



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

IIT Kharagpur Young Innovators Programme

IIT Kharagpur organizes annually science & technology competition for students from class 8-10. The grand finale for this year will take place on November 8-10, 2019 at IIT Kharagpur. The themes for the competition are: Energy & Environment, Health & Cleanliness, Hardware Modelling, Product Designing, Disaster Management and Financial Inclusion.

Indian Hypertension Control Initiative

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in association with WHO and ministry of health and organization announced the country-wide expansion of the Indian Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) program. In the expansion process, 100 more districts will be added to include all the states thus speeding up the implementation of the quality of hypertension treatment for more than 150 million people over the next four years.

HealthTech Arcade program

The HealthTech Arcade program was launched by T-Hub in partnership with Optum, an IT-enabled health solutions business. It would connect corporates with startups that can solve challenges in the focus area of chronic and poly-chronic disease management, digital health, medical devices, diagnostic platforms and DeepTech analytics in the healthcare system. The Indian healthcare market is expected to be valued at USD 372 billion by 2022.

UrbanClap, India's largest home service startup, raises more money

UrbanClap raised \$75 million in the Series E round led by Tiger Global. The startup has supported 20,000 micro-franchisees (service professionals) with around 450,000 transactions each month. UrbanClap's platform matches service people who have relied on getting work through middlemen, find work easily, thus increasing their salary two or three-folds.

ISRO sets up SSAM to protect its space assets

ISRO laid the foundation stone for a Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management (SSAM) in Bengaluru on 2 August aiming at protecting high valued Indian space assets from space debris close approaches and collisions. The control center would enable research activities, pertaining to active debris removal, space debris modeling and mitigation. Situation awareness and management has become an internationally significant area due to the ever growing man-made debris.

UKRI working with India to tackle air quality

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) along with Indian partners has launched a two-year India-UK joint initiative 'Innovation for Clean Air' (IfCA) in Bengaluru. The initiative would aid in providing a unique air quality measurement system by integrating satellite and sensor data as well as support India's transition to Electric Vehicles. The Program will also identify challenge around building EV-Charging infrastructure, grid management and integrating renewable energy.

India Innovation Challenge Design Contest 2019

Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and US-based Texas Instruments and announced the opening of the DST & Texas Instruments India Innovation Challenge Design Contest 2019 (IICDC). The final event will take place in July 2020. The contest is open for all Indian engineering students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate & Doctoral degrees with Indian engineering colleges. In the last three years since it started, IICDC has incubated 20 start-ups.

Special Update: Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNIi)

Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations or AGNIi is a national initiative under the guidance and support of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. It aims to support the ongoing efforts to boost the innovation ecosystem in India by connecting innovators across industry, individuals and the grassroots to the market and helping commercialize their innovative solutions thereby helping propel India into a new era of inclusive economic growth.

AGNIi provides a platform for innovators to scale up their market ready products by creating pathways for licensing, technology transfer and market access. AGNIi collaborates closely with other stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem to support and augment their innovation and technology commercialisation initiatives. However, AGNIi is not a funding agency and does not provide direct financial support to innovators.

The application process is continuous and applications are open throughout the year. The application process is continuous and applications are open throughout the year. AGNIi is open to both patented and non-patented technology. Being an initiative of the Government of India, the technology rights stay protected under AGNIi. The AGNIi program has three eligibility criteria for innovations: Innovation is a working prototype; Company/Organization if any is registered in India; and Innovation has a product/hardware components and is not just a service. Further details can be found at <https://www.agnii.gov.in/>.