IIT Ropar launches the AVNI app for learning about farming

Agriculture · 6 October 2026 · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/06



News

IIT Ropar launched **AVNI**, an **AI-supported** digital learning platform that helps children learn about **plants, crops and agriculture** through observation-based activities (Oct 2026). It is available in **Hindi and English**.

Key facts

Developer	**IIT Ropar**, Rupnagar, Punjab (set up 2008)
For	**Children / students**
How	Children photograph and observe leaf shape, colour, veins and growth; **computer-vision** AI helps identify the plant
Safeguard	**Human-in-the-loop** checks to avoid wrong identification
Languages	Hindi, English

Background

- **ANNAM.AI:** IIT Ropar's **Centre of Excellence** for AI in agriculture; it has set up **100 AI weather stations** in Punjab for hyperlocal farm forecasts and is training 10,000 people in AI for farming.
- **National Education Policy 2020** stresses experiential, locally rooted learning, which apps like AVNI support.

- **Digital agriculture: AgriStack** (farmers' digital registry), **Kisan e-Mitra** (AI chatbot), **Bhashini** (language translation).
- **IITs:** the first IIT was **Kharagpur (1951)**; IIT Madras **1959** (West German help); IITs are 'Institutes of National Importance' (Institutes of Technology Act 1961).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) was formed in **Coimbatore in 1971**, tracing back to the 1868 Saidapet farm school. The State's **'Uzhavan'** app (2018) gives farmers subsidy, weather and market-price information. **Thirukkural 1033**, 'those who live by ploughing truly live', praises farming.

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