



# 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*

## Nobel-prize to Indian-origin economist

Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, an economist of India-origin, his wife Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer jointly won the 2019 Nobel Economics Prize "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty." Mr. Banerjee, 58, was educated at the University of Calcutta, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Harvard University, where he received his PhD in 1988.

## Chandrayaan-2 photographs illuminated moon

Chandrayaan-2 orbiter has taken a photograph of an illuminated Moon as it continues conducting studies and tests to better understand the lunar surface. This will give Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) insight into its composition as well as identify the elements present.

## Army chief pushes Make-in-India technology

Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat, in an event organised by the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), urged the use of indigenous technology in the country's defense arsenal to give it the edge it needed against its adversaries in the future.

## Chennai Startup raises fund

Chennai-headquartered WEGoT Utility Solutions, an IoT-based Start-up offering integrated water management solutions in real-time to prevent and address water crisis, has closed USD 2 million in seed funding.

## Top Indian universities aim for a global spot

In the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) global rankings 2020, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and IISc-Bangalore have found place among the top 200. Nine institutions of India are among the top 500 of the world- the only state institute is University of Delhi .

## 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>