# VOL: 03, ISSUE 5 FEBRUARY 2022

Science, Technology, Research, Innovation & DEvelopmentS

# BRINGS NEWS ON S&T DEVELOPMENT FROM DST SUPPORT AND BEYOND

# **EDITORIAL**

The month of February brings one of the most important days for science in India, the National Science Day celebrating the Raman Effect that brought the Nobel Prize to Sir C V Raman, the first Nobel laureate in science from India.

The day was celebrated with the culmination of a week-long programme – Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate consisting of lectures, exhibitions, science shows, and numerous science popularisation activities across the country under the theme Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future.

The Climate Change Research Facility at the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) was inaugurated this month by the Prime Minister to work on making agriculture more sustainable and climateresilient, and the centre which brought together and boosted the research that ICRISAT was already carrying has already produced a major publication.

The month also triggered possibilities of major collaborations between India and Singapore at the annual DST- CII tech summit. Besides this, an efficient method for hydrogen production, a next-generation probiotic that provides hope for longevity and healthy aging, efficient and durable solar cells by tuning the length and porosity of nanorods, artificial Intelligence-based tools for finding habitable planets, and major climate change findings were witnessed.

The month's newsletter also features the Indian Academy of Science, the second of the three national science academies in India established by Sir C V Raman.

-DR AKHILESH GUPTA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

# **COVER STORY**



DST supported Climate Change Research Facility at IC-RISAT inaugurated by PM to work on making agriculture more sustainable and climate-resilient

The state of the art climate change research facility at ICRISAT, established with the support of the Climate Change Program of the DST, and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 5, 2022, will strengthen the global efforts to alleviate climate change impacts on agriculture and food security.

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# Union Minister for S&T Dr Jitendra Singh says, mentoring young talent is the best investment for India @2047

Union Minister of State (IC) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said, that mentoring young talent is the best investment for India @2047. He said, young scientists with 25 active years ahead have a crucial role to play in the roadmap for the next 25 years when India celebrates 100 years of independence.

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Editorial Popular Science Stories INSIDE THE E-NEWSLETTER Meet the Scientist Featured Institution

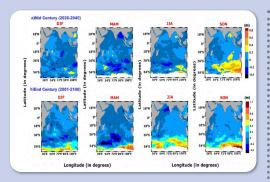






# POPULAR SCIENCE STORIES





# High wave activity in regions over Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, & South Indian Ocean can pose threat for coastal communities

A recent study conducted by Indian Scientists has indicated that regions over Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, and South Indian Ocean can experience higher wave activity in the future, posing serious threat for coastal communities in the region.

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### Indian scientists develop efficient and durable solar cells by tuning the length and porosity of nanorods

Indian Scientists have devised a new process for increasing the efficiency and stability of Titanium dioxide (TiO2) nanorods based on Perovskite Solar Cells (PSC). It will help develop solar cells with stable light-harvesting active layer.

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# Easy collection and processing of pongamia through motorised dehusking & oil extraction machines brings confidence to boost biofuel production

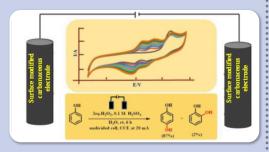
The participation of the farming community in feed stock production plays an important role in developing strategies for biofuel production thus will help fulfill the target of 175 GW of non-fossil fuel of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

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# New study suggests increase in warming in high altitude Himalayas due to water vapour

A recent study has shown that water vapour exhibits a positive radiative effect at the top of the atmosphere (TOA), suggesting an increase in overall warming in the High Altitude Himalayas due to it.

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# method can efficiently transform phenol to a key ingredient for manufacturing preservatives, pharmaceuticals & polymers

Indian researchers have found that electrolysis using surface-modified electrodes for efficient large-scale transformation of phenol to 1,4 hydroquinone used as intermediate manufacturing of preservatives, pharmaceuticals, dyes, polymers.

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ARCI Scientists develop energyefficient method for hydrogen production with less carbon footprint

Indian Scientists have developed a method to produce hydrogen with high purity (99.99%) from methanol-water mixture at ambient pressure and temperature that uses only one-third of the electrical energy required in water electrolysis.

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# Indian scientists develop a next-generation probiotic that provides hope for longevity and healthy aging

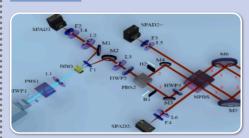
A team of Indian Scientists has recently identified the nextgeneration probiotic bacterium Lactobacillus Plantarum JBC5 from a dairy product that showed great promise in promoting healthy aging.

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#### **Grassroots** innovator from Karnataka popular as tamarind maniac selected for Padma Shri for 2022

Shri Abdul Khader Nadakattin, a serial grassroots innovator from Dharwad, Karnataka, is amongst the 107 Padma Shri awardees announced for the year 2022 in the Others (Grassroots Innovation) category.

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reality Einstein's idea experimentally proven decisively wrong by Indian







# POPULAR SCIENCE STORIES



# scientists, paving the way for more secure information transfer

A team of scientists from Raman Research Institute (RRI), autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, have successfully addressed this challenge.

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# New artificial Intelligencebased tools can help finding habitable planets

Astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, an autonomous institute of DST, along with astronomers from BITS Pilani, Goa campus have devised a new approach -- an anomaly detection method -- by which they can identify potentially habitable ones with a high probability.

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- Focus on collaborating to gain from lead expertise of countries: **DST Secretary**
- Woman scientist from Chennai granted patent for green technology producing medicinally important compound
- **«** Novel tools for deciphering mechanisms associated learning and memory developed by **Indian Scientists**
- India to have two National Centres

- of Excellence in Carbon Capture & Utilization at IIT Bombay & at JNCASR, Bengaluru, supported by DST
- Swarnajayanti fellow's work to pave way for developing strategies to manage and treat attention disorders
- Swarnajayanti awardee from Bangalore working on materials that can make computers more efficient
- **«** SwarnaJayanti Fellow's work may help understand & compute the entropy of Black Hole systems discovered by Stephen Hawking

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# INTERNATIONAL

an attractive hub India. for foreign investments in manufacturing sector, is on a rising trajectory of innovation: Dr. **Jitendra** Singh

Union Minister of State (IC) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, highlighted that India is now an attractive hub for foreign investments in the manufacturing sector and is on a continuous rising trajectory of innovation, at the DST-CII Technology Summit.

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India **Experts** from **US** discuss challenges & opportunities combat to Climate Change through technology-led Carbon Utilisation Capture and solutions.

Experts from India and US discussed the challenges and opportunities to combat climate change through technology-led Carbon Capture and Utilisation solutions at the Indo-US Scoping Workshop on Carbon Capture held on 21st January 2022, jointly organized by DST India and DoE USA.

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# **NEW INITIATIVES**

- ▶ Seeking full proposals under 5th BRICS call from shortlisted Project Investigators (2nd Stage submission)
- ▶ Joint Call for project proposals 2022 Indo-Danish research and innovation cooperation in the area of "Green fuels including green hydrogen
- IGSTC 2 plus 2 Call 2022 on the thematic areas Waste to Wealth and Sustainable Packaging
- DST- DFG joint call on **International Research Training** Groups (IRTG) 2022

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# MEET THE SCIENTIST

# PROF. UMESH WAGHMARE

PRESIDENT, INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



# FEATURED INSTITUTION



# **Indian Academy of Sciences: Promoting progress &** cause of science

The single largest science publisher (society) in the country, the Indian Academy of Sciences (IASc), Bengaluru, promotes the progress and upholds the cause of science through its II Journals as well as several magazines and books.

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Professor Umesh Waghmare is known for his work in materials science which transcends the boundaries of physics, chemistry, and engineering. It involves the use of quantum physics and computer simulations to determine electron-mediated interactions in a solid and the development of material-specific models to predict its multi-scale structure and properties.

Through close collaborations with experimentalists, his work has resulted in fundamental understanding of structural phase transitions, mechanical behavior and functional properties of materials, thermoelectrics, topological insulators, ferroelectricity, and superconductivity at nano-scale, and materials for energy and environment. He has contributed to research at GE, Boeing, Procter and Gamble, Tata Research, Design and Development Centre, and Shell.

With a B Tech (with institute silver medal) in Engineering Physics from IIT, Bombay, and a Ph.D. in applied physics from Yale University, he worked as a post-doctoral research associate in the Physics Department at Harvard University before joining Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in 2000. At present, he is Professor at JNCASR, Dean-Faculty, and a JC Bose National Fellow. He is also a Distinguished Adjunct Professor at Temple University, Philadelphia.

Professor Umesh Waghmare is an Associate Editor of Pramana Journal of Physics and of NanoScale. He has been elected Fellow of the three science academies of India and the Indian National Academy of Engineering and has been regularly involved in Science Outreach in Karnataka and Uttarakhand.





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