



# 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*

## Enroute to 50,000 registered startups

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Railways Mr. Piyush Goyal speaking at the fifth edition of ET's Startup Awards on 23 August said that there already 21,000 startups in India and the members will likely reach 50,000 by 2024.

## Relaxation of Angel Tax Rules for Startups

Startups registered with the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India will be exempt from angel tax. A dedicated cell is also being set up under the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for addressing problems of Start ups.

## WIRIN launched

Indian IT services major Wipro and Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science signed a MOU, launching WIRIN (Wipro-IISc Research Innovation Network) to promote collaborative research in AI, machine learning, computer vision, human-machine interaction related autonomous systems and robotics.

## IIT Kharagpur to lead water treatment project

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has been selected to lead the Saraswati 2.0 project, which is funded by Government of India and European Union (EU). The objective of Saraswati 2.0 is to identify the best available as well as affordable technologies for wastewater treatment and provide solutions to the challenges of water use in both rural and urban areas.

## Microsoft and ISB set up AI Lab

Microsoft and Indian School of Business (ISB) have signed an MoU to set up an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Digital Lab and also offer an executive programme titled *Leading Business transformation in the Age of AI* at the ISB campus.

## CNES and ISRO sign agreement to monitor ships on Indian Ocean

The space agencies of India and France – Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and National Center for Space Studies (CNES) have signed an agreement on 22 August to start development and production of a constellation of satellites. The constellations carrying telecommunications (Automation Identification System), radar, and optical remote-sensing instruments, will be the world's first space-based system that can track ships continuously. The system has revisit capability making it possible to detect oil slicks and trace their origin. Both the space agencies have developed, built, and are jointly operating several satellites serving precious applications for food security (monsoon forecasting), water resource management, and climate research. India's next oceanography satellite will be carrying a CNES Agos instrument into orbit in 2020.

## India Science Fest 2020

Aspiring Minds, an India-based assessment firm will host the India Science Fest 2020 at IISER (Indian Institute of Science and Education), Pune on 11-12 January 2020 in collaboration with Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute of Harvard University. The theme for the festival is Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence. Several exhibitions, discussions, experiments and more on topics related to the history of science will be organized during this two-day event. India Science Fest seeks to create a bridge between the scientists and the society.

## 3M-CII Innovators Challenge Award 2019

The winners of the sixth edition of 3M-CII Young Innovators Challenge Awards were announced on 21 August at the 15<sup>th</sup> CII Innovation Summit 2019 in Bangalore. The challenge focused on the theme 'Disruptive Innovations to Create Social Impact'. It received more than 800 disruptive innovations from across India, including more than 100 entries from rural India. An impact prize and an idea prize each were given in three categories: Product-Innovation, Service Innovation and Rural Innovation.

## Special Update: The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) was established on 26 September 1942. Known for its cutting edge R&D knowledge-base in diverse Science and Technology (S&T) areas, CSIR is a contemporary R&D organization, which covers a wide spectrum of fields in S&T from radio and space physics, oceanography, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology. Having a pan-India presence, CSIR has a dynamic network of 38 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units. CSIR's role in S&T human resource development is noteworthy. The scientific staff of CSIR only constitute about 3-4% of India's scientific manpower but contribute to 10% of India's scientific outputs. CSIR has operationalized desired mechanisms to boost entrepreneurship, which could lead to enhanced creation and commercialization of radical and disruptive innovations, underpinning the development of new economic sectors.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.csir.res.in/>