RESPOND programme of ISRO

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In News: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently announced that it would help eight joint research projects proposed by IIT-Space Delhi's Technology Cell.

The ISRO has pledged its support to the RESPOND program's projects.

About RESPOND programme of ISRO

- In the 1970s, ISRO launched the RESPOND (Research Sponsored) programme.
- Aim: To encourage academia to engage in and contribute to a variety of space-related research activities.
- ISRO provides financial assistance to academic institutions in India to conduct research and development activities in the fields of space science, space technology, and space applications.
- This is ISRO's flagship initiative for promoting extramural study in new areas of space at academia.
- It aims to strengthen the academic base, create human capital, and improve facilities at academic institutions in order to fund space programmes.
- India is on track to launch Gaganyaan, its first human spaceflight mission, which will enable Indian astronauts to conduct space experiments. This large-scale mission would help the country's preparations for potential deep-space missions.

Status of Ongoing RESPOND Programme

Projects and Institutions supported under RESPOND Programme as of September, 2020.

Number of Projects Ongoing: 214

■ Space Science : 23

Space Technology: 145Space Applications: 46

Academic Institutions supported under the Projects: 117

- Universities and Colleges : 79
- IITs/NITs : 31
- Other Institutions: 7

Space Technology Cells at :

- IITs (Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, Roorkee, Guwahati and Delhi) : 7
- IISc Bangalore : 1
- Joint Research Programme at SP Pune University : 1

Conferences/Workshops supported during 2019-20 : 39

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