



STARTUP
INCUBATION AND
INNOVATION
CENTRE
IIT KANPUR



FEBRUARY 2026

TECH की बात

DRIVING INDIA'S
DEFENCE INNOVATION
FRONTIER

Newsletter

Volume-06 | Edition-02



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MENTOR MANTRA

Shikhar Gupta

Director, Energy & Mobility, Strategy and Innovation, PwC

***Shikhar Gupta** | Director, Strategy and Innovation, PwC | Mentor SIIC, IIT Kanpur
He advised numerous global and Indian companies and CXOs on product-market fit, growth, investment strategy, and new business models and is currently building the AI strategy for PwC.*

How AI and Design thinking can be your co-founder

AI is reshaping the scarcest resource in a startup: Founder's time

In all my recent conversations with Startup founders, especially serial entrepreneurs, one thing was clear: *the founders pulling ahead in this era are not necessarily smarter or better funded; they have been successful in saving their 10 to 15 hours a week by delegating tasks that AI/machines can do better.* This allows them to focus on core strategy, their users, and stakeholders and engaging meaningfully with their teams, which, let's be honest, takes a back seat given the administrative tasks founders have.

Hence, the key question for every founder is not whether to use AI but how to maximize the output.

Most founders today are using AI as a smarter search engine; you ask a question, and it generates an answer that is polished and well-researched. This is definitely valuable, but it is just the tip of the iceberg.

The founders, gaining a sustainable advantage, are moving to Agentic AI solutions, systems that do not just answer questions but execute workflows autonomously, without being prompted each time. Let me share a few examples that I encountered in the last few months of my interactions across the globe:

- **Competitive intelligence:** An Agritech startup sets up an agent monitoring competitor websites, pricing pages, and LinkedIn activity daily, and it delivers a weekly briefing to her inbox, saving 40 hours a month and a real-time advantage resulting in margin improvements.
- **Customer churn signals:** A SaaS-based startup leverages AI to track usage data and predicts users showing drop-off behavior, triggering a personalized engagement draft before the team even notices the risk. The result is better customer retention and revenues.
- **Sales and tenders:** A defence startup founder set up an agentic workflow (using tools like the Perplexity API) that monitors IDEX challenges, GeM portal tenders, DRDO announcements, and Ministry of Defence procurement notices daily. It delivers a curated weekly briefing to the founder's inbox with eligibility pre-screened against product specifications. Result: better sales cycles and tender applications.
- **Grant and funding radar:** An agent that can track DPIIT, DST, Startup India, and BIRAC announcements, pre-screen eligibility, and deliver a weekly shortlist.

The list can go on. NASSCOM's 2024 AI Adoption Index surveyed 500 Indian companies and found that while 2-in-3 Indian enterprises recognize AI's potential to drive business growth, fewer than 15% have aligned AI goals with their broader strategy. India's 32,000+ tech startups are sitting on a tool they are not fully using.

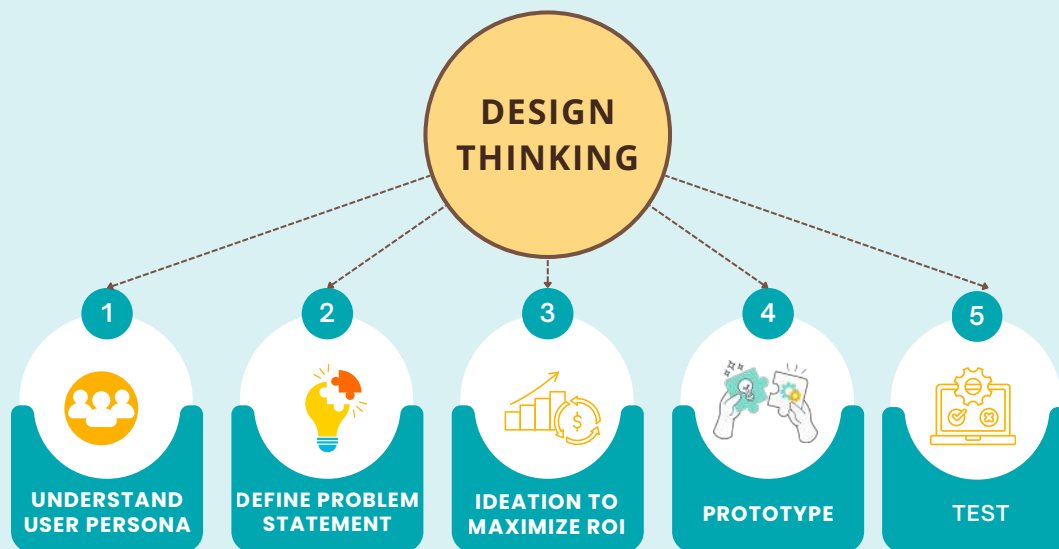
If AI is the engine, Design thinking is the map

I have been running Design Thinking workshops for some time now, and every time, I see founders, product leads, and CXOs surprised by how they missed this approach while designing their strategy.

A CB Insights post-mortem of 101 startups found that 42% failed not from poor execution but because there was no real market need. They built the wrong thing efficiently. In my consulting work advising automotive and energy companies on market entry and product investment, I saw the same failure mode play out at a much larger scale: organizations that had automated and optimized workflows built around the wrong assumptions.

This is where design thinking enters. Think of it as an approach to question your assumptions, data, consumer journeys, and stakeholder needs before you act on the product design. Without it, AI just helps you accelerate towards the wrong destination faster.

HERE ARE THE 5 STAGES OF DESIGN THINKING FOR THE STARTUP WORLD



Start Now!

1. Audit your last week's day-to-day activities. Ask yourself: Which 2-3 tasks took the most time and required the least judgment? Those are your first set of AI automation candidates. Start there.
2. Explore free versions of GPT, Claude, Gemini, and Co-Pilot, whichever you feel most comfortable with. Build custom GPTs and agents and go beyond Q&A with a tool. Now, you can build a custom GPT with a simple conversation, and it will generate the code automatically. Go for investor updates: share your requirements with the tool, and it will generate the prompt and create it for you. See how it feels to reclaim 7-8 hours. Multiply that across a year: 12 months × 8 hours = 96 hours recovered. That is almost 8-9 days redirected to what only you can do.
3. Attach all your operations and customer data securely onto a GPT and run analysis, and find patterns that take hours and often miss deep data correlations. The gaps will surprise you.

The compounding effect of the above is astonishing. A founder who saves just 10 hours a week, by year's end, worked the equivalent of 50+ extra days on areas that actually move the needle. I look forward to exciting conversations on how AI and Design Thinking can accelerate your goals.

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UPCOMING EVENTS/ WORKSHOPS/GRANTS

Explore upcoming grants, events, and workshops scheduled at SIIC.

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NEW INCUBATION



ADKMAKERS PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Rahul Dhingra, ADKMAKERS Private Limited focuses on agriculture and food processing, along with a market intelligence platform. The startup aims to enable data-driven decision-making across agricultural value chains by integrating technology with market insights to support farmers, processors, and agri-enterprises.



SHASTRATVA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Atharva Mahendra Patki and Yash Surendra Raut, Shastratva Technologies Private Limited is developing agricultural mobility technologies to improve farm operations. The startup focuses on innovative mobility solutions designed to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and productivity in agricultural practices.



HAVNOZ BIOMOLUXE PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Akhil C Prakasan, Karthik Unnikrishnan, and Ajith Kaladharan, Havnoz Biomoluxe Private Limited operates in the biotechnology sector. The startup is focused on developing innovative biotech solutions aimed at addressing emerging challenges in healthcare, research, and industrial applications.



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NEW INCUBATION



EVOXIA LABS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Nirmala Chordia, Vinay Bhandari, Aarti, and Harsh Chordia, Evoxia Labs India Private Limited works on the research, development, and manufacturing of sustainable biomaterials, speciality chemicals, and renewable fuels derived from agricultural residues, contributing to circular and low-carbon industrial solutions.



BIO-MINE INNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Subba Raman Kuna, Subbalakshumma Ummadi, Jyothi Rajarapu, and Chaya Sayta Ashok Ananda Kumar Matte, Bio-Mine Innovations Private Limited operates in the biotechnology domain, focusing on developing advanced biotech solutions with potential applications across agriculture, healthcare, and industry.



PROBENTIX AI LABS PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Edpuganti Amarendra and Sujeet Kumar, Probentix AI Labs Private Limited develops artificial intelligence and machine learning solutions for industrial operations. The startup focuses on enhancing operational efficiency through intelligent data-driven systems and automation technologies.



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AGRODETECT PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Md Faiyazuddin and Sundaram Gowri, Agrodetect Private Limited is developing pesticide sensor technologies designed to detect and monitor chemical residues. The solution aims to support safer agricultural practices and improved food safety through real-time monitoring.



AVN AGROBHARAT PRIVATE LIMITED

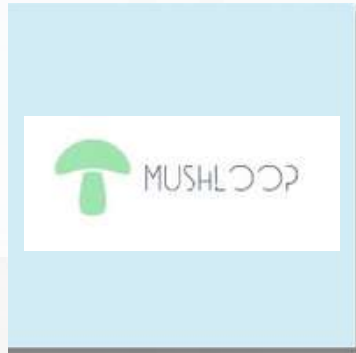
Co-founded by Nilam Amit Chavan and Amit Baban Chavan, AVN Agrobharat Private Limited develops agritech solutions, including IoT-based dairy technologies, livestock health monitoring systems, and automation products for milk quality assessment, supporting smarter and more efficient dairy operations.



VELFORGE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Changaiyan Ethirajulu and Sugumar Vanitha, Velforge Technologies Private Limited is building autonomous AI-powered agricultural robots designed to automate key farming operations and improve productivity through advanced robotics and intelligent systems.

NEW INCUBATION



MUSHLOOP PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Srinivasa Gopalan Srinivasa Narayanan and Premkumar Tanush, Mushloop Private Limited focuses on the development of biomaterials aimed at creating sustainable alternatives for industrial and consumer applications.



GREENMINDS AGROHUB PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Ramesh Nana Umap and Ejas Sahadev Limkar, Greenminds Agrohub Private Limited develops innovative agritech and apiculture technologies, including internal bee venom extraction systems and sustainable beekeeping equipment to enhance farmer income and strengthen pollination services.



ZUVIRON INNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Pawar Prasad Mugutra and Madhura Vinod Jadhav, Zuvion Innovations Private Limited focuses on transforming waste into high-performance sustainable materials for architectural and décor applications, promoting circular economy practices.



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NEW INCUBATION



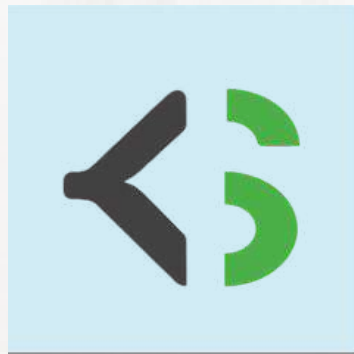
GREENVERZ SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Naveen Anand and Nutan, Greenverz Solutions Private Limited develops precision technology solutions for agriculture aimed at improving productivity, resource efficiency, and data-driven farm management.



STELLARIX SPACE PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Kiran Koushik Dineshkumar and Natarajan Rajamurugu, Stellarix Space Private Limited works on agriculture and food processing solutions supported by market intelligence platforms to improve value chain efficiency and decision-making.



KRASHAK INNOVATIVE SOLUTION PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Atharv Patel, Manish Sharma, and Karan Nahat, Krashak Innovative Solution Private Limited develops robotics and AI-based products for agriculture along with cyber-physical system-based product design to support automation and smart farming.



HITHA AGRI FINTECH PRIVATE LIMITED

Co-founded by Shanta Jagadeesh Sunkad and Jagadeesh Sunkad Chandrakanth, Hitha Agri Fintech Private Limited focuses on financial technology solutions tailored for the agriculture sector, aiming to improve access to financial services for farmers and agri-enterprises.



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IMPACT STORY



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STRENGTHENING INNOVATION PATHWAYS: BRIDGING COMMAND AND CODE: INDIAN NAVY ENGAGES WITH SIIC'S DEEP-TECH ECOSYSTEM



In a significant engagement reflecting the growing synergy between India's defence leadership and its innovation ecosystem, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, visited the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC), IIT Kanpur. The visit highlighted a shared commitment to developing dialogue between institutional stakeholders and emerging technology innovators contributing to national capability building.

The Admiral was welcomed by senior leadership from IIT Kanpur, including Prof. Braj Bhushan, Deputy Director IIT Kanpur; Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean of Research & Development; Air Marshal Philip Thomas AVSM, VM (Retd.) and Prof. Deepu Philip, Professor In-Charge (Incubation & Innovation), Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC). The interaction brought together leadership from academia, defence, and the startup ecosystem in a constructive and forward-looking setting.

Accompanied by SIIC leadership, including Anurag Singh, Chief Investment Officer, SIIC, IIT Kanpur, and Piyush Mishra, COO & CFO, SIIC, IIT Kanpur, the visit included an overview of the incubation centre's activities and engagements with select startups. The discussions focused on broad technology areas such as autonomous systems, cybersecurity, advanced materials, unmanned platforms, and manufacturing innovations—domains that are increasingly relevant to both civilian and strategic applications.

The engagement was marked by thoughtful exchanges, with emphasis on understanding innovation trends, challenges faced by startups, and opportunities for strengthening collaboration frameworks. The visit provided an important platform for innovators to present their work and receive perspectives from experienced leadership.

As noted by Prof. Braj Bhushan, discussions are underway regarding a potential Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Navy and IIT Kanpur. Such an initiative, if formalized, could help create structured avenues for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and application-oriented research, in alignment with national priorities.

For SIIC, the visit represents a meaningful step in strengthening its role as a facilitator of responsible and impactful innovation. It highlights the importance of building bridges between research, entrepreneurship, and institutional stakeholders while maintaining a balanced and collaborative approach.

Such engagements reinforce India's vision of building a self-reliant and innovation-driven defence ecosystem, where academia, startups, and strategic institutions collaborate to accelerate capability development and contribute to the broader goal of Viksit Bharat.



4 February 2026



On 4 February 2026, Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, IIT Kanpur, signed a strategic MoU with AVPL International's Startup Stairs to accelerate the drone and UAV innovation ecosystem. The partnership aims to drive mutual growth through cross-ecosystem collaboration, startup exchange, and joint initiatives. The MoU was signed by Dr. Preet Sandhu, Promoter, Startup Stairs, and Rakesh Ranjan, Manager (Incubation), SIIC IIT Kanpur. By combining SIIC's deep-tech incubation strengths with AVPL's industry leadership, the collaboration will contribute to India's vision of becoming a global drone hub.



23 January 2026



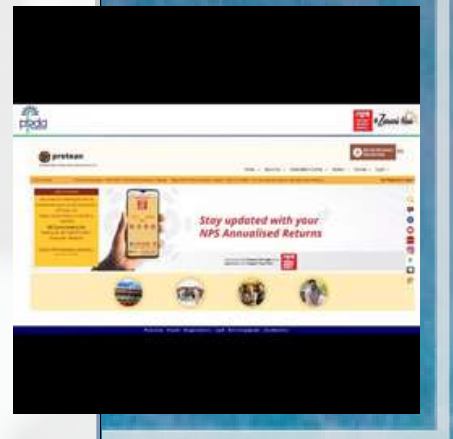
On January 23, 2026, the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, IIT Kanpur, and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch the PFRDA Hackathon 2026 – Innovate4NPS, inviting students and fintech startups to develop inclusive digital solutions for India's pension ecosystem. The inaugural session featured addresses by Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT, Kanpur, Prof. Ankush Sharma, Faculty Advisor, and Chief Guest Puja Upadhyay, PFRDA, Prof. Deepu Philip, Professor-In-Charge, SIIC, IIT Kanpur, and Piyush Mishra, CFO & COO, SIIC, IIT Kanpur, who encouraged student participation, highlighting the importance of innovation in strengthening India's pension ecosystem.

PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

On February 14, 2026, SIIC IIT Kanpur, in collaboration with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), hosted a webinar on "Pensions, Policy, and the Future of Financial Resilience in India's Digital Economy." Shri Paramendra Tiwary, CTO, and Shri K. Mohan Gandhi, Chief General Manager, PFRDA, shared insights on technology integration, regulatory frameworks, and pension innovation, emphasizing that digital solutions and inclusive policy design remain the key drivers of long-term financial resilience in India's evolving NPS ecosystem.

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On February 13, 2026, the AI & Innovation Driven Entrepreneurship CoE, SIIC IIT Kanpur, successfully conducted the second technical session of Cohort 5 on "Cloud Responsibility and Security Basics". Mr. Mragank Singhal delivered a startup-focused deep dive into secure cloud adoption, covering the shared responsibility model, IAM, least privilege principles, and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), emphasizing that building secure, scalable, and cloud-first infrastructure from day one continues to play a pivotal role for startups to innovate responsibly and scale with confidence.

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On February 11, 2026, Mr. Animesh Mishra, Domain Head, SIIC IIT Kanpur, was invited as a Guest at TECH EXPO – Exuberance-26, organized by the Allenhause Group of Institutions. Representing the Centre of Excellence in 5G/6G, he engaged with students showcasing functional prototypes across hardware, software, and hybrid domains, emphasizing that hands-on innovation, practical problem-solving, and early-stage entrepreneurial thinking among young minds highlight the importance of building a robust and future-ready innovation ecosystem.

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PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

On February 10, 2026, SIIC IIT Kanpur welcomed a distinguished delegation from the University of Manitoba, Canada, led by President Dr. Michael Benarroch and senior research leadership, to explore collaborations in global public health and deep-tech domains. Prof. Deepu Philip presented the SIIC innovation ecosystem, while startups including TanPrish Dynamics, Menteve, Lenek Technologies, Medantrik®, GlimpseTech, and Biosprint MedTech showcased their solutions, emphasizing that research-led deep-tech innovation and global academic partnerships reinforce the ecosystem's focus on building scalable, impact-oriented public health solutions.

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On January 18–20, 2026, SIIC IIT Kanpur participated in the UP HealthTech Conclave 1.0, Lucknow, organised by the UP Promote Pharma Council and inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath Ji. Ten SIIC-incubated MedTech startups showcased indigenous healthcare solutions, with TanPrish Dynamics, Genomiki Solutions, and Mobilab emerging among the nine shortlisted startups at the Investor Pitching Session, reinforcing that homegrown deep-tech innovation and strong policy engagement remain the key drivers for scaling India's healthcare ecosystem globally.

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SIIC, IIT Kanpur Showcases at UP HealthTech Conclave 1.0

On January 17, 2026, the AIIDE and MedTech CoEs at SIIC IIT Kanpur conducted an impactful outreach engagement at Jaipuria Institute of Management, Lucknow, in collaboration with Start in UP, DST-NIDHI iTBI, and FICCI. Mr Vasav Krishna spotlighted cutting-edge advancements in AI, MedTech, and the support frameworks offered by both CoEs, emphasizing that structured mentorship, robust infrastructure, and strong institutional partnerships reinforce the ecosystem's focus on empowering the next generation of innovators to build scalable, high-impact deep-tech ventures.

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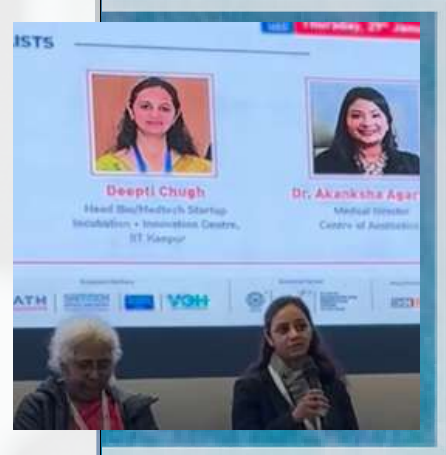


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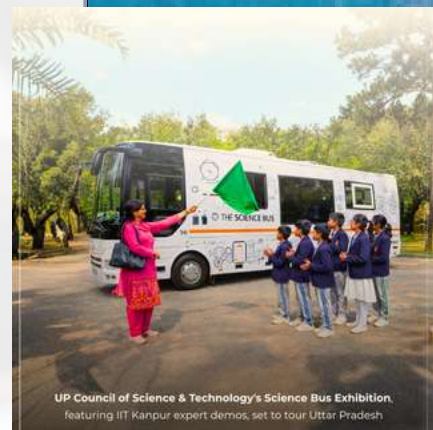
From January 29–31, 2026, SIIC IIT Kanpur proudly served as Academic Partner at Medical Fair India 2026, New Delhi. Dr Deepti Chugh led the Healthcare Forum and represented SIIC as a panellist across key sessions on women in HealthTech and India's IVD ecosystem, while incubated startup Mobilab by Primary Healthtech won 2nd place in the prestigious "Best Digital Health Startup of India" competition, reinforcing that deep-tech mentorship, industry engagement, and homegrown MedTech innovation continue to play a pivotal role for transforming India's healthcare landscape globally.

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On February 15, 2026, the Science Bus Exhibition (साइंस बस प्रदर्शनी) was inaugurated at Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, Jaunpur, by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Vandana Singh and Ms. Rachana Agarwal, under an initiative by Prof. Deepu Philip, IIT Kanpur, operated by the UP Council of Science & Technology. Featuring live demonstrations of telescopes, 3D printers, and chemistry and physical science experiments, the month-long exhibition emphasizes that taking science beyond textbooks through hands-on practical engagement highlights the importance of inspiring scientific curiosity, innovative thinking, and logical reasoning among students and young minds across the region.

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On January 23, 2026, SIIC IIT Kanpur incubated Sakayanagi Research Private Limited under the C3iHub, IIT Kanpur Incubation Program. This deep-tech cybersecurity startup is developing SVIaaS (Secure Virtual Infrastructure as a Service), a tailored cloud security platform offering Indian MSMEs enterprise-grade protection at 60% lower cost, featuring zero-trust architecture, automated regulatory compliance, and hardware-isolated Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, emphasizing that accessible, affordable, and indigenously built cybersecurity solutions reinforce the ecosystem's focus on safeguarding India's ₹1.46 lakh crore MSME cloud market.

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PROGRAM

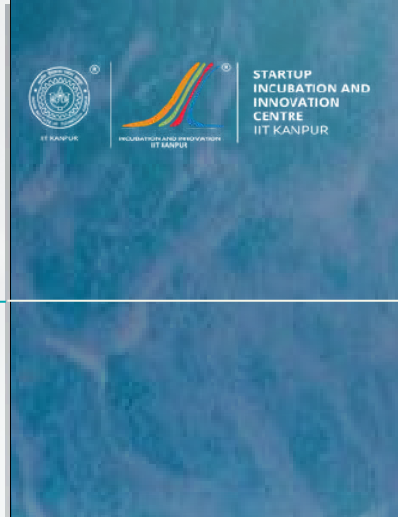
HIGHLIGHTS

On January 16, 2026, SIIC IIT Kanpur, in collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim, BFI, and NIPER Raebareli, hosted a webinar on "Drug Design in the Digital Age – Harnessing Computational Tools for Success." Dr. Anil Mhashal, Computational Biochemist at Prescience Insilico Pvt. Ltd., shared over 15 years of interdisciplinary expertise in molecular simulations, AI/ML-enabled drug design, and in silico discovery, emphasizing that data-driven computational approaches and digital technologies reinforce the ecosystem's focus on accelerating drug discovery and transforming healthcare innovation at scale.

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On January 16, 2026, the Telecom 5G/6G Centre of Excellence at the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, IIT Kanpur, with support from StartIn UP, successfully announced the winners of the Telecom 5G/6G Innovation Hackathon held on December 16, 2025. The hackathon brought together promising innovators and startups to develop next-generation connectivity solutions aligned with national priorities. The initiative highlighted the growing focus on advanced telecom technologies and fostered collaboration among innovators working to strengthen India's digital infrastructure and future-ready communication ecosystem.

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SUCCESS

STORIES



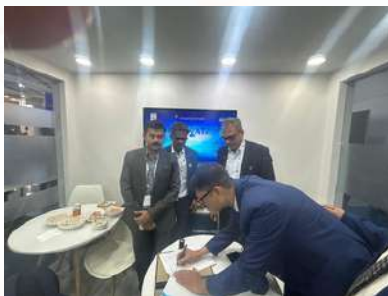
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Kashmeer Organogreens Named Top Emerging Startup at J&K Startup Awards 2025

SIIC IIT Kanpur-incubated Kashmeer Organogreens Pvt. Ltd., has been recognised as the Top Emerging Startup of the Year at the J&K Startup Awards 2025 by JKEDI, to be conferred by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah, reinforcing that purpose-driven innovation at the intersection of sustainability, agriculture, and biotechnology remains the key driver for building a resilient and globally competitive startup ecosystem.

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Maraal Aerospace Secures Strategic Investment from HPCL

SIIC IIT Kanpur-incubated Maraal Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. has entered a strategic partnership with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited under the HP Udgam Startup Initiative at India Energy Week 2026. As part of the agreement, HPCL has committed a strategic investment of ₹2 crore to accelerate the development of Maraal's solar-powered long-endurance UAV platforms.

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Plantables® Represents India at WAM Morocco 2025

SIIC, IIT Kanpur-incubated startup Plantables® represented India at WAM Morocco 2025 in Casablanca as part of the Startup India delegation. Marking its first global exhibition and in-person pitch as a Supernova semi-finalist, the startup showcased plantable calendars, sustainable packaging, and eco-friendly stationery, highlighting India's growing footprint in sustainable manufacturing and design innovation.

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Adiabatic Showcases Innovation at TIDE 2.0 Pravartan

SIIC IIT Kanpur-incubated startup Adiabatic Technologies Pvt. Ltd. has presented its products at the TIDE 2.0 Pravartan event organized by the MeitY Startup Hub. The startup also interacted with Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, highlighting the growing momentum of SIIC-backed deep-tech startups.

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HAB Biomass Represents India at World Economic Forum Davos 2026

SIIC IIT Kanpur-incubated HAB Biomass Pvt. Ltd., has participated in the World Economic Forum 2026 in Davos, Switzerland. The startup showcased its mobile waste-to-value units that convert agricultural biomass into reusable products, advancing decentralised waste management and low-carbon solutions.

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Medantrik Showcases AI Healthcare Innovation at UP HealthTech Conclave

SIIC IIT Kanpur-incubated MedTech startup Medantrik® showcased its AI-powered diagnostic solutions, including the breath-based respiratory monitoring device NODex, at the UP HealthTech Conclave 1.0 inaugurated by Yogi Adityanath. The event highlighted patient-centric innovations aligned with Uttar Pradesh's vision for a strong healthcare and pharmaceutical ecosystem

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Royal Bengal Greentech Founder Wins Young Achiever's Entrepreneurship Award

SIIC, IIT Kanpur-incubated startup Royal Bengal Greentech Pvt. Ltd. - The founder has received the Young Achiever's Entrepreneurship Award at CHEMEast 2026. The recognition celebrates her leadership and innovation in the sustainable materials and chemical technology sector.

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LCB Fertilizers Featured in Netflix Series on Innovators

SIIC IIT Kanpur-incubated LCB Fertilizers Pvt. Ltd., has been featured in the Netflix series Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat ki Nayi Pehchaan. The feature highlights the startup's indigenous organic bio-fertiliser technologies integrating biotechnology, nanotechnology, and chemical engineering for sustainable agriculture.

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Aloe E-Cell Secures ₹3.5 Crore Commitment Through Bharat ke Super Founders

Aloe E-Cell Pvt. Ltd., supported under the Startup Gateway for Garbage Free Cities programme of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban at SIIC IIT Kanpur, has secured a ₹3.5 crore investment through the TV series *Bharat ke Super Founders* on Amazon MX Player. The funding, including ₹2.5 crore equity and ₹1 crore debt from Recur Club, will support rapid scale-up.

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REGENERIX

In this edition of Innovators se Baat, we speak with Aanchal Jain, Founder of Regenerix, a startup working at the intersection of agriculture, sustainability, and climate impact. Named Asia’s Top Sustainability Superwoman 2020, Aanchal is tackling one of North India’s most pressing environmental challenges—stubble burning—through technology and a farmer-first approach. In this conversation, she shares the inspiration behind Regenerix, the realities of working closely with farmers, and her vision for turning agricultural waste into a valuable resource.

Himanshi Kushwaha (HK): Aanchal, tell us how the idea of Regenerix came about.

Aanchal Jain (AJ): Regenerix focuses on solving the stubble-burning crisis across North India. We’ve developed a patented technology that clears agricultural land at no cost to farmers and converts the residue into biofuel for industrial use. Growing up in Delhi, I experienced the impact of pollution firsthand, and after years of working in sustainability, it felt like a natural calling to build a solution that addresses both environmental and agricultural challenges.

HK: What turned out to be more difficult than you expected in the early days of building Regenerix?

AJ: Without a doubt, the biggest challenge was funding. When you start a venture, you know resources are limited, but understanding how the funding ecosystem works takes time—whether it’s applying for grants, approaching incubators, or engaging with investors. For early-stage startups, grants can be particularly helpful because they allow you to build and validate the solution without giving away too much equity too soon.

HK: When you began working closely with farmers, what realities surprised you the most?

AJ: The biggest realization was that farmers don’t actually want to burn stubble. The common perception is that farmers are responsible for the pollution, but the reality is that they simply don’t have a financially viable and quick solution to clear their fields. Once I started visiting farms and speaking directly with them, it became clear that the solution must be built with farmers at the centre, not from a distant perspective.

HK: What change do you hope to see if Regenerix scales successfully?

AJ: My biggest hope is that farmers begin to see stubble not as waste but as a resource that can generate income. If agricultural residue can be converted into products like biomass pellets or biofuel, farmers will naturally shift away from burning it. That mindset change is crucial. If we can achieve that in the next five to ten years, we will not only reduce pollution but also create a more sustainable and economically beneficial ecosystem for farmers.

“Make your mistakes early, stay financially frugal, and pursue your idea with confidence—no matter how challenging the space may seem.”



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UPCOMING

GRANTS/EVENTS/WORKSHOPS



Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, IIT Kanpur

18 Comprehensive Day Bio Training Program

13 - 30 April 2026 | SIC Bio-Incubator Labs, IIT Kanpur

About the Program

An immersive, hands-on training program designed to provide practical exposure to:

- Microbiology & Molecular Biology Techniques
- Laboratory Instrumentation & Calibration
- Translational Innovation & Startup Ecosystem Exposure

Participants will experience expert-led lectures, structured lab sessions, and real-time learning inside SIC's bio-incubation facilities.

Registration Fee: 14,000/-

Accommodation will be provided

Last date to apply: 5th March 2026

Key Learning Modules

- Microbiology & Molecular Biology Basics
- Microbial Culture, Gel Electrophoresis & SDS-PAGE Techniques
- Aseptic Practices & Laboratory Equipment Hands-on Training
- Medical Device Electronics, Soldering & Instrument Exposure
- 3D Printing for Healthcare Innovation
- Entrepreneurship & Startup Creation Basics

What Makes it Unique?

- Startup Interaction
- Lab & Facility Visits
- Prototyping Exposure
- Research-to-Innovation Perspective
- Certification upon Completion

Step into IIT Kanpur's startup ecosystem and experience research-driven learning like never before.

For Any queries : Ms. Monishka Sharma | monishka@iitkfirst.com



bhavyakti
Transforming Frontier Research into viable Solutions

2026

Where the Ecosystem Converges.

Startup

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