

CSIR Hosts Startup Conclave 2025

CSIR Startup Conclave 2025 Kicks Off in Hyderabad

The Startup Conclave Hyderabad 2025 commenced on 22.04.2025 at the Zaheer Memorial School Grounds in CSIR- Indian Institute of Technology (CSIR-IICT). In alignment with the clarion call of “Startup India, Standup India” given by the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to cultivate a startup ecosystem and foster innovation across the country, the two-day conclave aims at promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in India's research and technology ecosystem. It is being jointly organized by CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and CSIR- National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI).

Centered on the theme “Catalyzing Innovation, Connecting Ecosystems”, the event on the first day brought together entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers to share insights, network and explore collaboration opportunities.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Honorable Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Vice-President, CSIR who emphasized the importance of nurturing a startup ecosystem in India.

In his address, Dr. Singh highlighted India's capability in conducting research and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship - a shift that he said has happened in the last decade. He stated that the congregation is a visual as the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi envisioned. “The government is open to broader integration and is forthcoming in supporting innovation,” he said.

From just 50 startups in 2014, India now boasts nearly 10,000, with around 3,000 young entrepreneurs benefiting from the Aroma Mission in Jammu and Kashmir. “The first service you can do for society is to channel your passion and creativity into building a startup,” Dr. Singh remarked, stressing the importance of early industry linkage for startup success.

Agri-startups, he noted, are playing a transformative role in Indian agriculture. An example is the Pheromone Application Technology developed by CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad. Another notable initiative is the Purple Revolution in Jammu & Kashmir, spearheaded by Dr. Srinivasa Reddy, Director, CSIR-IICT.

Calling Hyderabad a city with a thriving innovation ecosystem, Dr. Singh said it was the ideal location to host the conclave.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU's) and Technology Transfers were exchanged between different companies and the three CSIR host institutes in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister.

In his address, Dr. Srinivasa Reddy, Director, CSIR-IICT, said “This conclave is a reflection of the direction we must take — one where research drives entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurship in turn fuels further research”. He further added, “Hyderabad is a melting point of pharma, biotech, IT sectors and startups.”

Dr. Vinay Nandicoori, Director, CSIR-CCMB, remarked, “The Startup Conclave is a reflection of the ongoing collaborations between industry and academia in Hyderabad. And this will only become more vibrant in the coming years”.

Dr. Prakash Kumar, Director, CSIR-NGRI, added, “CSIR-NGRI researches Earth's structure, earthquake hazards, and resource exploration (hydrocarbons, groundwater, minerals). Current focus includes Himalayan earthquake hazard assessment and nationwide geothermal mapping. These initiatives offer collaboration opportunities for startups in hazard mitigation, geothermal energy, CCUs, AI/ML, and groundwater, fostering innovation and contributing to India's economic growth.”

In his guest address, Sri Eatala Rajender, Hon'ble Member of Parliament remarked, “ The Narendra Modi led government is taking India to a top position on a global scale”. He added “The central government is providing financial support to startups to help them succeed”. He further stated “Startups in Hyderabad have an advantage of utilizing scientific expertise and government initiatives to help them thrive”.

Various sessions in line with the theme are being held at the conclave. It featured startup stories by representatives of various companies who shared insights about their journey including Shivani Rai, Executive, Chief of Staff (Business & Strategy), GreenworksBio Products Private Limited, Mr. Suresh Susurla, Founder, Startoon Labs. and Dr. C.S.V. Kiran, Vice President (R&D Strategy), Skyroot Aerospace.

An exhibition pavilion at the conclave highlights technologies of the host institutions and startups that were incubated at these labs or were spin offs from the technologies of these labs. The exhibits were visited by Dr. Jitendra Singh who interacted with the startups and researchers who presented their technologies and products. They will be on exhibition on 23rd April as well.

The conclave was attended by eminent personalities including Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly Bandari Laxma Reddy and leading industry partners among others. It is estimated that more than a thousand people gathered for the conclave.

