



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

Indian researcher bags first prize at BRICS-Young Scientist conclave

India's Mr. Ravi Prakash was awarded the BRICS-Young Innovator Prize in Brazil for inventing affordable and indigenously-designed milk chilling unit. It will help preserve quality of milk after production. The conclave is co-organized by India's Department of Science and Technology.

Bharat Biotech becomes world's largest rabies shot manufacturer

Bharat Biotech has become the world's largest rabies shot manufacturer with the launch of ChiroRab, an anti-Rabies vaccine. ChiroRab has been evaluated in over 25 controlled clinical trials in 5 countries in more than 7000 subjects.

Startup enabling acceleration of drug discovery

Elucidata, a startup which develops healthcare software, founded by two Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) alumns, have helped in accelerating drug discovery through its AI-enabled platform, Polly. The platform significantly reduces time required for end-to-end analysis.

India's first companion robot to aid children's growth

A trio of alumni from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) of the startup Emotix, have developed a newer version of the companion robot, called Miko 2, for children to substitute their screen addiction. The robot uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) and voice-recognition technology to interact with the child.

New devise found to diagnose TB

Dr. Sayed E. Hasnain from Jamia Hamdard University in New Delhi has developed a small device, named CLR-SeeTB, that can be attached to optical microscope to better diagnose tuberculosis (TB). ICMR plans to start large scale validation of the CLR-SeeTB at different locations in the country.

BRICS Digital Health Summit to be hosted by India

India will host the (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) BRICS Digital Health Summit on innovative solutions to a healthy lifestyle that will seek to integrate digital technology with healthcare informatics and diagnostics. Divulging details on the recently concluded BRICS summit in Brazil, Mr. TS Tirumurti, Secretary, Economic Relations Ministry of External Affairs said that India will host the BRICS Digital Health Summit on innovative solutions to healthy lifestyle which will seek to integrate digital technology with healthcare informatics and diagnostics. The initiative will be in tandem with the 'Fit India' movement. He also noted that during the BRICS Plenary Session Prime Minister Modi welcomed the BRICS summit deliverables on a range of areas including innovation, network, architecture and the establishment of the BRICS Women's Alliance. Prime Minister also announced his intention to build on the workshops hosted on traditional medicine and have a BRICS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on traditional medicine, an initiative that was taken up under India's presidency of BRICS in 2016.

3rd Phase of Defence India Startup Challenge

In what could be a boost to growing startups ecosystem, the Defence Ministry has announced Rs 500 crore plan to fund startups working to create products and solution for the defence sector. The ministry plans to fund 250 startups and achieve 50 tangible innovations in the next five years to boost government's 'Make in India' program in the defence arms production. Govt aims to support startups and The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to help it achieve self-reliance in the defence sector. "India will emerge as an exporter of defence technologies and it can be achieved through ideation, innovation and incubation in cutting-edge technologies", said Defence Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh, who announced the third phase of Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC), an initiative to boost innovation in the defence manufacturing sector. The Government is also inviting startups with new ideas or products, that can be used for military purposes, in India Pavilion DefExpo 2020.

Special Update: Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

DRDO is the R&D wing of Ministry of Defence, Govt of India, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems, while equipping our armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment in accordance with requirements laid down by the three Services. "Balasya Mulam Vigyanam"—the source of strength is science—drives the nation in peace and war.

DRDO was formed in 1958. Today, DRDO is a network of more than 50 laboratories which are deeply engaged in developing defence technologies covering various disciplines, like aeronautics, armaments, electronics, combat vehicles, engineering systems, instrumentation, missiles, advanced computing and simulation, special materials, naval systems, life sciences, training, information systems and agriculture. Several major projects for the development of missiles, armaments, light combat aircrafts, radars, electronic warfare systems etc are on hand and significant achievements have already been made in several such technologies.

Further details can be found at:

<https://www.drdo.gov.in/about-drdo>