

Fortnightly Newsletter

@Investingintalent

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Here's what has happened in the last few days and what's to come!

The TS@liT start-up ecosystem offers unparalleled support to those driving innovation, whether it is mentors or investors, guiding startups effectively. All that the start-ups need is the chance and direction to unleash their potential. This ecosystem aims to unite all stakeholders under one roof, facilitating budding entrepreneurs with specialised skills and expertise, sharing professional insights and contacts gained from years of experience.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Trending News

Funding Opportunities

Stories of Impact

Startup Spotlight

TS@liT event Update

TS@liT Profile Highlights



News from Startup world

Artha India Ventures Closes First Half of INR 500 Cr Second Fund

Artha India Ventures (AIV), the family office of veteran investor Ashok Kumar Damani, has marked the first close of its **INR 500 Cr (\$56 Mn)** Artha Venture Fund II (AVF II) at INR 250 Cr (\$30 Mn). The fund also includes a green-shoe option of INR 100 Cr, allowing for potential expansion based on investor interest.

With AVF II, Artha plans to **back 36 seed-stage startups across sectors** including **premium consumption, fintech infrastructure, applied AI, and deeptech**. The fund will continue to follow Artha's 1-2-4 investment model, designed to provide strategic follow-on capital as portfolio companies scale.

SOURCE: WWW.INC42.COM

smallest.ai Raises \$8 Mn Seed Round to Power Next-Gen Voice AI for Enterprises

Voice AI startup **smallest.ai** has secured **\$8 Mn in seed funding** to accelerate its mission of building enterprise-grade AI voice agents. The round was led by **Sierra Ventures**, with participation from 3one4 Capital, Better Capital, and other strategic investors.

Founded in 2023 by Sudarshan Kamath and Akshat Mandloi, **smallest.ai** is developing foundational AI models for text-to-speech and intelligent voice agents tailored for high-volume enterprise use.

The startup's AI-powered agents are already **handling over 1 million calls** for major clients across industries including **debt collection, real estate, ecommerce, and logistics**—demonstrating real-world traction at scale.

Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

Over 1 crore students from Classes 6 to 12 across India are set to participate in the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, the country's largest school hackathon, aimed at fostering innovation and problem-solving at a young age.

Launched on September 23, 2025, by Hon'ble Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, the event encourages students to develop prototypes aligned with themes such as Swadeshi, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local and Samridh Bharat.

Key Dates & Program Timeline:

- **Sept. 23, 2025:** Official Launch
- **Sept. 23 – Oct. 11:** Student registrations open on the official portal
- **Oct. 11 – Oct. 12:** Team formation, mentoring, idea camps, and innovation circles
- **Oct. 13, 2025:** Nationwide Synchronised Live Buildathon – live-streamed across all participating schools
- **Oct. 13 – Oct. 31:** Entry submissions on the portal
- **Nov. 1 – Dec. 31:** Evaluation by expert panel
- **Jan. 2026:** Felicitation of top-performing teams

Awards & Recognition: With a prize pool of ₹1 Crore, the Buildathon will recognize:

- 10 National-level winners
- 100 State-level winners
- 1,000 District-level winners

This initiative will empower young minds with the tools to innovate and build solutions.

To get more information, please visit :

<https://www.pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?id=150345&NotelId=150345&ModuleId=16>

JOIN US

To join us , please click the below link and submit your details

<https://forms.gle/ecZEUvhNDluCXndE7>



<https://forms.gle/cjAdmimpHyPUdEDD8>



<https://forms.gle/cgirZhrtDzN9xBon8>



SAApply Roundup-Open Calls for grants & Funding Opportunities
visit www.saapply.com

- **The Flash Program 2025** : Oct 17th 2025
- **DISHA 2.0** : October 20th 2025
- **UNICEF Climate Innovation Challenge** :Oct 21st 2025
- **MANAGE-CIA Cohort 14:** Oct 25th 2025
- **MEITY Genesis Scheme (NewGen IEDC – University of Kashmir)** : Oct 30th 2025
- **Go-to-Market UK 2025** : Oct 31st 2025
- **Ideabaaz Dangal Registration for Start-ups** : Oct 31st 2025

Previous Blogs



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