

## Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan Awarded Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025

- Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan, Associate Professor of Materials Engineering at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, honoured with Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025 (3rd edition) for outstanding contributions to computational materials science
- Award carries ₹5 lakh cash prize (highest in science & technology in India) and citation; selection conducted by expert committee chaired by Anil Kakodkar from 50 applications (10 shortlisted for interview)
- Gopalakrishnan leads research group in computational materials science at IISc; award will be presented at Manohar Parrikar Vigyan Mahotsav in December 2025

## QS Asia Rankings 2026: India's Top IITs Slip Amid Regional Competition from China, Singapore

- QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026 reveals sharp decline among India's top institutions: five of top 10 Indian institutes (IIT Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur) record lowest ranks in recent years
- IIT Delhi (rank 59, down 15 from 44): country's top-ranked institution for 2nd consecutive year but steep fall from 2021–2025 range of 44–47; IIT Bombay (rank 71, down 23 from 48): sharpest drop, fell from highest-ranked Indian institution (2021–2024, ranks 37–42)
- Only exception: Chandigarh University (private, rank 109, up from 120)—sole top 10 Indian institution improving
- Global trends: East/Southeast Asia dominating (Hong Kong, Mainland China, Singapore rank 1–3); South Korea, Malaysia rising with strategic R&D/internationalization investments; Chinese institutions added 261 of 552 new entries (India added 137, total 294 vs. China's 395)
- Performance gaps: Indian IITs underperforming on citations per paper (research impact: IIT Delhi 31.5, IIT Bombay 20.0, IIT Madras 20.3 vs. global top-10 averaging high 90s), faculty-student ratio (IIT Kharagpur 16.5 vs. Asian leaders 80s–90s), international student ratio (IIT Kharagpur 2.5 vs. global top-10 at 100)
- Structural disadvantages: limited international student/faculty presence, large class sizes, resource constraints relative to Singapore/Hong Kong peers; 67% of 157 Indian institutions that ranked last year saw decline

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## PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Digital Tribal Freedom Fighter

### Museum in Chhattisgarh IN

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial and Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum (country's first digital tribal museum) at Naya Raipur, Sector-24, showcasing Chhattisgarh's tribal heroes and 14 major Adivasi rebellions
- Museum design (₹50 crore, state-of-the-art): VFX technology, projection systems, digital screens, QR code scanning on mobile for immersive narrative experience; 14 sectors narrating Halba, Sarguja, Bhopalpatnam, Parlкот, Tarapur, Lingagiri, Koi, Meria, Muria, Rani Chauri, Bhumkal, Sonakhan, Jhanda Satyagraha, Jungle Satyagraha rebellions
- Special features: grand memorial to Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh (zamindar of Sonakhan, first Chhattisgarh martyr); Sarguja artist-carved panels at entrance; 1,400-year-old Sal, Mahua, Saja tree replicas with digital stories etched on leaves; selfie points, accessible amenities for divyangjan/seniors; tribal art flooring, statues of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Shaheed Gend Singh
- Context: part of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas observance (15 Nov, Bhagwan Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary); complements PM-JANMAN and Pradhan Mantri Dharti Aaba Gram Utkarsh Yojana targeting tribal education, health, livelihood, infrastructure
- PM spent more than scheduled time exploring museum; accompanied by Union Minister Jewel Oram, MoS Durgadas Uike (Tribal Affairs), state Tribal Minister Ram Vichar Netam

## EESL Selects Andhra Pradesh for India's Largest Geothermal Pilot

### Project

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) (public sector joint venture, Union Ministry of Power) selected Andhra Pradesh for nation's largest geothermal energy pilot project, marking clean technology-driven economic milestone
- Pilot locations: Araku Valley and Visakhapatnam (major tourism destinations, favourable climate, high footfall); technology includes Earth Air Tunnels, Ground Source Heat Pumps cutting energy consumption ~50%, reducing carbon emissions, requiring low maintenance with 3–4 year payback period
- Strategic timing: aligns with Visakhapatnam hosting CII Partnership Summit (14–15 Nov 2025) discussing sustainable technologies in tourism infrastructure; CM Chandrababu Naidu targets 25,000 tourism jobs in 4 years—geothermal projects supporting goal
- Next steps: technology presentation to Chief Minister & Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh; demonstrates government commitment to ecofriendly solutions in high-impact sectors

## IIT Ropar & iDG10 Solutions Launch India's First Subsea Pipeline

### Design Training Partnership

- IIT Ropar signed 60-month MoU with iDG10 Solutions Private Limited to establish India's first industry-anchored Subsea Pipeline Design Technology (SPDT) training, validation, and consultancy ecosystem
- Partnership combines: IIT Ropar's academic/research excellence + iDG10's proprietary SPDT software; reduces reliance on foreign institutions, builds domestic offshore engineering talent, achieves Atmanirbhar Bharat in specialized technology
- Key deliverables: 5-day classroom + 21-day live project training using SPDT; Capstone projects for B.Tech/M.Tech students; joint consultancy to Oil & Gas, Water/Wastewater, Hydrogen, CCUS, Mining, Thermal Power sectors
- Sector coverage: offshore oil/gas, water infrastructure, hydrogen transportation, district heating/cooling, carbon capture transport & storage (CCUS), slurry transport, thermal power cooling; certificate issued jointly; top 5 candidates receive 3 months SPDT support

## India Deep Tech Alliance Raises \$850 Million: NVIDIA, Qualcomm

### Ventures Join Coalition

- India Deep Tech Alliance (IDTA) (launched Sept 2025 at SEMICON India with \$1B initial capital) secured fresh commitments of ₹7,500 crore (\$850M) with new members NVIDIA, Qualcomm Ventures plus Activate AI, Chiratae Ventures, InfoEdge Ventures, Kalaari Capital, Singularity Holdings VC, YourNest Venture Capital
- Coalition goal: mobilise private capital/technical expertise for early-stage deep-tech startups across AI, semiconductors, space, robotics, biotech, energy, advanced manufacturing; build on PM's ₹1 lakh crore RDI Scheme
- Qualcomm VP Quinn Li: "AI-led intelligent computing foundation for next innovation wave; India's deep-tech community critical to realising global AI opportunity"
- Existing members: Accel, Blume Ventures, Celesta Capital, Gaja Capital, Ideaspring Capital, Premji Invest, Tenacity Ventures, Venture Catalysts; 5–10 year commitment to voluntary capital investment, mentorship, network access, co-investment collaboration

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## Himachal Pradesh Wins MeitY Award for DigiLocker Integration: 51

### HIMSeva Services

- Himachal Pradesh honoured with 'People First Integration Award' by Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) at National Workshop & Conference on DigiLocker 2025 (New Delhi, 5 Nov 2025)
- Achievement: Department of Digital Technologies & Governance successfully integrated 51 HIMSeva (e-District Services) along with HimParivar and HimAccess Card on DigiLocker platform—landmark in state's digital transformation
- Award presentation: Secretary DDT&G Ashish Singhmar received award from MeitY Secretary; reflects citizen-centric digital service excellence and state's commitment to accessibility, transparency in governance

## Arianespace Successfully Launches Copernicus Sentinel-1D via Ariane 6 Rocket

- Arianespace launched Copernicus Sentinel-1D satellite via Ariane 6 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana (4 Nov 2025, 9:02 PM UTC); placed into Sun-synchronous orbit at 693 km altitude—Ariane 6's 4th successful flight, 3rd commercial mission
- Mission significance: Sentinel-1D equipped with advanced radar for all-weather, day-and-night Earth surface imagery; monitors sea ice, icebergs, glaciers, subsidence, oil spills—part of EU's Copernicus Earth observation programme
- Launch stats: VA265 mission = 356th Arianespace launch, 53rd ESA mission, 10th spacecraft separation (34 min post-lift-off); 7th Sentinel satellite delivered by Arianespace to emblematic Copernicus program
- Arianespace CEO David Cavailloès: "Ariane 6 delivers impressive ramp-up, guaranteeing Europe's sovereign access to space"; ArianeGroup CEO Martin Sion: "Fourth successful flight in row proves reliability; production ramp-up underway"

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