

Education TIMES

Industry-led research key to boosting India's innovation ecosystem

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Promoting research collaborations among top-tier institutions such as CSIR and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), increasing industry-led research can significantly boost research, says C Anandharamakrishnan, director, CSIR National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, on the sidelines of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024, organised by the institute in Assam.

Will collaborations between top-tier institutions such as CSIR and HEIs help democratise R&D?

We are partnering with AIIMS New Delhi to validate our products, as external validation is essential. While collaborations between research institutes and higher education institutions (HEIs) are improving, they remain limited. Greater visibility and integration are needed to foster impactful research outcomes; a gap needs to be bridged. India's innovation ecosystem is changing. For instance, the number of unicorns has grown from 42 in 2017 to 111 in 2024. Many young entrepreneurs aim to turn their ideas into business models rather than just seeking jobs. This is evident in the rise of new coffee shop brands and startups. However, more support is needed for

6 We created an artificial human digestive system that can test low-GI biscuits. This system simulates the stomach and intestine, allowing researchers to observe the impact of foods on blood sugar levels.
- C Anandharamakrishnan



contributes only 26% to India's GDP. Industries need to double their production to grow. However, research contributions are still limited. Industry should define the problem statements, and research institutes should collaborate to address them. There is also a gap in scientists' soft skills, which hampers their ability to promote their innovations.



scientists to commercialise their inventions.

Challenges in fostering innovation and establishing India as a global R&D hub?

Currently, manufacturing

What are the key chal-



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