

## **Department of Science & Technology**

### **Important Developments/Achievements**

**October, 2018**

- i. An Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan was concluded on 1st October 2018 at New Delhi in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Agriculture and Food Science and Technology; Engineering Sciences; Information and Communication Technology, Applied Mathematics and Data Science and Technology; Health and Medical Technology; Materials Sciences; Life Sciences & Biotechnology; Physics and Astrophysics and Energy, water, climate and natural resources were identified as potential areas for immediate collaboration.
- ii. The 24th edition of the DST-CII Technology Summit was held in New Delhi during October 29-30, 2018 with Italy as partner country. The Summit was jointly inaugurated by Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan and Italian Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economic Development, Dr Michele Geraci. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Italy, Mr. Giuseppe Conte addressed the valedictory session of the Summit on 30th October 2018.
- iii. India-Italy Joint S&T Committee meeting was held at New Delhi on 29th October 2018. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary Department of Science & Technology and Mr. Min. Plen Vincenzo De Luca, Director General for Economic, Cultural Promotion and Innovation of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Co-chaired the Joint Committee respectively on Indian and Italian side. The Joint Committee agreed to set up an India-Italy Platform for science and innovation for promoting and facilitating the establishment of Indo-Italian Centres of Excellence in selected areas of mutual strength such as cultural heritage preservation, renewable energy, life sciences, and geohazards.
- iv. The Seventh Session of the India-Ukraine Joint S&T Committee meeting was held at New Delhi on 9th October 2018. The meeting was Co-chaired by Shri SK Varshney, Adviser & Head, International Bilateral Cooperation DST and Ms. Stella Shapoval, Deputy Head, Department for International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.
- v. It was agreed that both sides will explore collaboration through Linking of Ukrainian and Indian institutes in the mutually agreed areas focused to develop a comprehensive strategic program on technology development. On the Indian side International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) was identified to take lead and submit proposal after identifying Ukrainian Institutions. A team led by ARCI will be visiting Ukrainian Institutes to identify joint priority areas for collaboration.
- vi. Diasporas have emerged as powerful entities since they are recognized as 'soft power' in the realm of foreign policy strategy and also as an agent or catalyst of economic development of countries of origin beside their active role in the host countries. Towards this, DST in collaboration with DBT organized a Global Indian Science and

Technology Stakeholders Meet (GIST) as a part of the India International Science Festival-2018 (IISF-2018) being held in Lucknow during October 5-6, 2018. Besides 20 scientists from various parts of world, delegations from Hungary, Kenya and Vietnam also participated in the deliberations on role of Science and Technology for transforming India.

- vii. A Water Innovation Centre has been initiated for Sustainable Treatment, Reuse and Management for Efficient, Affordable and Synergistic solutions for Water at IIT Madras with eight partnering institutions.
- viii. Demand Driven Mission projects for Supply of clean drinking water through IoT based solar powered station at a large village in Haryana facing brackish water challenge through automated dispensing and improving the water table has been initiated.
- ix. The Department of Science and Technology participated in the Renewable and Clean Hydrogen Challenge of Mission Innovation at Berlin, Germany.
- x. A project on demonstration of MW scale solar energy Integration in weak grid using Distributed Energy Storage architecture (D-SIDES) project under Mission Innovation Challenge on Smart grids was launched at IIT- Roorkee.
- xi. A presentation was made to Hon'ble Prime Minister on National Mission of Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) on 16th October, 2018. They have suggested certain suggestions and after incorporating these modifications, the revised CCA note was sent to PMO for comments.
- xii. PAMC meeting to review the progress of the Networked Project on Imaging Spectroscopy and Application (NISA) was held on 27-28 October, 2018 at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Patna, Bihar. All the seven theme Co-ordinators made the presentation on the progress of the project before the PAMC.
- xiii. Expert Committee meeting of ASACODER was held on 11-12 October, 2018 to screen 171 Expression of Interests (EoIs) received under the Call.
- xiv. An Expert Group performed on-the-spot assessment of the Core activities conducted by BAIF at Barmer Rajasthan on 31 October, 2018. Review was related to technology interventions in Agro-horticulture sector and water management specific to arid region for better livelihood opportunities for farming community.
- xv. A series of meetings were held in the area of Social Scientific Responsibility (SSR) in S&T, National R&D Survey 2018-19, National Innovation Survey (NIS), Bibliometric Indicators and Identification new thrust areas for sponsored research with various experts and stakeholders towards advancement of initiatives of the Division.
- xvi. CEO NSDI participated in the Uttarakhand State SDI Standing Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Uttarakhand at Dehradun on 26.10.2018. Two expert committees have been constituted – One on “Data for NSDI Applications” and the other on “Technologies for NSDI Applications” for forming suitable geospatial policies and executing R&D proposals for support.