

Department of Science & Technology

Important Developments/Achievements

July, 2018

- (i) The 6th BRICS Science Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting on the theme: *Leveraging BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation to Enhance Inclusive Growth and Development* was held on 2-3 July 2018 at Durban, South Africa. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by 8th Senior Official Meeting on 2 July 2018 and 4th BRICS STI Funding Working Group Meeting on 30 June 2018.
- (ii) The ICTP 'Ramanujan Prize of US\$ 15000, for outstanding contributions by Young Mathematician Scientists from the developing countries, was instituted in 2005 by International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste. From the year 2014, the award is being funded by the Govt of India (DST) for a period of five years. Dr. Ritabrata Munshi, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Kolkata/TIFR Mumbai) has been selected for the 2018 Ramanujan prize. The prize is in recognition of Munshi's outstanding work in number theory, a branch of pure mathematics that studies properties of integers, or numbers that do not have a fractional part. He will be awarded the prize at the ICTP headquarters in Italy, in a ceremony later this year.
- (iii) The 4th India-Korea Science & Technology Ministers Steering Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi on 9th July 2018. Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Science of the Republic of India and Mr. You Young Min, Minister for Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea led the Indian and Korean delegations, respectively. The Two Ministers reviewed bilateral S&T cooperation between the two countries since last meeting of Steering Committee at Seoul in November 2015. The following decisions were taken during the meeting: i) establishing Indo-Korean Center for Research and Innovation (IKCRI) in India, which will act as the hub for systematic operation and management of all cooperative programmes in research and innovation between the two countries including innovation & entrepreneurship and technology transfer, ii) set up a Future Strategic Group, which will build a collaborative platform that can utilize the potential of our two countries towards fostering innovation and create impact which is of social and economic good. To begin with both sides will be co-funding collaborative enterprise led joint R&D projects covering areas of digital transformation, future manufacturing, future utilities and health care.
- (iv) A 30-member team of young Indian researchers (under Masters, Doctoral and Post Doctoral categories) across Indian Universities and Research Institutes and dedicated to the areas of physiology, medicine was deputed to Germany for participation in the 68th Meeting of Nobel Laureates & Students at Lindau during 24-29 June 2018. The Indian group had informal discussions and attended interactive sessions with about 30 Nobel laureates from the fields of physiology, medicine and chemistry; and 600 young scientists from 84 different countries across the globe. The Indian team of students also visited various research institutes/universities in Germany during 02-06 July 2018 i.e. the week following Nobel Laureates meeting. This one week exposure visit was jointly supported by DST and German Research Foundation.

- (v) The Department of Science and Technology, Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) jointly organized I4F Conclave in New Delhi on 25th July 2018. During the conclave, four joint Industrial R&D projects were awarded under the US\$40 million Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F).
- (vi) A meeting cum exhibition was held on 17 July 2018 at Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DoEPwD) to explore the possibilities of commercialization of Assistive Devices developed under Technology Interventions for Disabled and Elderly (TIDE) programme of DST. 25 prototypes were displayed before the officials of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) and Aided Institutes of DoEPwD. Transfer of technologies to ALIMCO is under process for Interline Braille Slate, Transradial Prosthetic Arm and Refreshable Braille Display.
- (vii) A Draft Policy Document: Scientific Research Infrastructure and Maintenance Networks (SRIMAN) after detailed deliberations with experts and stakeholders in the S&T sector. The policy primarily focuses on access and sharing apart from addressing issues such as procurement, maintenance, disposal, capacity building etc., for effective utilization of research infrastructure in all scientific departments and research organizations under the administrative control of Government of India. The Draft Policy Document SRIMAN is uploaded on the DST website and has also been sent to the Scientific Ministries/Departments and other stakeholders for seeking their valuable suggestions/comments for its finalization.
