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

Hacking Conference in Kochi

The 12th edition of C0C0N, an annual International Cyber Security, Data Privacy And Hacking Conference was held on September 27-28 at Hotel Grand Hyatt in Kochi. The event is organised by the Information Security Research Association (ISRA) and the Society for the Policing of Cyberspace (POLCYB, a not-for-profit society based in British Columbia, Canada) in association with Kerala Police and Kerala State IT Mission. Some of the topics of discussions are 'Darknet and challenges for the police, AR/ VR Technology and better service delivery, Blockchain in policing and Drone technology and its scope.'

Digi-Prex raises USD 5.5 million seed money

Digi-Prex, a seven-month old startup that runs an eponymous online subscription pharmacy in Hyderabad has raised USD 5.5 million. The startup serves patients with chronic diseases using WhatsApp by not only providing delivery but also helping patients better track when they need a new supply of medicine, and checks if they are seeing improvements.

Onco raises Series A funding of USD 7 million

Cancer care aggregator Onco has raised Series A funding of USD 7 million led by Accel Partners, Chiratae Ventures, and Dream Incubator. The platform aims to be a one-stop shop for all cancer-related needs of patients and caregivers by offering treatment advice to cancer patients using a network of over 1500 oncologists and 500 hospitals and labs.

Pharmarack raises USD 3 million pre-series A round

Pharmarack, provider of software and automation functions for pharmacies has raised a Series A round of USD 3 million from homegrown venture capital fund IvyCap Ventures. The software startup automates order-taking and provides complete visibility of information to manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

India's Mars Orbiter Mission

India's first interplanetary endeavor, the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or the Mangalyaan mission, has helped India's space agency prepare a Martian Atlas based on the images provided by the orbiter in the past five years. The Mars orbiter has sent thousands of pictures totaling two terabytes. Phobos and Deimos, the two moons of Mars, were also imaged from close distances by the Mars Colour Camera (MCC). The MOM is the only Martian artificial satellite that could image the full disc of Mars in one view frame and also image the far side of Deimos.

Special Update: Atal Innovation Mission – Atal Tinkering Labs

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country. Atal Tinkering Labs is one of the five initiatives taken in its first year of establishment. The labs tend to create problem solving mindset across schools in India.

Atal Tinkering Labs

Background: With a vision to 'Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators', Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India. The objective of this scheme is to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing etc.

Key Features of ATL: ATL is a work space where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands on do-it-yourself mode; and learn innovation skills. Young children will get a chance to work with tools and equipment to understand the concepts of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). ATL would contain educational and learning 'do it yourself' kits and equipment on – science, electronics, robotics, open source microcontroller boards, sensors and 3D printers and computers. Other desirable facilities include meeting rooms and video conferencing facility.

In order to foster inventiveness among students, ATL can conduct different activities ranging from regional and national level competitions, exhibitions, workshops on problem solving, designing and fabrication of products, lecture series etc. at periodic intervals.

Financial Support: AIM will provide grant-in-aid of Rs. 20 Lakh to each school that includes a one-time establishment cost of Rs. 10 lakh and operational expenses of Rs. 10 lakh for a maximum period of 5 years to each ATL.

Eligibility: **Schools (minimum Grade VI - X)** managed by Government, local body or private trusts/society to set up ATL.

Further details can be found at:
https://www.birac.nic.in