INNOVATORS CONCLAVE 2026

Title Partner: In Association with:

India's Premier Youth Innovation Platform

YOUR LAUNCHPAD OF WHAT'S NEXT.

24th-25th October 2026

Location:
@JNTU Anantapuram,
Andhra Pradesh-515002 India.











Presented by:
Vistara Vidyaanidhi Trust

Strategic Partners:
AP Innovation Society,IEEE India,
Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH).

ABOUT INNOVATORS CONCLAVE 2026

Innovators Conclave 2026 is where India's next builders meet the people who can back them. The 2nd edition runs across 24–25 October 2026 at JNTU Anantapuram. The shift from Hyderabad to Rayalaseema is deliberate. While India's talent has always been distributed,the capital, the mentorship, and the platforms have not. On that note, India's innovation pipeline cannot keep ending in six metros.

IC 2026 closes the gap by going to where the builders already are.

THE CONCLAVE IS BUILT TO:

- Bring student founders, school innovators, and early-stage builders into the same room as mentors, investors, and industry leaders.
- Introduce school students from Class 6 to Class 10 to a national innovation platform through the School Innovation Expo.
- Convene Strategic Dialogues With founders, policy leaders, and capital partners on what India's next innovation decade should look like.



10000+	200+	80+	70+	150+
Innovators	Startups	Speakers	Industries	Exhibition Booths

06+	90+	40+
Panel Discussions	Higher Educational Institutions	Intermediate / PU Colleges



WHAT HAPPENS HERE?

SIX ANCHORS. TWO DAYS. ONE FLOOR WHERE IDEAS TURN INTO FUNDED COMPANIES.

THE HACKATHON

36 hours. ₹9 Lakhs in prizes. Five sectors — AgriTech & Supply Chain, EdTech AI/ML, HealthTech & BioTech, Smart Cities & Civil Tech, Sustainability & Climate Action.Problem statements drop on Day 1.

STRATEGIC DIALOGUES

Keynotes and panels with founders, capital partners, and policy voices. The conversation happens on the floor in the room.

STARTUP EXPO

20 stalls. Selection only. The teams investors and incubators came to evaluate up close.

SCHOOL INNOVATION EXPO

A protected national platform for Class 6 to Class 10 students. Founders are made earlier than people think.

MENTORSHIP TRACKS

50+ mentors across the five hackathon sectors. Structured one-on-one time built into the agenda.

THE PITCH FLOOR

30 minutes per startup. 10 to present, 10 for Q&A, 10 for roadmap guidance. Backed by BITS TBI, Ratan Tata Innovation Hub, and A-Hub.



WHY ANANTAPUR. WHY NOW.

India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy. The harder question is who builds it, and from where. The answer cannot be six metros. Anantapur sits in Rayalaseema — a region with engineering talent, industrial corridors, and almost no innovation infrastructure pointed at it. IC 2026 is here on purpose.



WHY ANANTAPUR MAKES STRATEGIC SENSE:

01 **JNTU Anantapuram has produced engineers for decades.**

02 **Credible and Institutional Support** The Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society and The Ratan Tata Innovation Hub as partners on the ground.

03 **Solving problems where it matters.** Climate, agri, civil infrastructure, and rural healthtech rarely get built well from a Bangalore office.

04 **Geographical Proximity** from the StartUp Hub of Bangalore. Anantapur is roughly two hours from Bangalore by rail. The investor isn't far. The story usually is.

₹1.2 CR+

Seed Funding committed across The Pitch Floor through incubation partners.

₹9 L

Prize pool across the 36-hour Hackathon, five sectors.

60+

Mentors across the deep-tech, sustainability,edtech & civil tech.

7K+

Innovators, Founders, and students expected on the floor.

SOURCE:
IC 2026 Programme Office & Partner incubators.

THE CONCLAVES LIVES HERE.

The Hackathon and The Pitch Floor are where the conclave does its load-bearing work. One produces builders. The other connects them to capital. Together they're the spine.



THE HACKATHON

36 hours. Five sectors. ₹9 Lakhs in prize capital. Teams pick a sector, take a problem statement that drops on Day 1, and build a working prototype against it. The whole thing happens on the floor at JNTU Anantapuram, in front of mentors and evaluators, with no online round.

The five sectors. AgriTech and Supply Chain. EdTech and AI/ML. HealthTech and BioTech. Smart Cities and Civil Tech. Sustainability and Climate Action. Each sector has a problem statement written by someone working in it.

How it's evaluated. Three weighted rounds — Idea and Solution Presentation (15%), Prototype Development and Integration (35%), Final Demo and Market Readiness (50%).

Three independent evaluators per round. **The scoring is weighted toward execution because shipping is the proof.**

What's at stake. ₹9 Lakhs in prize capital across the five sectors. Sector winners move directly onto The Pitch Floor for incubator evaluation. The Hackathon is the entry point into the rest of the IC pipeline.

THE PITCH FLOOR

30 minutes per startup. Up to ₹1.2 Crores in seed funding. Every selected startup gets 30 minutes — 10 to present, 10 for Q&A, 10 for roadmap guidance. The point is mentorship, not theatre.

Who's running it. BITS TBI, Ratan Tata Innovation Hub, and A-Hub run the floor on the ground. Pre-screened incubation partners and angels come specifically to evaluate.

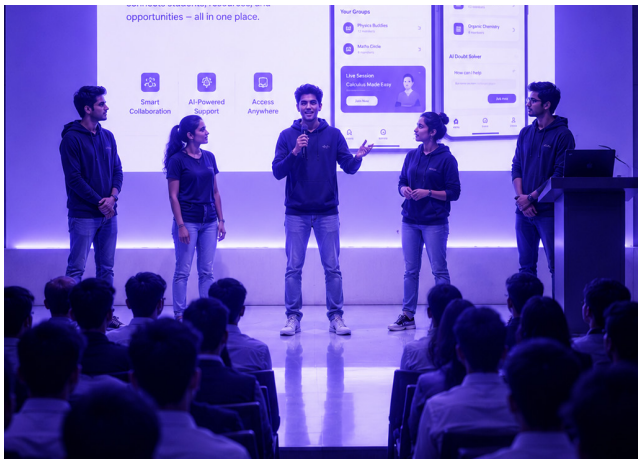
What's available. Up to ₹1.2 Crores in milestone-based seed funding through partner incubators. Selection happens through the Pitch Floor process, not on stage.

What happens after. Selected founders move into incubation pipelines after the event. The conversation continues past the conclave.

SHOWCASE YOUR WORK HERE.

The Startup Expo and the School Innovation Expo run in parallel through both days. One is for the founders the room came to evaluate. The other is for the founders the room hasn't met yet.





THE STARTUP EXPO

20 stalls. Selection only. The Startup Expo holds 20 stalls across the IC floor, each one a startup the selection panel decided was ready to be in front of investors and incubators.

Why selection-only. A 20-stall format means every conversation between a startup and a buyer happens because both sides chose to have it.

Who's there to evaluate.
The same incubators, angel investors, and corporate innovation teams running The Pitch Floor. The Startup Expo gives them a second venue to revisit teams they shortlisted.

What founders walk away with.
Direct meetings with backers actively writing cheques in 2026. Continued access to the IC alumni network beyond the two days.

THE SCHOOL INNOVATION EXPO

A protected national platform for Class 6 to Class 10 students. This brings school students onto the IC floor while they're still building the curiosity. Founders are made earlier than people think.

Who can apply. Class 6 to Class 10 students from any school. Government, private, residential, low-resource selection is on the project, not the institution.

The format. Dedicated section of the conclave floor. Each project gets a stall, a 10-minute panel slot, and structured mentorship from the IC mentor pool. Students compete with each other in age-appropriate categories.

Why this exists. India is going to need 10x the founder pipeline it currently produces. The School Innovation Expo is IC's bet on what an early-stage platform looks like when it's pointed six years upstream.

CONVERSATIONS THAT EXTEND BEYOND THE PITCH.



The Strategic Dialogues and Mentorship Tracks are the connective tissue. They're what turns a two-day event into a two-day system.

Sessions selected for substance over headline value. Keynotes and panels with state leadership, founders who have built through cycles, capital partners, and policy voices. The audience is in the room with them — there is no green-room separation between speaker and floor.

50+ mentors. Slots booked in advance. Mentors come briefed. Founders book slots with sector-relevant mentors before the conclave begins. Mentors arrive having read the founder's one-pager.

What's covered. India's clean-energy transition. The capital landscape for deep-tech outside metros. State-level innovation policy and how founders should read it. The future of Indian R&D infrastructure.

The sectors. AgriTech, EdTech, HealthTech, Smart Cities, Sustainability, and Aerospace. Each track has 8 to 12 mentors with first-hand operating or investing experience in that vertical.

Who shapes the agenda. Topics are picked by the IC programme committee in consultation with state partners and the incubator ecosystem. Sessions are kept tight on purpose — 30 to 45 minutes each, with structured Q&A.

The format. Structured short-form sessions — typically 20 minutes per founder-mentor pair. Founders can book up to four sessions across the two days. Follow-up introductions happen through the IC alumni network post-event.

THE FLOOR IS BUILT AROUND NINE KINDS OF PEOPLE.

7,000+ innovators, builders, and decision-makers across the IC floor.

The hardest part of building a startup in India isn't the idea. It's the access.

The access to the right investor for your sector. An appropriate mentor who's solved your specific problem before. The specific incubator running a programme that fits your stage. The existence of all these people in the same building is a rarity. For two days at IC 2026, they are.

1

STUDENT FOUNDERS & BUILDERS

Engineering students, postgraduate researchers, and college innovation cells running early-stage projects ready for capital and mentorship.

2

EARLY-STAGE STARTUP TEAMS

Pre-seed and seed-stage founders looking for their first cheque, first incubation slot, or first serious mentor.

3

ANGEL INVESTORS & VCs

Investment professionals from Indian and cross-border funds actively scouting deep-tech, climate, healthtech, and AI plays.

4

INCUBATORS & TBIs BITS TBI

Ratan Tata Innovation Hub, A-Hub, and other partner incubators selecting startups for milestone-based seed funding.

5

INDUSTRY MENTORS & EXPERTS

50+ mentors running structured 30-minute sessions across the five hackathon sectors and Pitch Floor verticals.

6

GOVERNMENT & POLICY LEADERS

The Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society, The Ratan Tata Innovation Hub , and senior state officials shaping innovation policy on the ground.

7

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

JNTU Anantapuram leadership, college innovation cells, and university research heads scouting early collaborations.

8

CORPORATE PARTNERS & CSR LEADS

vIEEE India, Wadhwani Foundation, and corporate innovation teams looking for startups to support, partner with, or absorb.

9

SCHOOL INNOVATORS

The Class 6 to Class 10 students at the School Innovation Expo. The founders India will be funding in 2032.



WHO SHOULD SHOWCASE

01

DEEP TECH & HARDWARE
Founders building in robotics, embedded systems, edge computing, and core hardware. The kind of work that needs a lab.

02

AGRITECH & SUPPLY CHAIN
Startups working on yield prediction, traceability, post-harvest logistics, and farmer-facing distribution.

03

HEALTHTECH & BIOTECH
Diagnostics, drug discovery, rural delivery models, and clinical AI. Bonus weight for solutions that work outside Tier-1 hospitals.

04

EDTECH & AI/ML
Personalised learning, automated assessment, vernacular content, and tools that scale teacher productivity.

05

SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE ACTION
Distributed energy, carbon tracking, water systems, and circular economy products. Prototypes preferred over pitches.

06

SMART CITIES & CIVIL TECH
Urban telemetry, traffic and waste systems, municipal data layers, and infrastructure monitoring.

07

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE TECH
Drones, autonomous systems, and dual-use technology with national security relevance. Powered by EtherWing Aerospace.

08

STUDENT & SCHOOL INNOVATORS
College teams from across India and the dedicated School Innovation Expo for Class 6 to Class 10. Early ideas, taken seriously.



WHY BE PART OF IC 2026?

Capital, Mentorship, and Conviction sit in the same room as the founders who need them

ACCESS CAPITAL
The Pitch Floor opens up to ₹1.2 Crores in seed funding through incubation partners. Founders walk in to pitch. They walk out with structured next steps.

MEET DECISION-MAKERS DIRECTLY
The Pitch Floor opens up to ₹1.2 Crores in seed funding through incubation partners. Founders walk in to pitch. They walk out with structured next steps.

SHOWCASE WORK THAT'S READY
A curated Startup Expo of 20 stalls and a 50+ stall exhibition for broader visibility.

GET STRUCTURED MENTORSHIP
Every Pitch Floor session is 30 minutes. 10 of those are dedicated to roadmap feedback. Mentorship is built into the agenda.

BUILD WHERE INDIA NEEDS TO BUILD
The Anantapur edition signals which side of the innovation map you're on. Founders solving for Bharat get noticed at IC 2026.

BRING A COLLEGE COHORT
Bring 10+ student innovators or your campus incubation cell to IC 2026 as a Cohort Partner. Group recognition, dedicated stalls, mentorship slots, and visibility across IC's national campaign. Built for engineering colleges, B-schools, and technology business incubators sending teams to compete and showcase.

POWERING PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND CAPITAL

IC 2026 is built around the founder. It is also built around the harder question — what India's next innovation decade should look like. Strategic Dialogues, hackathon evaluation tracks, and mentor sessions run in parallel across both days. The conversation is structured around outcome.



STRATEGIC DIALOGUES

Keynotes and panels with state leadership, founders who have built through cycles, capital partners, and policy voices. Topics are picked for relevance over headline value.

HACKATHON EVALUATION TRACKS

Three weighted rounds — Idea & Solution Presentation (15%), Prototype Development & Integration (35%), Final Demo & Market Readiness (50%). Three independent evaluators per round.

MENTORSHIP SESSIONS

50+ mentors running structured short-form sessions across AgriTech, EdTech, HealthTech, Smart Cities, Sustainability, and Aerospace. Founders book slots in advance.

VOICES SHAPING INDIA'S INNOVATION FUTURE

BRINGING TOGETHER VOICES FROM

IC 2026 brings together founders, policymakers, researchers, investors, industry leaders, innovators, and ecosystem builders whose ideas, experiences, and leadership are shaping the future of innovation and entrepreneurship in India. The conclave serves as a platform for meaningful conversations, knowledge exchange, collaboration, and action across sectors.



Shri Dr. Venkat Padmanabhan
Managing Director, Microsoft Research India



Shri Srikanth Chandrasekaran
Country Head and Senior Director for IEEE India



Shri Ruchir Dixit
Country Head, Siemens



Shri Gopal Pingali
Global Managing Director, Accenture



Smt. Vijaya Deepti P H
Member - Board of Directors
TATA AIG



Shri Dr. Daniel Jesudoss
Director CSIEAR-United Nations Affairs. Visiting Faculty Ministry of ExternalAffairs-Government of India.



Shri Bala Prasad Peddigari
Chief Innovation Officer - TCS



Shri Mustafa Wajid
Chaiman - MEHER Group



Mallavarapu Suryateja IAS
CEO – APIS, Government of Andhra Pradesh



Shri Sudarsana Rao
Vice - Chancellor, JNTUA



Air Marshal Ravi Kapoor
Former Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command, Indian Air Force



Shri Major General Dr Rajan Kochhar
VSM TEDX speaker, Vice Chairman National Council of News and Broadcasting, International Strategic Affairs and Defence Expert. Advisory Board Niti Policy Lab KMC



Air Vice Marshal Suryakant Chafekar
AVSM, Shaurya Chakra (Retd.), Indian Air Force



Cdr Arun Ravindranathan (Retd)
Chief Manager Avionics, Indian Navy



Shri Nikhil Chakravarthi IAAS
Commissioner of Industries in Telangana



Shri Mr N Venkatesh
Sr. Director, Silicon Labs



Shri Sathyanarayana (Sathya) B V
CEO-DERBI Foundation.
ExDeputy Head, Startup Karnataka, Dept of ITBT, GoK



Smt. Dhatri Reddy IAS
CEO - RTIH & APIS



Shri Puneet Kumar Mishra
Head, Electrical Integration Section-3 - URSC, ISRO



Vinutha Rao M S,
Global Talent Development Head, HCL Tech



Madan Ganesh Velayudham,
Co-Founder & CEO, HabitZup Innovations



Shri Ravikiran Annaswamy
CEO and Co-Founder - Numocity Technologies



Shri Victor Sundararaj
Associate Vice President, Head of Infosys Education Learning and Development - Global Geos, Subsidiaries



Shri Balakrishna I
Joint Director - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology



Shri Prasant Misra, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist - TCS Research



Smt. Vijaya Shanti
Engineering Manager - BGSW, Bosch



Kavina Elavarasan
Engineering Manager, Automated Driving & ADAS Software Development, Bosch Global Software Technologies



Dr J A Chowdary
Former Special Chief Secretary & IT Advisor to Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh



Dr. Saksham Khandelwal
Sr Director, Strategy & AI Charter - CMN Sector, Wipro



Shri Captain Sarish Mathur
Former Director - Indian Navy



Shri Dr M Devanathan
Chair, IEEE TEMS, Bangalore



Prof. N.V.R.Jyotikumar Vice-Chancellor,
Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapuram.



Shri Prof B. S. Satyanarayana
Ph.D (Univ of Cambridge)
Vice Chancellor
Dayananda Sagar University



Shri K. Madhukar Babu
Joint Director (MSME)
Commissioner of Industries, Government of Telangana



Shri Srinath Koppa
Managing Director Prolim India



Shri Rahul Reddy
Joint Director, Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS), Government of Andhra Pradesh



Dr Soma Pandey
AVP at Jio Platforms Ltd.



Srikrishna N.H.
Principal Engineer, Tektronix



Dr. Nagendra Kukkadapu
Founder & Director, Research Heights Foundation (RHF)



Shri Sanjay Nekkanti
CEO & Founder, Dhruva Space


AI-Powered Campus Navigator
Smart Navigation. Real-time Assistance. Seamless.
Seamless Campus Life.
Problem
Students waste time finding classrooms, offices, and events.
Solution
An AI-powered mobile assistant navigation, real-time updates,
Smart Navigation
Find places instantly
Real-time Updates
Live info on classes & events
AI Assistant
Get help in natural language
AI

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

IC 2026 brings together a diverse network of organizations spanning industry, startups, academia, and research. These organizations represent the ideas, technologies, talent, and partnerships that are driving innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

INDUSTRY & CORPORATE ORGANIZATIONS

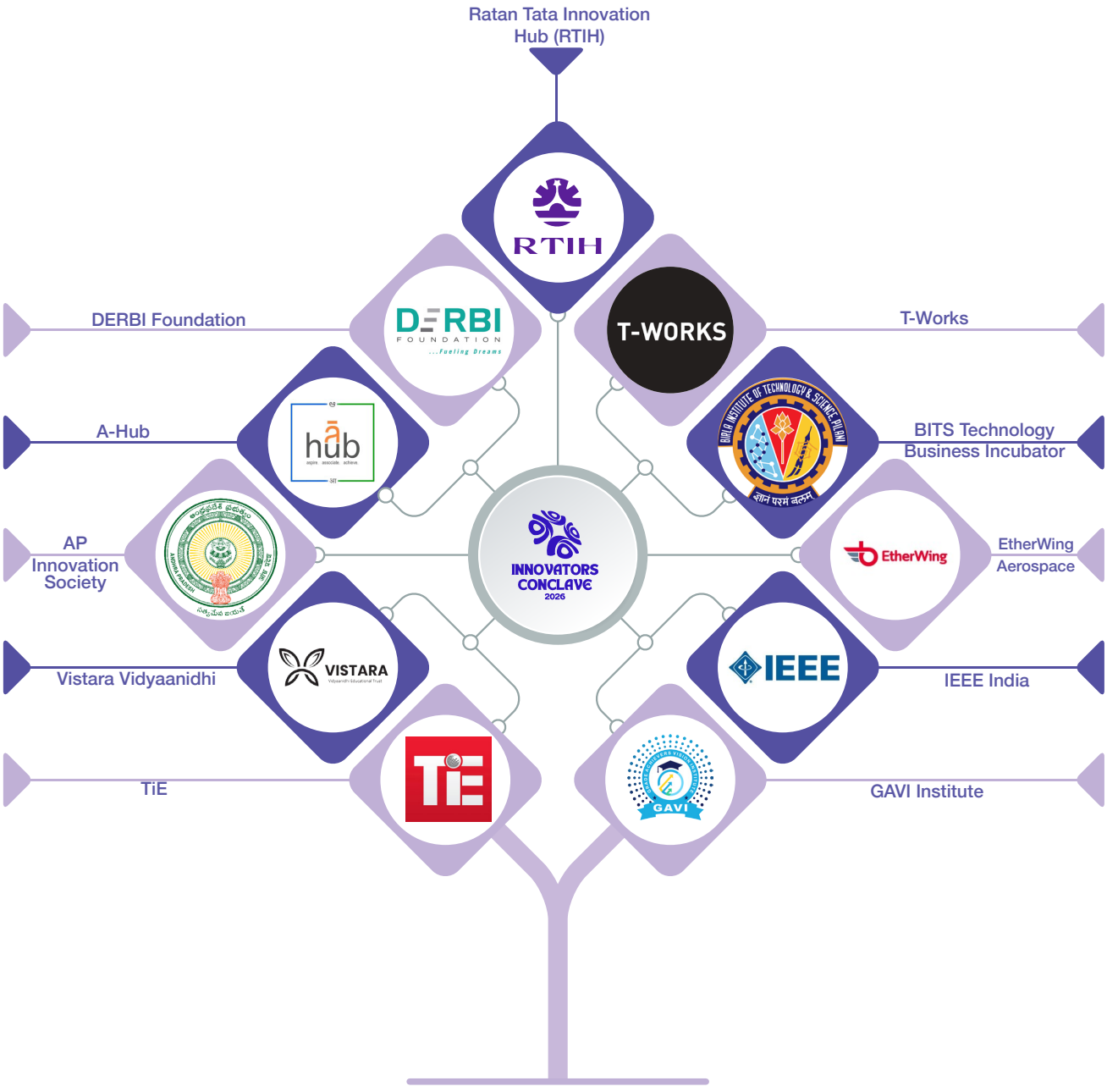
STARTUPS & EMERGING VENTURES

- Arva Health
- Neuphony
- Vidcare Innovations
- Savemom Technologies
- Ayati Devices Life Saving Innovations
- Bagmo Technologies
- Trachealth Technologies
- Urosurge
- Hearthealth Technologies
- Painzio
- Phonologix Health Solutions
- Aspic Innovations
- Biovantis Healthcare
- Coexin Technologies Healthcare
- Cutting Edge Technologies
- Denovo Biolabs
- WeInnovate Biosolutions
- Xfinito Biodesigns
- ZBliss Technologies
- Ameliorate Biotech
- Semantic Web India
- UltraInstinct Technologies (Zeuron.ai)
- Machstatz Business Solutions
- MakerInMe Technologies
- Kmunotag
- KBCols Sciences

The organizations and startups featured above represent the first phase of participants. IC 2026 is expected to bring together 150+ startups, industry leaders, institutions, and ecosystem partners from across India.

THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM BEHIND IC 2026

Behind every successful startup is a strong ecosystem of mentors, incubators, innovation hubs, research institutions, universities, investors, and industry partners. IC 2026 brings together key ecosystem enablers that help innovators transform ideas into impactful ventures through mentorship, incubation, industry connections, funding opportunities, and market access.



IC 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The inaugural edition of Innovators Conclave brought together innovators, institutions, startups, industry leaders, policymakers, and ecosystem enablers to create meaningful opportunities for collaboration, learning, and innovation. The momentum built through IC 2025 now forms the foundation for a larger and more impactful IC 2026.



















CONNECT WITH IC 2026

YOUR LAUNCHPAD OF WHAT'S NEXT.

Two days. One floor. The founders, mentors, investors, and partners shaping India's next innovation decade.

Hackathon & Pitch Floor Applications
Jayavarma: +91 95383 34595
Shafi: +91 89776 91888
Tarun: +91 81798 75959
jayavarma@innovatorsconclave.org.in

Partnership & Sponsorship
+91 94915 20469 – Hemanth Sunkara
+91 93446 22001 – Sujith Kumar S
secretariat@innovatorsconclave.org.in

Cohort Partnerships (College & TBI)
secretariat@innovatorsconclave.org.in

Startup Expo & Innovation Expo
+91 9392704348 – Sharath Bandaari
+91 80196 61641 – Hasheer M
secretariat@innovatorsconclave.org.in

Speaker & Mentor Enquiries
+91 86880 32272
+91 9392704348
secretariat@innovatorsconclave.org.in

Media & Press
secretariat@innovatorsconclave.org.in

General Enquiries
+91 86880 32272 | +91 9392704348 | +91 90635 58141 | +91 94915 20469
secretariat@innovatorsconclave.org.in

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