

World's first liquid-mirror telescope for astronomy comes to India

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, JUNE 2

INDIA'S FIRST liquid-mirror telescope, which will observe asteroids, supernovae, space debris and all other celestial objects from an altitude of 2,450 metres in the Himalayas, has seen its first light. It has now entered the commissioning phase and will start scientific observations some time in October this year.

Established on the campus of the Devasthal Observatory of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)



The Devasthal Observatory campus in Uttarakhand. ILMT is seen at the bottom left. Source: ARIES

in Nainital, the International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) is the only liquid-mirror telescope operational anywhere in the world. It will also hold the unique tag of being the maiden liquid-telescope globally to be

designed exclusively for astronomical purposes.

ILMT will be the third telescope to be operating from Devasthal after the 3.6-metre Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT) — the largest in India commissioned in 2016 — and the 1.3-metre Devasthal Fast Optical Telescope (DFOT) inaugurated in 2010.

"Devasthal is considered as one of the best sites for astronomical observations," Professor Dipankar Banerjee, director of ARIES, told *The Indian Express* on Thursday. This international telescope facility is the result of collaborative work between astronomers from ARIES, Institute of Astrophysics and Geophysics, Liège University, Belgium; the

Canadian Astronomical Institutes from Vancouver, University of British Columbia; Laval University, University of Montreal, University of Toronto, University of Victoria, York University, Poznan Observatory, Poland, Ulugh Beg Astronomical Institute of Uzbek Academy of Sciences and the National University of Uzbekistan.

The telescope was designed and built at the Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems Corporation and the Centre Spatial de Liege, Belgium. The major instrumentation funding was jointly provided by Canada and Belgium while India will be responsible for the operations and upkeep of the telescope.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Journalist:	Haripriya Sureban	Page No:	10

Technology Development Board to launch ₹1,000-crore start-up fund

HARIPRIYA SUREBAN

Bengaluru, June 8

The Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology is set to launch a ₹1,000-crore start-up fund under a public private partnership (PPP) model.

The fund will be launched in two phases and will be live in a month. In the first phase, a corpus of ₹400 crore will be set up, of which ₹200 crore will be contributed by a private company. In the later phase, TDB will partner with more companies to raise and invest money.

Early-stage start-ups

Rajesh Pathak, Secretary, TDB, told *Businessline*, "The new fund will also invest in early stage start-ups rather than just the ones which have reached the commercialisation stage, as it has in the past." The fund is sector agnostic and is looking to invest in start-ups that aim to solve a problem with strong technical solutions and has a wider use case. The TDB will guide them to improve marketing abilities and provide technical training and skill development.

Indian researchers develop reusable, recyclable N95 mask

New Delhi: Researchers from Amity University (Haryana) have developed a reusable, recyclable, washable, odourless, non-allergic and anti-microbial N95 mask by



using 3D printing technology. The four-layer mask whose outer layer is made up of silicon has a shelf life of more than 5 years depending upon the use, the union ministry of science and technology said. **PRIYANKA SHARMA**



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Journalist:	Bureau	Page No:	4

Asia's largest liquid mirror telescope atop Devasthal hill to help survey sky

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A first-of-its-kind Asia's largest liquid mirror telescope in the country atop Devasthal hill in Uttarakhand's Himalayan range will now help in surveying the sky making it possible to observe several galaxies and other astronomical sources just by staring at the strip of sky that passes overhead.

The telescope will keep a watch on the overhead sky to identify transient or variable objects such as supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, and asteroids. It is built by astronomers from

India, Belgium and Canada.

The novel instrument employs a 4-meter-diameter rotating mirror made up of a thin film of liquid mercury to collect and focus light. It is located at an altitude of 2450 metres at the Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in Nainital, Uttarakhand. Prof. Paul Hickson (University of British Columbia, Canada), an expert on liquid mirror technology, said, "The rotation of the earth causes the images to drift across the camera, but

this motion is compensated electronically by the camera. This mode of operation increases observing efficiency and makes the telescope particularly sensitive to faint and diffuse objects."

"ILMT is the first liquid-mirror telescope designed exclusively for astronomical observations installed at the Devasthal Observatory of ARIES," said Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, Director, ARIES.

Prof. Banerjee mentioned that Devasthal Observatory now hosts two four-meter class telescopes – the ILMT and the Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT). Both are the largest aperture telescopes available in the country.



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Journalist:	G S Mudur	Page No:	3

Country's largest optical telescope

G.S. MUDUR

New Delhi: An international telescope in the Himalaya, India's largest optical telescope and the first with a liquid mirror, has opened for observations of diverse targets — from asteroids in the solar system to exploding stars to distant galaxies.

Astronomers from Belgium, Canada and India built and installed the instrument at the Devasthal campus of the Nainital-based Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), about 2,450 metres above sea level.

The International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) uses a four-metre diameter rotating mirror made of a thin film of liquid mercury to collect and focus light, scientists at the institute said. This makes it larger than the 3.6-metre optical telescope also at Devasthal, hitherto the largest in the country.

"The ILMT is now the largest but it comes with a disadvantage and several advantages because it uses a liquid mirror instead of a conventional mirror," Dipankar Banerjee, the Institute's director told *The Telegraph*.

Since the liquid mirror is a rotating thin film of mercury, Banerjee said, the telescope cannot be pointed at will anywhere in the sky but will always observe the same part of the sky, the zenith as observed from Devasthal.

Such telescopes depend on the Earth's rotation to observe different sections of the sky. As the Earth turns and the telescope returns to the same section of the sky, astronomers



An image of the sky, captured by the ILMT, featuring two galaxies — one near the top right corner and the other near the lower left corner



The Devasthal campus

could use it to track the same set of objects each night.

"Because it is a large telescope, it will allow us to detect faint objects and because we return to the same objects every night, it will allow us to pick changes in brightness or other features," Banerjee said.

The ILMT collaboration includes astronomers from the University of Liege and Royal Observatory in Belgium, five universities in Canada, and academic institutions in Poland and Uzbekistan.

"The telescope has just become operational and we're now fine-tuning the performance," said Kuntal Miara, project investigator for ILMT at the Institute. "The way it works allows us to survey a

strip of the sky each night. Our plan is to make the data from the sky survey available to the global astronomy community," she said.

Since the ILMT became operational on April 29, astronomers have captured several hundred images of the sky on clear nights at Devasthal. The institute released an image showing two galaxies and stars in the foreground to the media on Thursday.

Liquid mirror telescopes take advantage of the fact that the surface of a rotating liquid has a parabolic shape which is ideal for focusing light. The reflected light passes through a sophisticated multi-lens optical corrector that produces sharp images over a field of view.



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A device to turn wastewater into energy

IIT Guwahati claims that it could be used for obtaining clean energy economically

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology in Guwahati have developed a microbial fuel cell (MFC), a bio-electrochemical device that can generate “green energy” by treating wastewater.

The researchers said the device offered a dual benefit – generation of bioelectricity and waste management – by converting chemical energy contained in organic substrates into electrical energy through microbes.

The Department of Science and Technology supported the research led by Mihir Kumar Purkait and his Ph.D student Mukesh Sharma of IIT Guwahati’s



Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati • FILE PHOTO

Department of Chemical Engineering.

The IIT Guwahati claimed the device could be used for obtaining clean energy from municipal wastewater economically.

“MFC is a bio-electro-

chemical reactor system that utilises electrons liberated in the biochemical oxidation of organic substrates catalysed by anaerobic microbes. A conventional MFC reactor comprises an anaerobic biotic anode chamber,

an aerobic biotic or abiotic cathode chamber, and a separator such as a proton exchange membrane (PEM),” Mr. Purkait explained.

The active biocatalyst in the anodic chamber anaerobically oxidises organic matter present in wastewater to produce electrons and protons.

Protons are transported to the cathodic chamber through the PEM. The external circuit conducts the electrons to the cathode, completing the electrical circuit.

At the cathode, electrons and protons react in the presence of oxygen (or another electron acceptor), which get reduced to water, the researchers said.



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Liquid mirror telescope in Devasthal sees first light

Once trained using AI tools, the telescope can help track transients such as supernovae, space debris and meteorites

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN
CHENNAI

The four-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) saw the first light recently, gazing out from its vantage on Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand, into the deep sky.

The telescope, staring at the sky overhead, will make sky surveys possible and obtain images that can help observe transient phenomena such as supernovae and record the presence of space debris or meteorites – basically, watch the skies.

The telescope has been

built by a collaboration of scientists from Canada, Belgium and India. It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres on the Devasthal Observatory campus of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital district, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

A large pool of mercury placed in a vessel is spun around so fast that it curves into a parabolic shape. Since mercury is reflective, this shape helps in focusing the



The primary mirror of the International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal.

reflected light. A thin sheet of mylar protects the mercury from the wind.

“It was thrilling to see the formation of the primary mirror. Nearly 50 litres of mercury, weighing close to 700 kilograms, is spun hard to form a paraboloid mirror of just 4 mm thickness and a diameter of about 4 metres,” says Kuntal Misra, Project Investigator at ARIES. She has worked in this project since January 2020.

First image

The first image made by the telescope consisted of several stars and a galaxy, NGC 4274, which is 45 million light years away.

The telescope, having a primary mirror that is liquid, cannot be turned and pointed in any direction. It “stares” at the zenith and watches the sky as the earth rotates, thereby giving a view of different objects.

This property can be used to scan and survey the sky, observe transients and moving objects such as meteorites.

It will work in tandem with the existing 3.6-metre Devasthal Optical Telescope.

Once it starts making observations, the telescope will collect gigabytes of data,

which will need to be analysed using artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI and ML) tools.

“In a night’s observation, it will make thousands of images which cannot be analysed by just looking at them. We will need to develop and train AI and ML tools to do this,” says Dipankar Banerjee, Director of the ARIES Observatory.

With the monsoon expected soon in the area, the real observations may start only in October, after the rains, according to Dr. Banerjee.



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Reusable, anti-microbial N95 mask made with 3D tech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Researchers from Amity University in Haryana and University of Nebraska, USA have jointly developed a reusable, odourless and anti-microbial N95 mask by using 3D printing technology. The four-layer mask whose outer layer is made up of silicon with a shelf life of more than five years can also be used by workers where they are exposed to high volumes of dust, cement and paint fumes.

It can be modified by changing the filter configuration according to the place in which it will be used and can help pre-

vent severe lung diseases such as Silicosis, said a statement here.

A trademark and a patent have also been filed for the mask called Nano Breath.

A 4-layer filtration mechanism has been provided in the mask wherein the outer and first layer of the filter is coated with nanoparticles. The second layer is a high-efficiency particulate absorbing (HEPA) filter, the third layer is a 100 µm filter and the fourth layer is a moisture absorbent filter. The mask has been developed under the project funded by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Union Ministry of Science and Technology.



Mumbai

THE TIMES OF INDIA

U'khand boasts of Asia's largest liquid-mirror telescope

New Delhi: India has commissioned a unique liquid-mirror telescope atop in the Himalayan region that will help identify transient or variable objects such as space debris, asteroids, supernovae and gravitational lenses. It is the country's first and Asia's largest liquid-mirror telescope. The telescope will help in surveying the sky, making it possible to observe several galaxies and other astronomical sources just by staring at the strip of sky that passes overhead. It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres at the Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences in Nainital district. TNN

India's 1st liquid-mirror telescope in U'khand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India has commissioned a unique liquid-mirror telescope atop a mountain in the Himalayan region that will keep a watch on the skies to identify transient or variable objects such as space debris, asteroids, supernovae and gravitational lenses.

It is the country's first and Asia's largest liquid-mirror telescope. The telescope will help in surveying the sky, making it possible to observe several galaxies and other astronomical sources just by staring at the strip of sky that passes overhead. The telescope, built by astronomers

from India, Belgium and Canada, is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres at the Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital district, Uttarakhand. "I am hopeful that this project will attract and motivate several young minds from scientific and engineering backgrounds to take up challenging problems," said Dipankar Banerjee, director, ARIES, while referring to new facilities at the observatory that now hosts two four-meter class telescopes—International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT) and Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT).

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First autonomous navigation facility launched at IITH

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 4
Union minister of state for science & technology Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the TIHAN Testbed for autonomous navigation at IIT Hyderabad on Monday and said it would be the destination for safe, sustainable and smart mobility solutions.

Speaking at the event, the minister said India's first test-bed for autonomous navigation would provide a platform for industries, R&D labs,

and academia to drive collaborative research in autonomous navigation, thus making India a global leader in these technologies.

"TIHAN - IITH will be the source of futuristic technology generation for autonomous vehicles while the TIHAN-IITH Testbed on autonomous navigation will allow us to test the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration," Dr Singh said.

TIHAN-IITH TO BECOME GLOBAL PLAYER FOR NEXT GEN SMART MOBILITY TECHNOLOGIES: JITENDRA SINGH

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday inaugurated the TIHAN Testbed for autonomous navigation at IIT Hyderabad. The facility is a state-of-the-art platform for safe, sustainable and smart mobility solutions. Speaking at the event, the minister said India's first test-bed for autonomous navigation would provide a platform for industries, R&D labs, and academia to drive collaborative research in autonomous navigation, thus making India a global leader in these technologies.

The TIHAN Testbed for autonomous navigation is a state-of-the-art platform for safe, sustainable and smart mobility solutions. It is a collaboration between IIT Hyderabad and the Indian Institute of Space in Chandigarh. The testbed is designed to test the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration.

Tech that! IITH-made drone can carry humans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD
Pushing ahead in its research and development (R&D) activity, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) unveiled a driverless vehicle, drones that can carry humans and an autonomous moving cycle. India's first test-bed for autonomous navigation, meant for both ground and aerial vehicle testing, was also inaugurated.



IIT-Hyderabad students with the drone that is capable of carrying humans. ©MOHA.AMF

Union Minister of State (Independent charge) Science & Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated the TIHAN test-bed for autonomous navigation on Monday and said it will be the destination for next-generation safe, sustainable and smart mobility solutions. TIHAN of IITH is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by the department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The department of Science and Technology (DST) is sponsoring the TIHAN Testbed for Autonomous Navigation at IIT Hyderabad to promote innovation in mobility sector

programmes to make India a destination for futuristic technologies, he added. IITH has been named Technology Innovation Hub in 'Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems', a multi-disciplinary initiative.

DST Secretary S. Chandrasekhar said, "Today, IITH Director B.S. Murty and professor Rajalakshmi have shown how drone size can be increased so that even humans can be carried in it. This drone and auto-

Inauguration of TIHAN-IITH Autonomous Navigation Testbed (Aerial/Terrestrial)

The inauguration of the TIHAN-IITH Autonomous Navigation Testbed (Aerial/Terrestrial) was held on Monday at IIT Hyderabad. The testbed is a state-of-the-art platform for safe, sustainable and smart mobility solutions. It is a collaboration between IIT Hyderabad and the Indian Institute of Space in Chandigarh. The testbed is designed to test the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration.

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పరిశోధనలో ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ అగ్రగామి

మానవ రహిత వ్యవస్థల అభివృద్ధి

- కార్లు, ట్రాక్టర్లు, ట్రాక్టర్ల వంటి వాహనాలకు ఆటో-పైలట్లను అభివృద్ధి చేయడం
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మానవ రహిత వ్యవస్థల అభివృద్ధి కోసం పరిశోధనలో ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ అగ్రగామిగా నిలిచింది. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ అగ్రగామిగా నిలిచింది. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ అగ్రగామిగా నిలిచింది. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ అగ్రగామిగా నిలిచింది.

ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్

ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్ టెక్నాలజీని అభివృద్ధి చేయడం. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్ టెక్నాలజీని అభివృద్ధి చేయడం. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్ టెక్నాలజీని అభివృద్ధి చేయడం.

అగ్రగామిగా నిలిచింది

ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ అగ్రగామిగా నిలిచింది. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ అగ్రగామిగా నిలిచింది. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ అగ్రగామిగా నిలిచింది.

ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్

ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్ టెక్నాలజీని అభివృద్ధి చేయడం. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్ టెక్నాలజీని అభివృద్ధి చేయడం.

ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్

ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్ టెక్నాలజీని అభివృద్ధి చేయడం. ఐఐఐటీ-హెచ్ లో ట్రాన్స్ సూపర్ టెక్నాలజీని అభివృద్ధి చేయడం.

First autonomous navigation facility launched at IITH

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 4

Union minister of state for science & technology Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the TIHAN Testbed for autonomous navigation at IIT Hyderabad on Monday and said it would be the destination for safe, sustainable and smart mobility solutions.

Speaking at the event, the minister said India's first test-bed for autonomous navigation would provide a platform for industries, R&D labs,

and academia to drive collaborative research in autonomous navigation, thus making India a global leader in these technologies.

"TIHAN - IITH will be the source of futuristic technology generation for autonomous vehicles while the TIHAN-IITH Testbed on autonomous navigation will allow us to test the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration," Dr Singh said.



Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates the TIHAN Testbed for autonomous navigation at IIT Hyderabad on Monday.

- DC



ఐఐటీ హైదరాబాద్ తయారు చేసిన డ్రైవర్లహిత వాహనంలో ప్రయాణిస్తున్న కేంద్ర మంత్రి జితేంద్రసింగ్

డ్రైవర్లహిత వాహనాలదే భవిష్యత్తు

- వాటిపై మరిన్ని పరిశోధనలు జరుగాలి
- కేంద్ర శాస్త్రసాంకేతికశాఖ మంత్రి జితేంద్రసింగ్

సంగారెడ్డి, జూలై 4 (నమస్తే తెలంగాణ): భవిష్యత్తు రవాణా అవసరాల్లో డ్రైవర్లహిత (అటానమస్) వాహనాల పాత్ర కీలకంగా ఉంటుందని కేంద్ర శాస్త్ర సాంకేతికశాఖ మంత్రి జితేంద్రసింగ్ పేర్కొన్నారు. సోమవారం సంగారెడ్డి జిల్లా కంది మండలంలోని ఐఐటీ హైదరాబాద్ లో దేశంలోనే మొట్టమొదటి అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ ఐడ్ను ఆయన ప్రారంభించారు. టెక్నాలజీ ఇన్స్టిట్యూట్ ఫర్ హాట్ అన్ అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ అండ్ డాటా ఇన్ఫ్రాస్ట్రక్చర్ సిస్టమ్ (టీ హాన్) తయారు చేసిన డ్రోన్ ప్యాసింజర్, డ్రైవర్లహిత వాహనం, అటానమస్ సైకిల్ను పరీక్షించారు. ఆ వాహనంలో కొద్దిసేపు కేంద్రమంత్రి ప్రయాణించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా ఐఐటీ డైరెక్టర్ బీఎస్ మూర్తి, ప్రొఫెసర్లు రాజ్యలక్ష్మి, శిరహేతుబి, బీహెచ్ విద్యార్థులను ఆయన

అధిగమించారు. అనంతరం జరిగిన సమావేశంలో జితేంద్ర సింగ్ మాట్లాడుతూ... డ్రైవర్లహిత వాహనాలు అందుబాటులోకి వచ్చేలా మరిన్ని పరిశోధనలు జరుపాలని సూచించారు. దేశ్యాభివృద్ధికి 25 కొత్త టెక్నాలజీ ఇన్స్టిట్యూట్లు ఏర్పాటు చేసినట్లు తెలిపారు. గతంలో ఐఐటీ మద్రాసుకు ప్రత్యేక గుర్తింపు ఉండేదని, ఇప్పుడు ఐఐటీ హైదరాబాద్ సరికొత్త పరిశోధనల ద్వారా వోషే గుర్తింపు పొందుతున్నట్లు చెప్పారు. ఐఐటీ డైరెక్టర్ బీఎస్ మూర్తి మాట్లాడుతూ... ఐఐటీ హైదరాబాద్ లో రూ.135 కోట్లతో రెండు కిలోమీటర్ల మేర అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ టెస్టు ఐడ్ను ఏర్పాటు చేసినట్లు తెలిపారు. దేశంలోనే ఐది మొట్టమొదటి టెస్టు ఐడ్ అని వెల్లడించారు. కార్యక్రమంలో మెదక్ ఎంపీ కొత్త ప్రభాకర్ రెడ్డి, శాస్త్ర సాంకేతిక శాఖ కార్యదర్శి శ్రీవారి చంద్రశేఖర్, ఐఐటీ గవర్నర్ బోర్డు చైర్మన్ బీవీఆర్ మోహన్ రెడ్డి, ఐఐటీ ప్రొఫెసర్లు, విద్యార్థులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

సాక్షి సంగారెడ్డి


మంగళవారం, 5 జూలై, 2022



'పట్టు'దలతో సుదీర్ఘ లాభాలు
అధికారుల మావనతో మల్లీ సాగు చేస్తూ లక్షలో అదాయం సాధిస్తూ అందరికీ ఆదర్శంగా నిలుస్తున్నాడు ముబదాస్ సూరీకు చెందిన రేకు చక్రపాణి.



సమావేశాలంటే నిర్దక్షమే?
సభలో లేవనెత్తిన సమస్యలను పరిష్కరించకుండా అధికారులు నిర్దక్షంగా వ్యవహరిస్తున్నారని అందోరీ మండల సమావేశంలో సభ్యులు ఆగ్రహం వ్యక్తం చేశారు.



కనిష్ఠ/గరిష్ఠం
22°/28°
జిల్లా వ్యాప్తంగా మంగళవారం వాతావరణం చల్లగా ఉంటుంది. అక్కడక్కడ వర్షం పడే అవకాశం ఉంది.



బిజినెస్ హైదరాబాద్ లో బీహెచ్ భవనానికి శంకుస్థాపన చేస్తున్న కేంద్ర మంత్రి జితేంద్ర సింగ్ పక్కన ఎంపీ కొత్త ప్రభాకర్ రెడ్డి తదితరులు



పరిశోధనలకు నెలవు బిబిటీ హైదరాబాద్

అభునాతన సాంకేతికతను అందిపుచ్చుకుంటూ రకరకాల పరిశోధనలు చేస్తూ ఎప్పుడూ సరికొత్త అవిష్కరణకు వేదిక అవుతోంది బిబిటీ హైదరాబాద్. కొన్ని సందర్భాల్లో మనుషులు వెళ్లలేని చోటుకు మానవ రహిత సైకిళ్లు, వాహనాలు వెళ్లేలా కృషి చేస్తున్నారు. ప్యాసింజర్లను కీసుకెళ్లందుకు డ్రోన్లను అభివృద్ధి చేస్తున్నారు. వీటిని సాధ్యమైనంత త్వరగా వినియోగంలోకి తీసుకువచ్చేందుకు ఓహెన్ బిబి

టీహెచ్ ఆర్ కేంద్రంలో నిరంతరం శ్రమిస్తున్నారు. అందులో భాగంగా సోమవారం ప్యాసింజర్లను కీసు కెళ్లే డిమా డ్రోనీయ, మానవ రహిత వాహనాన్ని, సైకిల్ను కేంద్ర మంత్రి జితేంద్రసింగ్ పరిశీలించారు. బిబిటీ వైరిక్లర్ ప్రొఫెసర్ మూర్తి, ప్రొజెక్ట్ వైరిక్లర్ రాజ్యలక్ష్మి కేంద్రమంత్రికి కీవీ పని కీరు, లాభాల గురించి వివరించారు.

- సాక్షి స్టాఫ్ ఫోటోగ్రాఫర్, సంగారెడ్డి

తొక్కకున్నా వెళ్లపోయే సైకిల్ ట్రాఫిక్ లో ఎగిరే వాహనం!

పరిశోధనల్లో ఐటెలిహెచ్ ముందంజ... కేంద్ర మంత్రి జితేంద్రసింగ్ కిటాబు

దేశంలోనే తొలి అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ టెస్ట్ బెడ్ ప్రారంభం.. డ్రైవర్ రహిత వాహనాల్లో ప్రయోగం



→ మెట్రోస్ట్రీలు చిగి స్టేషన్ల వరకు తప్ప సైకిల్ స్టాండ్ నుంచి 5 సైకిల్ కీలుతులి ఐటీఐ వేరుకోవడం, తర్వాత ఆ సైకిల్ ఎవరి ప్రయోగం లేకుండా దానంతట అదే తిరిగి మెట్రోస్టేషన్ వేరుకోవడం.. ఐటెలిహెచ్ ఉంది కేరా.



→ ట్రాఫిక్ లో ఇబ్బందున్న మన వాహనం తప్ప ఫలంగా గాలిలోకి ఎగిరి ముందున్న వాహనాలను డాక్యుమెంటు గాలిలో బలబలం వేరుతీయాలి గమ్యస్థిలానికి చేరుకుంటే ఎంత బాగుంటుంది.



→ గమ్యస్థానం వరకే చేస్తే చాలు. డ్రైవర్ ప్రయోగం లేకుండా తారు బాటంతట అదే ముందుకు సులభం చేరుకోవాలిని తోటకు కీలుకోలింతుంది. ఐటెలిహెచ్ కేరా.

భారీ ఈ ఉపాంశ్చి ప్రాధాన్యత ఐటెలిహెచ్ వెంట ప్రత్యేక పరిశోధన ముఖ్యం. డేవెలప్ మెంట్ (వికాస్) అన్వేషణ వాల్ అనే అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ (విహెచ్) గణం కేంద్రం. కలం సాకారం చేస్తోంది. మంచ ప్రయోగం లేకుండా గర్భిత ప్రాంతానికి వెళ్లి సైకిల్ ను పాపించింది. లోన్ల వేరూ అవసరమైతే గాల్లోకి ఎగిరిపోయే స్పాన్సెల్ కార్ల డ్రోన్ (దారు బాట వాహనం) వాహనం పరిశోధన చేస్తోంది. లోన్ల సౌకర్యం ఉంది కొండ ప్రాంతాలకు సదుపాయం. అభ్యుదయమైన మంచులు వేరుతీయడం వంటి అవసరాలను వినియోగం అటానమస్ డ్రోన్లను పరిశోధన కొనసాగిస్తోంది. కిటి రహిత గారీ, అవసరం గారీ అవసరం చేత. గమ్యస్థానాన్ని కిటి చేస్తే అదే తిరుగుతుంది. అలాగే డ్రైవర్ అవసరం లేని అటానమస్ వాహనంపై కూడా ప్రయోగాలు చేస్తోంది. అలాంటి వాహనం క్లబ్బిలో కేంద్రంగా మంచు ప్రాధాన్యత ఐటెలిహెచ్ మంచు రహిత వాహనంపై పరిశోధనల్లో భాగంగా డేవెల్ప్ ఎస్కామో రేసింగ్ అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ డిస్ట్ బెడ్ (డ్రైవర్ రహిత వాహనాలు ప్రయోగాత్మకంగా నడిపి లోన్లు) కేంద్ర గాల్ల. సాచివర్ గాల్ల మంత్రి బాల్లర్ జవేంద్రసింగ్

సోమవారం ప్రారంభించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా అయితే డ్రైవర్ రహిత వాహనాల్లో ప్రయోగంలాంటి. అవసరం ఏకాక్షు రేసింగ్ సమావేశాల్లో ముఖ్యంగా.

సూతన ఆవిష్కరణలకు వేరెత్

అభివృద్ధి సాంకేతిక అభివృద్ధి అంతా భారతీయ ఒక గమ్యస్థానంగా మార్చేయడం కేంద్ర ప్రయోగం కృషి చేస్తోంది. అతీంద్రసింగ్ ఈ సందర్భంగా ఏర్పాటు. ప్రధానమంత్రి నేతృత్వంలో ఈ సందర్భంగా 'సేవన' మిషన్ అనే ఐటెలిహెచ్ స్టేషన్ గురించి వివరణ సందర్భంగా కేంద్ర మంత్రి అన్వేషణ వాల్ అనే (సాంకేతిక అభివృద్ధి కేంద్రాలు) ఏర్పాటు చేసినట్లు తెలిపారు. ప్రపంచంలో నాలుగో తరం సూతన అభివృద్ధి అంతా భారతీయ వేరెత్తుతుంది. అభ్యుదయం రంగాల్లో అన్వేషణ డ్రోన్లు వారు మార్కెట్ కి, డ్రైవర్ లేకుండా అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ వాహనం అటానమస్ అటానమస్ గమ్యస్థానాలకు చేరుకుంటే పరిశోధనలు అందిన ప్రాధాన్యత ఐటెలిహెచ్ అయితే ప్రయోగంలాంటి. దేశ వ్యాప్తంగా కొత్తగా ఏర్పాటు చేసిన ఐటెలిహెచ్ ప్రాధాన్యత ఐటెలిహెచ్ పరిశోధనల్లో ముందు పథకంలో ఉంది ఏర్పాటు.

దేశంలోనే తొలి అటానమస్ విహెచ్ డిస్ట్ బెడ్

ప్రాధాన్యత ఐటెలిహెచ్ ఏర్పాటు చేసిన అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ డిస్ట్ బెడ్ (విహెచ్ అండ్ డిస్ట్ బెడ్) కేరళలోకి మొదటిసారి ఐటెలిహెచ్ కేంద్రం కేంద్రం. సుమారు రెండు కిలోమీటర్ల పొడవున్న ఈ డిస్ట్ బెడ్ ప్రయోగం ప్రాధాన్యత ఐటెలిహెచ్ పరిశోధనలకు తెలిపారు. అంతా కేరళ లో ఉన్న పరిస్థితులు అంటే. గ్రామీణ ప్రాంత లోన్లు, మళ్లీ కేరళ, వేరెత్తు వరుతున్నట్లు. అలా రహితం పరిస్థితుల్లో ఈ ప్రయోగం ప్రాధాన్యత ఐటెలిహెచ్ పరిశోధనలు చేస్తున్నామన్నారు. మంచు రహిత స్పాన్సెల్ డ్రోన్లు సుమారు 1.50 కిలోలూక్ బరువున్న సదుపాయం ముఖ్యంగా అమరికే. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో మెట్ల ఎంపీ కొత్త ప్రాధాన్యత కేంద్రం, కేంద్ర స్టేషన్ అండ్ వికాస్ కేంద్రం గాల్ల ప్రాధాన్యత కేంద్రం. ఐటెలిహెచ్ ప్రాధాన్యత కేంద్రం కేంద్రం. డేవెల్ప్ ఎస్కామో రేసింగ్ అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ డిస్ట్ బెడ్ (డ్రైవర్ రహిత వాహనాలు ప్రయోగాత్మకంగా నడిపి లోన్లు) కేంద్ర గాల్ల. సాచివర్ గాల్ల మంత్రి బాల్లర్ జవేంద్రసింగ్

- సాక్షి ప్రాధాన్యత, సంగారెడ్డి

Tech that! IIT-H unveils unmanned vehicle, drone to carry humans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Pushing ahead in its research and development (R&D) activity, the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has unveiled a driver-less vehicle, drones that can carry humans and an autonomous moving cycle. India's first test-bed for autonomous navigation, meant for both ground and aerial vehicle testing, was also inaugurated.

Union Minister of State (independent charge) Science & Technology Jitendra Singh, who inaugurated the TiHAN test-bed for Autonomous Navigation at IIT-H on Monday, stressed that it will be the destination for next-generation safe, sustainable and smart mobility solutions. TiHAN of IIT-H is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by the department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Department of Science



A big leap: IIT-Hyderabad students with the drone that is capable of carrying humans. ■ MOHD. ARIF

and Technology (DST) is setting up 25 tech innovation hubs across the country under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, one of the many programmes to make India a frontrunner and destination for futuristic technologies, he added. IIT-H has been named the Technology Innovation Hub in 'Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems', a multi-disciplinary initiative.

DST Secretary S. Chandrasekhar said, "Today, IIT-H director B.S. Murty and professor Rajalakshmi have shown how drone size can be increased so that even humans can be carried in it. This drone and autonomous vehicle tech will be the game-changer, specially when you want to send the vehicles to places where humans cannot enter, where some chemical gases are emanating, such as Bhopal tragedy."

भारत का पहला ड्राइवर-रहित कार परीक्षण आईआईएच हैदराबाद में आयोजित केंद्रीय राज्य मंत्री डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह ने वाहन में की यात्रा

हैदराबाद, 4 जुलाई (स्वतंत्र वार्ता)। चालक रहित वाहनों के संचालन में एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान-हैदराबाद ने सोमवार को अपने परिसर में स्वायत्त (चालक रहित) इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन का परीक्षण किया। केंद्रीय विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग और एचवी विज्ञान राज्य मंत्री डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह, मेट्रो के मांसद उपाकर रेड्डी और अन्य ने परीक्षण के दौरान वाहन में यात्रा की। मेट्रो स्टेशन और अन्य उच्च परिवहन प्रणालियों से अंतिम समय में परिवहन प्रदान करने के उद्देश्य से आईआईएच परिसर के शोधकर्ताओं ने एक चालक रहित साइकिल भी विकसित की है। जब भी कोई मोबाइल एप्लिकेशन पर साइकिल बुक करता है, तो वह जियोएस लोकेशन को ट्रैक करते हुए वाची तक पहुंच जाती है। शोधकर्ताओं ने सोमवार को टेस्ट डेड पर



साइकिल के लिए टेस्ट रन का भी आयोजन किया। स्वायत्त नेविगेशन (निहान) के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी नवाचार हब के परिचयना विदेशक प्रो राजलक्ष्मी ने कहा है कि उन्होंने स्वायत्त वाहनों के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण

प्रगति हासिल की है। प्रो राजलक्ष्मी ने अपने काम के बारे में विस्तार से बताने हुए कहा कि वे स्थलीय और हवाई स्वायत्त वाहनों दोनों पर काम कर रहे थे। अब वे अगस्त से छात्रों को एक छोर से दूसरे छोर तक ले जाने के

लिए परिसर में चलक रहित स्थलीय वाहनों को संचालित करने के लिए काम कर रहे थे, उन्होंने कहा कि वे शुरू में भारी पैलोड माल पहुंचाने के लिए हवाई वाहनों को संचालित करने की योजना बना रहे थे। हालांकि, टीआईएचएन निदेशक ने कहा कि हवाई यात्री वाहनों का परीक्षण बहुत दूर नहीं था। आईआईएच परिसर में स्वायत्त वाहनों पर शोध कार्य से उभरता होगा, केंद्रीय मंत्री जितेंद्र सिंह ने कहा है कि केंद्र सरकार ऐसे नवोन्मेषकों को सभी समर्थन देगी।

उन्होंने आगे कहा कि केंद्र सरकार भारत को भविष्य की प्रौद्योगिकियों में अग्रणी बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के सचिव डॉ. शीबरी चंद्रशेखर, निदेशक मंडल आईआईटी-एच बीबीआर मोहन रेड्डी, आईआईटी-एच के निदेशक प्रोफेसर बीएस मुनि, सीए अरुणधान और विकास प्रोफेसर किरण कुंची और अन्य उपस्थित थे।

अहमदी सीतारामा राजू की जयंती पर दी गई श्रद्धांजलि



दोनों कार्यक्रमों में भाग लेकर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की गई। इस अवसर पर ठाकुर रामेश्वर सिंह बैस, राष्ट्रीय कार्यवाहक अध्यक्ष, राष्ट्रीय शक्ति महासंघ, भारत व प्रदेश अध्यक्ष, बोदिली राजगुरु वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन, तेलंगाना प्रदेश के संयुक्त तन्वावधान में टैक्सबड स्थित अहमदी सीतारामा राजू जी की 125वीं जन्म जयंती एवं स्वामी कियेकानन्द जी की पुण्यतिथि पर

हैदराबाद, 4 जुलाई (स्वतंत्र वार्ता)। राष्ट्रीय शक्ति महासंघ, तेलंगाना प्रदेश इकाई एवं बोदिली राजगुरु वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन, तेलंगाना प्रदेश के संयुक्त तन्वावधान में टैक्सबड स्थित अहमदी सीतारामा राजू जी की 125वीं जन्म जयंती एवं स्वामी कियेकानन्द जी की पुण्यतिथि पर

مرکزی وزیر ذاکر جیتندر سنگھ
نے حیدرآباد میں خود مختار
TIHAN کیلئے
ٹیسٹ بیڈ کا افتتاح کیا
(رجسٹرڈ لائل) 200000 میں اس
مختار اور اس کی کارکردگی کا اعتراف
کالے کے لئے کسی کوئی ٹیسٹ بیڈ
موجود نہیں ہے۔ اس لئے اس
ٹیسٹ بیڈ کی شروعات ہے۔ ذاکر جیتندر سنگھ
نے اس باعث کا اعتراف کیا کہ ان کے
اعظم بھائی کی شروعات میں تم نے
خوب سے ترقی کی ہے اور 200000
مستحق کا اعتراف ہے۔ اس لئے ان کے

Jitendra Singh unveils 'Autonomous Navigation' facility at IITH

HYDERABAD; Union Minister of Telangana for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday inaugurated "Autonomous Navigation" facility to develop unmanned ground and aerial vehicles in the IIT Hyderabad campus.

The minister also interacted with Startups developing unmanned ground motor vehicles like driver-less self-driven motor cars, driver-less self-driven bicycles and unmanned aerial vehicles including drones in different shapes and sizes. Funded by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology at a budget of Rs 130 crore, the "Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation" is a multidisciplinary initiative, which will make India a global player in the futuristic and next generation "Smart Mobility technology".

Tech that! IITH-made drone can carry humans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Pushing ahead in its research and development (R&D) activity, Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IITH) unveiled a driver-less vehicle, drones that can carry humans and an autonomous moving cycle. India's first test-bed for autonomous navigation, meant for both ground and aerial vehicle testing, was also inaugurated.

Union Minister of State (independent charge) Science & Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated the TIHAN test-bed for autonomous navigation on Monday and said it will be the destination for next-generation safe, sustainable and smart mobility solutions. TIHAN of IITH is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by the department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The department of Science and Technology (DST) is setting up 25 tech innovation hubs across the country under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, one of the many pro-



IIT-Hyderabad students with the drone that is capable of carrying humans. *MOHD. ARIF

grammes to make India a destination for futuristic technologies, he added. IITH has been named Technology Innovation Hub in 'Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems', a multi-disciplinary initiative.

DST Secretary S. Chandrasekhar said, "Today, IIT-H director B.S. Murty and professor Rajalakshmi have shown how drone size can be increased so that even humans can be carried in it. This drone and autonomous vehicle tech will be the game-changer, specially when you want to send the vehicles to places where humans cannot enter."

తిహన్ టెస్ట్ బెడ్ ను ప్రారంభించిన కేంద్ర మంత్రి



తిహన్ టెస్ట్ బెడ్ ను ప్రారంభించిన కేంద్ర మంత్రి జితేంద్ర సింగ్

సంగారెడ్డి బ్యూరో, జూలై 4, ప్రభాతవార్త: సంగారెడ్డి సమీపంలోని ఐఐటీలో సోమవారం నిర్వహించిన కార్యక్రమంలో కేంద్ర సైన్స్ అండ్ టెక్నాలజీ, ఎర్త్ సైన్స్ మంత్రి డాక్టర్ జితేంద్ర సింగ్ పాల్గొని అటానమస్ నావిగేషన్ కోసం తిహన్ టెస్ట్ బెడ్ ను ప్రారంభించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా ఏర్పాటు చేసిన సమావేశంలో మంత్రి జితేంద్ర సింగ్ మాట్లాడుతూ ఇది తరువాతి తరం సురక్షితమైన, స్థిరమైన మరియు స్మార్ట్ మొబిలిటీ పరిష్కారాలకు గమ్యస్థానంగా ఉంటుందని నొక్కి చెప్పారు. స్వయంప్రతిపత్తి నావిగేషన్ కోసం భారతదేశం యొక్క మొట్టమొదటి టెస్ట్-బెడ్ పరిశ్రమలు, ఆర్ఆండ్బి ల్యాబ్ లు, విద్యా సంస్థలకు స్వయం ప్రతిపత్తి నావిగేషన్ లో సహకార పరిశోధనలను నడవడానికి ఒక వేదికను అందిస్తుందని, తద్వారా ఈ సాంకేతికతలో భారతదేశాన్ని ప్రపంచ నాయకుడిగా మారుస్తుందని ఆయన అన్నారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో డిఎస్ టి సెక్రటరీ డాక్టర్ శ్రీవారి చంద్రశేఖర్, బివోజి చైర్మన్ డాక్టర్ డివిఆర్ మోహన్ రెడ్డి, ఐఐటీ డైరెక్టర్ ప్రోఫెసర్ బిఎస్ మూర్తి, సంగారెడ్డి పార్లమెంట్ సభ్యులు కొత్త ప్రభాకర్ రెడ్డి, తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.



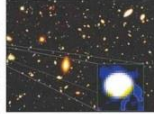


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भारतीय खगोल वैज्ञानिकों ने देखी अंतरिक्ष में जन्म लेती बौनी गैलेक्सी

एस्ट्रोसैट के जरिए नए तारे बनने की घटनाएं भी की दर्ज

नैसदुर (असस)। भारत की पहली खगोलीय वेधशाला 'एस्ट्रोसैट' के जरिए दुनिया के खगोलशास्त्रियों ने नए तारों के बनने की घटना देखी है। वैज्ञानिकों का यह अपेक्षाकृत बड़ा प्रयास है, जिसमें सारी से 3.9 एक अरब प्रकाश वर्ष दूर स्थित छोटी (बौनी) गैलेक्सी को बनते हुए देखा। इस घटना पर अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान विभाग 'नैसदुर' में इस सत्र के सत्र प्रकाशित हुआ है, जिसके प्रमुख लेखक भारतीय खगोलविद अंतुष्यम मोहोतान हैं। यह इस खोज में अमेरिका और फ्रांस के वैज्ञानिकों के साथ भारत की जोड़ से शामिल है। मोहोतान ने नैसदुर इंटर यूनिवर्सिटी सेंटर पर एस्ट्रोसैट टंड (सैट) गैलेक्सी को बनते हुए देखा। एस्ट्रोसैट के प्रोपेस कर्मक सारा की संयुक्त देखभाल में काम करते हैं, जो लेख के सह-लेखक हैं। दाहिने



एस्ट्रोसैट द्वारा खींची गई बौनी गैलेक्सी की तस्वीर।

गैलेक्सी के विकास का पता लगाने में मददगार होगी खोज

शेष के मुताबिक, अंतरिक्ष में कौन-कौनसे तारे और तारों के समूह बनते हैं, इसका पता लगाने में मददगार होगी खोज। इस प्रयास में अंतरिक्ष विभाग के वैज्ञानिकों ने अंतरिक्ष में अनेक प्रकाश वर्ष दूर तारों का निर्माण देखा है। अंतरिक्ष में दुनिया अमेरिकी खगोलविद सारा मोहोतान के नेतृत्व में अंतरिक्ष विभाग में खोज कर रहे हैं। इस प्रयास में अंतरिक्ष विभाग के वैज्ञानिकों ने अंतरिक्ष में अनेक प्रकाश वर्ष दूर तारों का निर्माण देखा है। अंतरिक्ष में दुनिया अमेरिकी खगोलविद सारा मोहोतान के नेतृत्व में अंतरिक्ष विभाग में खोज कर रहे हैं। इस प्रयास में अंतरिक्ष विभाग के वैज्ञानिकों ने अंतरिक्ष में अनेक प्रकाश वर्ष दूर तारों का निर्माण देखा है।



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UPES gets ₹5 crore grant for incubator on campus

VIKRAM CHAUDHARY

THE NATIONAL EXPERT Advisory Committee of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has recommended the inclusive-tech business incubator (I-TBI) at the UPES university in Dehradun for a funding of ₹5 crore under the NIDHI scheme—the National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations is an umbrella programme pioneered by the DST for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful start-ups.

Rahul Nainwal, the CEO of Runway—the incubation cell at the UPES—told FE

that the I-TBI at the UPES is the first in the state, and "it seeks to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in higher educational institutions by creating a thriving innovation ecosystem buoyed by mentorship and funding for creative projects."

The I-TBI, he added, will benefit the entire region. "Uttarakhand is a hilly state and has unique challenges. Many of the state's problems can be solved by providing tech solutions to local and regional

Runway is a start-up incubator at the UPES Dehradun that offers mentorship, grants and investments, legal and incorporation support, as well as allocation of space to work to start-ups

offers mentorship, grants and investments, legal and incorporation support, and allocation of space to work. According

to Nainwal, UPES students will also benefit from the I-TBI. "The presence of an incubator on the campus will give students exposure to disruptive thinking and innovative technology. It will also motivate some students to be a part of the I-TBI and work on technological and business problems," he said.

The I-TBI at the UPES is expected to be launched by January 2023, and start-ups in the domain of blockchain, artificial intelligence, machine learning, drones, the Internet of things (IoT), innovative mobility solutions, and manufacturing, amongst others, will be identified for incubation at the I-TBI.

challenges," he said. "The UPES I-TBI will focus on innovative ideas that are at the confluence of social, economic and developmental issues and technology, and provide them with the necessary training, mentorship and financial aid to enable them to create scalable solutions."

Runway is a start-up incubator at the UPES that offers mentorship, grants and investments, legal and incorporation support, and allocation of space to work. According

to Nainwal, UPES students will also benefit from the I-TBI. "The presence of an incubator on the campus will give students exposure to disruptive thinking and innovative technology. It will also motivate some students to be a part of the I-TBI and work on technological and business problems," he said.

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70,000 Startups & The Helping Hand Of Sarkar

Minister of state, science & technology, argues Govt played a key role in empowering tech entrepreneurs

Jitendra Singh



The number of startups in India was not more than 400 in 2014. But this figure jumped to a whopping 70,000 by this year. This could not have been possible without PM Modi's ability to make decisive policy decisions, including in no-go areas of the past. The most striking example of the latter is the unlocking of the space sector/Isro and opening it up to private players, which was unimaginable even a decade ago.

The PM gave a momentous call for 'Startup India- Standup India' during his Independence Day address from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, 2015, which sent a message down the line that the priorities of the government headed by him were witnessing a departure from the status-quoist approach of the past. It is this enabling environment that has led to a vibrant startup movement across the country.

Fuelling the startup boom

The resultant vibrant and mutually supplementing ecosystem has become a role model for the rest of the world. In fact, India today ranks third in the global startup ecosystem, growing at an annual rate of 12-15%. The sector has become a significant national contributor to generating wealth and employment in the country, as well as propelling innovation and technological development across key development sectors.

A detailed 'Startup India Action Plan' has been rolled out to support and empower startups in the country by introducing 19 action points focussing on (a) handholding support to entrepreneurs/startups; (b) creating funding support and incentivisation mechanisms for startups; and (c) supporting industry-academia partnerships and providing necessary incubation support for startups.

The Indian startup ecosystem has been going from strength to strength. Even the Covid pandemic, which had a substantial impact on FY-2022, could not dent the funding momentum for Indian startups.



Smells like a startup revolution

In fact, the country has seen 102 startups being elevated into the \$1 billion-plus valuation club. Out of these 102 unicorns, 14 have been upscaled in January-March this year, which gives strength to the belief that 2022 could be another year of unicorns.

Covid-proof and reaching for new heights

The department of science and technology (DST) has played a critical role in shaping the startup culture in the country. Its flagship programme Technology Business Incubator (TBI) with its current network of more than 160 incubators has been successful in creating a strong societal impact by addressing challenges faced by the country. The network, during the Covid pandemic, played a critical role in identifying and supporting startups having products and services to address the problems brought on by the pandemic.

DST also set up the Seed Support System in the TBIs for providing much needed early-stage funding to startups. The number of supported programmes and the budget spending for the programme have quadrupled during the past five years.

Under the National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) TBI programme, over the last five years 105 incubators have been set up across

the country. The network of incubators has supported more than 12,000 startups (7,200 physical and 4,800 virtual). This startup network has 1,500-plus women-led startups, and more than 900 patents have been filed by them. Overall, the startups have produced more than 1,15,000 new jobs.

Giving full play to budding entrepreneurs

Some of the noteworthy milestones of DST's programme on innovation and entrepreneurship are:

- First government agency to establish institutional mechanisms such as TBI to support technology-based entrepreneurship.
- Enabling innovation ecosystem policy framework:
- Service Tax exemption to both incubators and incubatee.
- Permission to hold equity by DST-incubated incubators (not for profit legal entities) i.e. converting government grants to equity subscription.
- CSR funding for incubators.
- First government agency to offer programmes in PPP mode for scouting and supporting innovation and startups:
- First government agency to partner and create Sebi-registered PPP innovation fund.
- First government agency to partner with international government (bilateral) and multilateral agencies for innovation and entrepreneurship development.
- DST-pioneered training and capacity building of incubation managers with exposure to global best practices.
- DST-backed TBIs were first to get support from multilateral international developmental agencies like UNDP, InfoDev etc.

In conclusion, the Indian startup ecosystem is progressively evolving as evident from India's continuous rise in the global innovation index as well as ease of doing business ranking over the last five years. The whole ecosystem is providing a platform to aspiring youths to leverage their potential to reinvigorate, revitalise and further strengthen the indigenous ability of industries in the given geopolitical landscape.

An unlikely inventor and his success story

How a rural entrepreneur used solar power to green his innovation

PREETI MEHRA

When Haryana-based farmer Dharambir Kamboj returned to his village in Damla after an accident during his rickshaw pulling days in Delhi, little did he know that his penchant for inventions would lead him to a clean-technology innovation.

In 2017, the 59-year-old entrepreneur turned his invention into a company, Dharambir Food Processing Pvt Ltd., which he runs today along with his 31-

year-old son and clocks over a crore of rupees in turnover. "Since childhood, I had an interest in inventing machines and when I visited some farmers in Ajmer who were using makeshift ways to process food, I saw the potential of an automatic food processor that would crush, pulp, deseed and extract juice."

And that is what he went on to design—a food processor that along with the usual functions also mixes, pulverises, steams and pressure cooks. The

machine has the capability of processing fruits, vegetables, seeds, herbs and flowers, making it equally capable of oil, gel and essential oil extraction. The machine was then patented and validated by the National Innovation Foundation.

Though Kamboj was getting good orders for his machine, the story turned into one of clean technology, when the company was cherry-picked along with five other ventures for grants by Vilgro Innovations Foundation and Council

on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) in 2020, under their Powering Livelihoods programme aimed at boosting "India's rural economy by scaling up the penetration of clean energy-powered appliances for livelihoods." "It was their idea (Vilgro and CEEW) and adapting the machine to run on solar power was not so difficult. When I was working on making it a hybrid



Dharambir Kamboj

model that could work on solar, batteries, a generator or electricity. I kept wondering why I had not thought of it before," says Kamboj, thankful to the organisations for nudging him towards it. Today, it is bringing him accolades as well as export orders from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Nairobi, and may even turn into a technology sale in Malaysia.

Local manufacturing

Meanwhile, Kamboj says that the big fish always try to eat the

small fish, and he has had several large companies offering to buy him out. However, he and his son wish to grow the business independently and by manufacturing the machine in the village vicinity they are providing jobs and livelihood to many.

Kamboj makes machines in several sizes for different pockets. The smallest processes around 40 kg in an hour and costs ₹60,000, while the big machines can process 200 kg per hour and costs ₹2 lakh. His son Prince, who virtually runs the company, explains that shifting to solar has brought with it huge savings in electricity and more interest from different parts of the world.



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5

COVID-19: Scientists develop new means to inactivate virus

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a breakthrough development, scientists of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in collaboration with researchers from the CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology developed a novel mechanism to inactivate COVID (SARS-CoV-2) virus by blocking their entry to cells and reducing infection ability.

According to a senior official in Ministry of Science and Technology, researchers reported the design of a new class of synthetic peptides that cannot only block the entry of the COVID (SARS-CoV-2) virus entry into cells but also clump the virions together, reducing their ability to infect.

This novel approach provides an alternative mechanism to render viruses like SARS-CoV-2 inactive, promising a new class of peptides as antivirals, the official said,

adding that the rapid emergence of new strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has diminished the protection offered by Covid-19 vaccines calling for new approaches to prevent infection by the virus.

According to the ministry, IISc scientists have exploited this approach to design peptides that can bind to and block the spike protein on the surface of SARS-CoV-2 virus. This binding was further characterised extensively by cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) and other biophysical methods, it added.

The research was supported under the COVID-19 IRPHA call of SERB Science and Engineering Research Board, a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology.

The designed peptides are helical, hairpin-shaped, each capable of pairing up with another of its kind, forming what is known as a dimer.

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3

IIT Kanpur launches NIRMAN Accelerator Program with govt



New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur's Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) has launched the NIRMAN Accelerator Program that will help various startups and innovators overcome business challenges from their prototype to market journey. Under the programme, applications will be invited from manufacturing startups and innovators engaged in healthcare and agriculture domains. The programme is supported by the Union government's Department of Science and Technology.

TEHCIRCLE

Cancer-causing virus can infect neuronal cells, says IIT study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Researchers from IIT Indore have found that cancer-causing virus Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) can infect the neuronal cells and drive various changes in biomolecules such as fatty acids, carbohydrates, and protein components, leading to diseases of the central nervous system as well as brain cancer. The study is published in the journal ACS Chemical Neuroscience.

The EBV virus has been found to be widely present in the human population. It usually does not cause any harm, but the virus gets reactivated inside the body in some unusual conditions like immunological stress or immunocompetence. This may further lead to various complications like a type of blood cancer called Burkitt's lymphoma, stomach cancer, multiple sclerosis, and so on. Earlier studies provided links of EBV involvement in various neurodegenerative diseases. However, how this virus can affect the cells of the brain and manipulate them is still unexplored.

The researchers utilized the Raman microspectroscopy technique, supported by the

Department of Science and Technology (DST) under FIST scheme to explore the possible impacts of a cancer-causing virus on brain cells. The technique based on Raman Effect is a simple, cost-effective tool to find sensitive chemical changes in biological samples.

They showed that there could be timely and gradual changes in various biomolecules in the neuronal cells under viral influence. Additionally, these changes were distinct when compared to the changes observed in other supportive brain cells (that is, astrocyte and microglia). The team consists of a group leader from Infection Bioengineering group at IIT Indore, Dr. Hem Chandra Jha, along with his students Omkar Indari, Shweta Jakhmola, and Meenakshi Kandpal in collaboration with the group leader of Material and Device Laboratory (Department of Physics), Professor Rajesh Kumar and team including Dr. Devesh K. Pathak and Ms. Manushree Tanwar found that some common biomolecular changes were observed at times in these cells.

They observed that the lipid, cholesterol, proline, and glucose molecules increased in the cells under viral influence.

Covaxin induces robust immune memory to SARS-Cov-2: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Scientists have found that Covaxin, which is an inactivated whole-virus vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech, an Indian pharma, induces robust immune memory to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) and variants of concern that persist for at least six months after vaccination and induces memory T cells that can respond robustly against the variants. This may help in controlling the virus load and thus, reduce the disease severity, according to a study.

The study was published in the Nature Microbiology journal. Although the clinical trial data were available for the vaccine efficacy, important questions remained unanswered for evidence-based policy-making particularly. These included whether the vaccine induces immune memory, how long the vaccine-induced memory persists, and whether these memory responses are

able to sustain against the SARS-CoV-2 variants. In a multi-institutional collaboration with the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridkot, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, ESIC Medical College, Faridkot, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, LNJP Hospital, New Delhi, LIL, LA Jolla, Dr. Nimish Gupta and group at the National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi, investigated 97 SARS-

CoV-2 unexposed individuals who had received vaccine, up to six months after 2-dose vaccination. The vaccine-induced responses were compared with the immune memory in 99 individuals who recovered from mild COVID-19, the Union Ministry of Science & Technology said in a statement. The study supported under IITPA-COVID-19 special call by the Science and Engineering Research Board, a statutory body of the Department of Science and

Technology, found that the vaccine produces antibodies against Spike, RBD, and Nucleoprotein of the virus, just like in virus infection. However, analyses of both the binding and neutralising antibodies revealed a reduced recognition of variants of concern like Delta (India), Beta (S. Africa), and Alpha (UK). This study showed that the vaccine is capable of inducing memory B cells. The researchers found this satisfying because antibodies may decline with time, but these



memory B cells can replenish antibodies against the virus, whenever required. Their study provided the first-ever evidence of the detailed traits of immune memory generated in humans in response to an inactivated virus vaccine, the Ministry said.



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TNN
3

Navigation testbed launched at IIT-H

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Minister of state (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Earth Science Jitendra Singh on Monday inaugurated the first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation at IIT Hyderabad.

He said that TIHAN Autonomous Navigation Testbed (Aerial & Terrestrial) will be the destination for next-generation safe, sustainable, and smart mobility solutions. "This will be the source of futuristic technology generation for autonomous vehicles. The testbed will allow us to test the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration," said Singh.

He said that India's first test-bed for autonomous navigation would provide a platform for industries, R&D labs, and academia to drive

Singh said setting up of 25 technology innovation hubs across the country is one of the programmes launched under the PM to make India a destination for futuristic tech

collaborative research in autonomous navigation, thus making India a global leader in these technologies.

Singh said, "TIHAN is developing and deploying a real-time Cyber-Physical System utilizing unmanned aerial vehicles and unmanned ground/surface vehicles for many application sectors of national importance. Among the most essential factors for making autonomous and connected vehicles more acceptable to consumers is their effectiveness in realistic conditions. It is crucial to evaluate these technologies in a safe, controlled environment."