India’s Missile Man’s birth anniversary

The Hon’ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi paid tributes to late President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, also known the country’s ‘Missile Man’ on his birth anniversary. Union Ministers Mr. Amit Shah, Mr. Rajnath Singh and Mr. Prakash Javadekar also paid tributes to the late leader. Dr. Kalam’s birth anniversary is also celebrated as World Students’ Day. His contribution in the field of space sciences has been immense. Dr. Kalam, an aerospace scientist who served as the 11th President of India between 2002 and 2007, was born on October 15, 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.

Agritech to fuel India’s second green revolution

A high-powered working group constituted under the aegis of the Union Government’s Department of Biotechnology has, in its strategy document titled “Agriculture Biotechnology for Human Welfare”, sought a robust, time bound, flexible and transparent regulatory system for harnessing agro-biotechnology for injecting new life in India’s farmlands. It is pressing for a strong policy framework for development and commercial release of agro-biotech products. Some of its recommendations include the use and deployment of safety-approved genetically modified food for commercial use and establishment of beneficial international collaborations including access and acquisition of IPR-protected technologies in the areas of genome editing, genetic modification, marker assisted selection (MAS) and breeding for post-harvest losses.

New medicine for drug-resistant TB

Multinational pharmaceutical company Mylan is working with Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to launch Pretomanid, a medicine used to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB). Pretomanid is only the third new anti-TB drug approved for use by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in more than 40 years and is the first to be developed and registered by a not-for-profit TB Alliance. According to Mylan, this drug is important for India because India aims to get rid of tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of a globally-set deadline.

Special Update: National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases

The National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD) started from a humble beginning as a TB Hospital in 1956. It became an institute in 1991 and was glorified with its National status in 2013. The Institute has achieved not only national but also international stature in patient care, training and research.

The Institute has been recognized as a Centre of Excellence by the WHO under its Tuberculosis Supranational Reference Laboratory Network. Our Microbiology department has BSL-III facility and is a National Reference Laboratory under the RNTCP. The Institute conducts high quality research in the field of tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases and the research publications find a place in reputed indexed peer reviewed National and International journals.

Further details can be found at: http://www.nitrd.nic.in/index.aspx