

Newsletter

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Vol.19

TEAM TS@IIT AT WORK:

The TS@IIT team offers exceptional support to innovation stakeholders. We understand that promising young innovators need opportunities to gain visibility and tailored support to fully develop their potential. Our goal is to bring together all the players in this ecosystem, facilitating access to skills, expertise, professional knowledge, and business networks for budding innovators and entrepreneurs.



NEWS FROM STARTUP WORLD

Major Funding Highlights

- Drivr: Raised ₹45 crore (\$4.7 million) in a seed round led by Avaana Capital.
- Disha (formerly Curelink): Secured ₹43.88 crore in a Series A round led by General Catalyst.
- Rio Health: Raised ₹43.08 crore (\$4.5 million) in a pre-Series A round led by Version One Ventures.
- Sol: Secured \$4 million in funding from General Catalyst and Nexus Venture Partners.

Key Acquisitions and Mergers

- L'Oréal Acquires Onesto Labs: Global beauty giant L'Oréal acquired Indian D2C beauty startup Onesto Labs to expand its presence in the local beauty market.
- Anarock Acquires DSP Design: Real estate advisory and consulting firm Anarock acquired DSP Design as part of a strategic business consolidation.
- Unstop to Acquire PerspectAI: Engagement and hiring platform Unstop moved to acquire gamified talent assessment startup PerspectAI.
- Lentra AI Acquires Data Harbor: Lending cloud platform Lentra AI acquired Data Harbor to strengthen its data infrastructure and processing capabilities.



UPCOMING STARTUP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP EVENTS

- **Entrepreneur India Summit and Awards 2026: October 5, 2026 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**
- **New Delhi 2026 Venture Capital World Summit: October 9, 2026, bringing global investors and scale-ups together.**
- **Startup Business Summit 2026: October 11, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**
- **Bharat Leadership Summit 2026: November 1, 2026 in Mehrauli, New Delhi**
- **Startup Summit 2026 (Spring Edition): November 28, 2026 in Sector 49, Gurugram**

Newsletter

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Vol.19

TEAMSTRATEGIZE AT UPE-SEEDS 2026: CELEBRATING INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COLLABORATION



An enriching experience at the Uttar Pradesh East Startups Ecosystem & Entrepreneurship Development Summit

The spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship came alive at UPE-SEEDS 2026 – Uttar Pradesh East Startups Ecosystem & Entrepreneurship Development Summit, a two-day event held on 25th and 26th September 2026 at Ashoka Institute of Engineering & Technology. Representing TeamStrategize, our Co-founder, Ms. Monalisa Mallick, had the privilege of attending the summit and being part of a dynamic ecosystem that brought together startups, innovators, investors, mentors, academicians, and industry professionals.

A Vibrant Platform for Startups and Innovators

The summit provided an engaging platform for 71 startups and business innovators to showcase their ideas, prototypes, products, and entrepreneurial ventures. The diversity of ideas and solutions presented reflected the growing spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation among emerging businesses. Beyond showcasing ventures, the event created opportunities for meaningful interactions and knowledge exchange. The presence of industry leaders, angel investors, venture capitalists, and experienced industry mentors enabled participants to connect with individuals who could offer valuable insights, guidance, and perspectives on navigating the evolving startup ecosystem.

Conversations That Inspire the Next Generation : One of the highlights of the summit was the series of panel discussions organised for students. Industry mentors and academicians came together to explore important aspects of entrepreneurship, including the challenges faced by emerging entrepreneurs, opportunities within the startup landscape, and emerging trends shaping the future of business and innovation. These conversations offered students an opportunity to gain perspectives beyond the classroom and understand the practical realities of building ideas into sustainable ventures.

Bringing Innovation and Collaboration Together: UPE-SEEDS 2026 demonstrated the value of creating spaces where ideas, people, knowledge, and opportunities can come together. For startups and innovators, such platforms can provide more than visibility. They can open doors to mentorship, collaboration, networking, knowledge sharing, and meaningful connections with the wider business community. For students and aspiring entrepreneurs, interactions with industry professionals can provide valuable exposure to the possibilities and challenges associated with entrepreneurship. The summit was therefore not simply a showcase of innovative ideas; it was also a celebration of the collaborative ecosystem required to help those ideas develop and grow.

Gratitude to the Organisers and Contributors: TeamStrategize extends its heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Sarika Shrivastava for organising this wonderful event and creating a valuable platform for startups and innovators to connect, present their ideas, and explore opportunities for growth.

A special note of gratitude goes to Dr. Aparna Singh for her invaluable support, dedication, and contribution towards making the event meaningful and inspiring. Her efforts in encouraging innovation and creating opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs played an important role in the success of the initiative.

Looking Ahead : Being part of UPE-SEEDS 2026 was an enriching experience for TeamStrategize and an opportunity to witness the enthusiasm, creativity, and determination of entrepreneurs and innovators.

As India's startup ecosystem continues to evolve, platforms that encourage innovation, mentorship, collaboration, and knowledge exchange remain important in supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs.

We congratulate all 71 participating startups and innovators for their efforts and for bringing their ideas and entrepreneurial journeys to the platform.

TeamStrategize is grateful to have been part of this inspiring celebration of innovation and entrepreneurship and looks forward to contributing to many more such initiatives in the future. 🌟🚀



Newsletter

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Vol.19

BLOG -FROM CAMPUS IDEAS TO REAL BUSINESSES: THE EVOLUTION OF INCUBATION CENTRES IN INDIA

A decade ago, the idea of a student starting a company while still in college sounded exciting, but for most students, it was also largely unrealistic. The conventional Indian education system was built around a familiar path: complete your degree, secure a good placement and begin your career.

That mindset began to change around 2016.

The launch of Startup India in January 2016, along with government initiatives such as NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) and the Atal Innovation Mission, gave significant momentum to the idea that colleges and universities could be more than institutions focused on classrooms and examinations. They could also become environments where ideas are discovered, tested, mentored, funded and eventually transformed into businesses.

Importantly, however, it would be inaccurate to suggest that the government simply began funding colleges to set up incubation centres after 2016. The ecosystem evolved through a combination of schemes, institutions and programmes, with government support flowing to selected incubators, Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), innovation programmes and entrepreneurship initiatives.

Over time, these efforts helped create a more structured support system around student entrepreneurship. Universities began establishing incubation centres, innovation cells and entrepreneurship clubs, while students gained greater access to mentors, grants, competitions, prototyping facilities and early-stage funding.

To read the blog, visit www.investingintalent.in or please click on this link -

<https://investingintalent.in/blog/from-campus-ideas-to-real-businesses-the-evolution-of-incubation-centres-in-india/>

SAaply Roundup-Open Calls for Grants & Funding Opportunities

- Honda Innovation Challenge 2.0 with T-Hub-October 02nd 2026
- Bharat Ki Startup Story: October 04th 2026
- PearX by Pear VC (Global): October 4th 2026
- Heat & Health Innovation Challenge (HHIC) 1.0 -October 10th 2026
- Avinya'27: October 15th 2026

visit www.saaply.com

OUR



- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/what-is-technology-transfer/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/partnerships-a-game-changer/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/what-is-important-for-new-age-entrepreneur-money-or-managing-aspiration/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/major-failure-points-faced-by-start-ups/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/what-is-technology-transfer-office/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/brainstorming-tools/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/the-workings-of-networking>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/electric-vehicles-ev-in-the-start-up-world/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/role-of-banking-in-start-ups/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/how-startups-can-leverage-ai-in-learning-development-to-scale-smarter/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/nidhi-prayas-nidhi-sss-how-indian-startups-can-get-government-funding/>
- <https://investingintalent.in/blog/branding-for-startups-building-a-brand-that-sticks-and-succeeds/>