scientific challenges of the future. The mission on electric mobility to address concerns regarding climate change; Establishment of centers of excellence for production and utilization of methanol and dimethyl ether as a replacement for fossil fuels as a means of energy storage; Promotion of research and development in quantum technology and related areas; Promotion of developments in the area of cyber physical systems i.e. artificial intelligence, robotics, sensors, big data analytics, geographical information systems and advanced materials and Production of digital maps across the country to a scale of 1:500 with the help of satellites and drones.

## India-China pharmaceutical cooperation

India and China have agreed on cooperation in R&D for developing new technology for manufacturing solar cell from alternate material and improvement of efficiency of solar cells. As discussed during the 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (held on 16 September 2019 in New Delhi), there are six standing Joint Working Groups which are appointed by both sides to address economic and commercial issues across infrastructure, energy, high-tech, resource conservation, pharmaceuticals and policy coordination in a structured and outcome-oriented manner. The Working Group on Pharmaceuticals decided that both the sides should explore cooperation for promoting Indian generic drugs and Chinese APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients).

## Special Update: Indian Institute of Science

Founded in 1909, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is situated in Bangalore, the capital of India's southern Karnataka state. It is made up of six main departments: biological sciences, chemical sciences, electrical sciences, interdisciplinary research, mechanical sciences, and physical and mathematical sciences. There are also individual centers for brain research, scientific and industrial consultancy, and sponsored schemes and projects. Academics at the Institute conduct research in several areas of Science and Technology, including space science, material science and engineering, environmental and atmospheric sciences, endocrinology and genetic engineering. The Institute has also identified three areas for upcoming research: genomics, nano-sciences and mathematics. Research students make up more than 70 per cent of the entire student body at IISc. More than 75 scholars at the institute have won the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (SSB). Further details can be found at: <https://www.iisc.ac.in>