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

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romoting research collaborations among institutions top-tier such as CSIR and tion

Higher Educa-Institutions (HEIs), increasing industry-led

research can significantly boost research. says C Anandharamakrishnan, director, CSIR National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NHST), Thiruvananthapuram, on the sidelines of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024, organised by the institu-

Will collaborations between top-tier institutions such CSIR and HEIshelp democratise R&D?

te in Assam.

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

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

scientists to commercialise their inventions.

What are the key chal-

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

Currently, manufacturing

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 address to them. There is also a gap in scientists' soft skills, which hampers their ability to promote their innovations.





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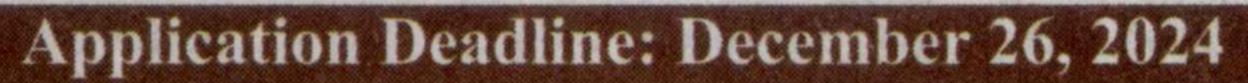
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