



IKP INSIDER

July - August '26

TOP STORY

ANRF CEO Meets Leaders of Hyderabad's Innovation Ecosystem



We had the privilege of hosting Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaram, CEO of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), for a roundtable with leaders from Hyderabad's pharma, life sciences, MedTech, and venture financing community. Moderated by our CEO Dr. Satya Prakash Dash, the discussion explored what it will take for India to lead in deep-science innovation, from translational research and technology transfer to biomanufacturing and funding. Participants shared candid perspectives on the gaps to bridge — clinical data access, long-cycle funding, and validation infrastructure. We thank Dr. Kalyanaram and all participants for a forward-looking discussion.

ENGAGEMENTS

IKP and CfHE, IIT Hyderabad Formalise Biodesign Fellowship 2026-27

We formally exchanged an MOU with the Centre for Healthcare Entrepreneurship (CfHE), IIT Hyderabad, launching the IKP-CfHE Biodesign Fellowship 2026-27. The fellowship brings together medicine, engineering, and entrepreneurship to identify unmet clinical needs and translate ideas into scalable healthcare ventures. The partnership reflects our shared commitment to innovation that addresses pressing needs and creates lasting societal impact.



IKP at ICRISAT-ITEC: Fostering Partnerships for Global Technology Transfer

Our CEO Dr. Satya Prakash Dash joined the valedictory of ICRISAT's ISSCA-ITEC programme, "Mastering Technology Transfer: A Global Pathway for Developing Countries," which convened 44 professionals from 20 Global South countries. As Chief Guest, Dr. Dash spoke on Global South collaboration and presented certificates, while our colleague Dr. Vithal K. Lakkineni shared perspectives on partnerships, funding, and innovation.

Advancing Translational Innovation: Dr. Satya Dash at #SYNCHN2026

Dr. Satya Prakash Dash joined the panel "Building the Bridge: Enhancing the Efficiency of Translational Platforms and Accelerators" at #SYNCHN2026, organised by Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) for its 17th Foundation Day. He noted that deep-science funding must be long and substantial, that the path from bench to marketable product must be smoothed, and that Technology Transfer Offices need strengthening. He also commended Blockchain for Impact (BFI) and its leadership, expressing pride in IKP's partnership with BFI.



EVENTS



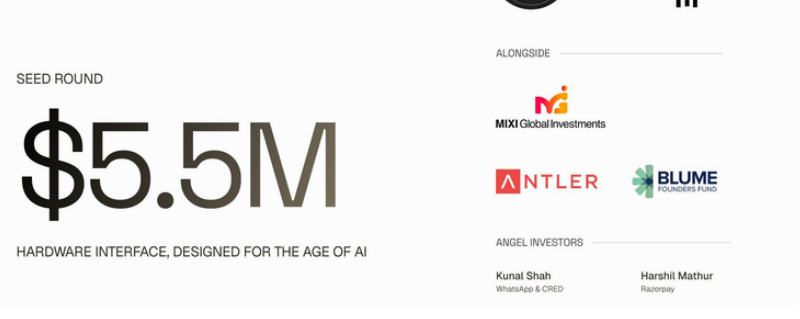
Happy Independence Day! 🇮🇳

We marked India's 80th Independence Day by hoisting the national flag and presenting cash awards to ten meritorious students of the Zilla Parishad School, Turkapally. Here's to an India that is innovative, inclusive, self-reliant, and globally impactful.

STARTUP SUCCESS

Aina Raises \$5.5 Million in Seed Funding

Congratulations to our NIDHI PRAYAS awardee Apoorv Shankar and Team Aina on raising \$5.5 million (approximately ₹53 crore) in seed funding. Aina is developing context-aware hardware that simplifies how users control AI agents. Keep flying high!

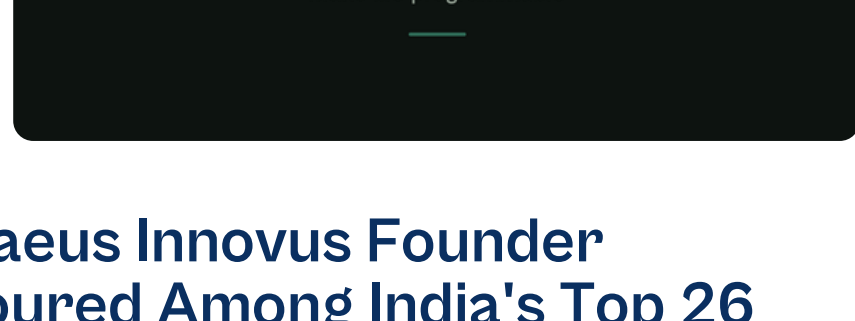


Curium.life Named a Johnson & Johnson QuickFire Challenge Awardee

Felicitations to Curium.life, an IKP portfolio company, on being named a 2026 Polyphonic™ AI Fund for Surgery QuickFire Challenge Awardee by Johnson & Johnson. Its flagship innovation, SurgiMeasure, uses AI, computer vision, and depth algorithms to provide real-time anatomical measurements during laparoscopic and robotic procedures, helping surgeons reduce the risk of complications. Congratulations to the entire team on this well-deserved global recognition.

Mandrake Bio Raises ₹16 Crore in Pre-Seed Funding

Mandrake Bio raised ₹16 crore in a pre-seed round. We are delighted to see one of the startups building at IKP Bengaluru's BioLabs achieve this funding milestone. Mandrake Bio is reimagining gene editing to unlock new possibilities in agriculture and therapeutics, and this funding marks an important step in advancing the next generation of AI-enabled biotechnology.



Astraeus Innovus Founder Honoured Among India's Top 26 Grassroots Innovators

Dr. Jayanti Kumari, Founder of Astraeus Innovus and a BFI BIOME Fellow, was recognised as one of India's Top 26 Grassroots Innovators and honoured by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The recognition celebrates her work on OncoALERT, an indigenous, community-led innovation addressing delayed oral cancer detection in rural communities. We are delighted to see BFI BIOME Fellows driving innovations that are both technologically significant and deeply rooted in community needs.

WORKSHOPS

Building Stronger Pathways for Biomedical Innovation

In partnership with Blockchain for Impact (BFI), we hosted the IP & QARA in Biomedical Innovation workshop, featuring expert sessions from Lakshnikumaran and Sridharan, Remidio, and the IKP team on IP strategy, regulatory pathways, and quality management. Through 1:1 mentoring clinics, founders received practical guidance tailored to their products and innovation journeys—reinforcing our commitment to building a stronger ecosystem for biomedical innovation.



BFI NAMAHA at IKP Convenes a Commercialisation Forum for Biomedical Startups

The BFI NAMAHA at IKP Commercialisation Forum assembled founders, investors, and ecosystem partners for a day of discussions on translating biomedical innovations into scalable healthcare solutions. A highlight was the exchange of the BFI NAMAHA MoU between IKP Knowledge Park and Blockchain for Impact, under which IKP serves as the Southern Hub for NAMAHA, alongside a Letter of Intent with CHARAKA CoE, Government of Karnataka. The forum concluded with a pitch competition featuring seven promising biomedical startups.

VISITS



Connecting Indian Innovation with Global Opportunities

A delegation from Köln Business and NRW.Global Business visited IKP to understand how Indian life sciences and deep-tech startups can build pathways into the German and wider EU markets. Park companies and startups — Laurus Labs, Huwel Lifesciences, Bycus Therapeutics, Footryx Healthcare, and Crystallomorphix Technologies — platformed their innovations and explored international partnerships. The visit sets the stage for a more structured partnership between Köln Business, NRW.Global Business, and IKP Knowledge Park.

NEW JOININGS

Ravi Prasad Podili Joins as Senior Manager – Bioprocessing & Scale-Up

Ravi Prasad Podili joined us as Senior Manager – Bioprocessing & Scale-Up. Ravi brings over two decades of experience in industrial biotechnology, fermentation, and bioprocess development, with prior roles at E.I. DuPont, Reliance Industries, Porus Biosciences LLP, ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, and BRIC-CDPD. At IKP, he will support startups across bioprocess development, fermentation optimisation, and scale-up while strengthening our translational biomanufacturing ecosystem.

Welcome to the Team



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Prasanth Gollakota Joins as Manager – Strategy & Operations

Prasanth Gollakota takes the role of Manager – Strategy & Operations. Prasanth brings experience across systems engineering, project management, and strategic initiatives, with prior roles at Honeywell Technologies and Ascendancy (France), and holds a B.Tech from IIT Madras and an Advanced Masters from ISAE-SUPAERO. Working with the CEO's Office, he will drive strategic planning, business development, and ecosystem partnerships.

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