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Innovation station

FROM SOLAR lanterns to radiation shields, IIT-B's TechConnect will showcase several out-of-the-box ideas from January 22 to 24

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MUMBAI: In a verdant part of Mumbai, some of India's brightest people are working hard, preparing for the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay's (IIT-B's) Tech-Connect, a three-day showcase of innovations dreamed up by the college's faculty.

TechConnect — a part of the Powai institute's annual technology event, Techfest — provides a platform for the industry to view and collaborate with the latest technology emerging from various IIT labs.

It also gives participants from across India an opportunity to interact with the people behind these creations. With over 60,000 footfalls, Techfest is Asia's largest technology festival. Even students are part of the faculty projects, and participating and winning adds weight to a resume.

The 13-year-old festival is featuring TechConnect for the second time this year in an attempt to encourage research and development (R&D).

From solar lanterns to radiation shields, the fest will showcase 60 exhibits across information technology, defence, energy and healthcare. The festival — to be held from January 22 to 24 — will allow public viewing of the innovations on the first two days, while on the third day

business corporations will be invited for presentations.

Last year, over 100 corporations registered for TechConnect, and three of the 40 exhibits were picked up.

This year, IIT-B is expecting more industry registrations.

"We hope to motivate participants to take up R&D. Also, participant and industry feedback is essential to help improve our product," said Professor M.V. Rane, who will exhibit his solar multi-utility heat pump at TechConnect. "Also, students interested in any field can approach us and work with us

on our projects. They don't have to be from IIT," said Nikhil Kashid, TechFest's media manager. "There is a lot of R&D at IIT and this is good platform for the industry and faculty to interact. It is an attempt to display all the application-oriented research coming out of here."



Solar lantern

The solar panel charges the battery during the day. At night, the battery provides light for four to six hours, depending on usage and light intensity. The standalone lighting device is rugged, light-weight and portable. Lanterns these days also come with mobile charging facilities.

USES: The lantern finds immediate acceptance in rural regions, which use kerosene lamps or have to stay in darkness.



Mobile phone signal enhancer

Mobile phone signals are weak when people away from the towers or if there are building between. This results in calls being dropped connect at all. The signal enhancer increase strength of the signal. It consists of two unit kept where there is a weak signal (or none) and the other where there is some signal. A cable the units to each other.

USES: When on a holiday in a remote location live in a low-network area.



Hand-powered cellphone charger

The sustainable hand-powered mobile phone charger stores power when you rotate the device anytime you need to top up the charge on your phone. It has two modes: crank (wind-up) or roll (roll-on). One minute of rotating the handle gives about three minutes of talktime and about 30 minutes of stand-by time.

USES: Charge your phone anywhere, anytime.

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