

Incubator Roundtable Conference Report

Location: Raipur & Shillong

Date: 10th July 2024

Theme: Strengthening the Incubator Ecosystem in Chhattisgarh

Venue: Udyog Bhawan, Raipur

List of participants from incubators are provided in Annexure - 1

1. Current Incubator Ecosystem

- The state has a growing network of incubators, primarily concentrated in Raipur, Durg and Bilai.
- Limited penetration in tier-2 and rural areas, restricting outreach to emerging entrepreneurs.
- Existing incubators face challenges in sustaining operations due to lack of ecosystem support and funding constraints.

2. Challenges Discussed

- Operational Expenses: Incubators struggle to cover recurring costs like staffing, infrastructure, and utilities.
- Mentorship Gap: Shortage of experienced mentors and domain experts to guide startups.
- Limited Ecosystem Players: Absence of strong linkages with investors, corporates, and academia.
- Geographical Concentration: Need to expand beyond Raipur and Bilaspur to underserved regions.
- Policy Awareness: Lack of clarity on government schemes and support mechanisms.

3. Suggestions from Incubators

- Financial Support: Provision for operational grants and sustainability funding.
- Mentor Network Development: Create a structured mentor pool with incentives for participation.
- Regional Outreach: Establish satellite incubation centers in smaller towns and districts.
- Capacity Building: Regular training for incubator managers and startup founders.
- Collaborative Platforms: Facilitate partnerships between incubators, industry, and academia.

4. Government Perspective

- Plans to strengthen incubation infrastructure under state innovation policies.
- Focus on expanding incubation facilities to districts beyond Raipur and Bilaspur.
- Exploring funding mechanisms for operational expenses and mentor engagement.
- Commitment to ecosystem development, including investor connect programs and skill-building initiatives.

Key Takeaways

- **Ecosystem Support is Critical:** Incubators need sustained financial and policy backing.
- **Mentorship & Networking:** Building a robust mentor network and ecosystem partnerships is essential.
- **Regional Penetration:** Expansion into underserved areas will democratize entrepreneurship.
- **Collaborative Approach:** Government, incubators, and private players must work together to create a thriving startup ecosystem.

Photographs of the program



Annexure -1 - List of participants from incubators

Sweekar Pawar
Dr. Hulas Pathak
Siddhartha Chaubey
Dr. Venugopal
Manoj Rungta
Sourabh Rungta"
Dr. Satish Verulkar
Dr. Ashok Chandra
Dr. Sameer Bajpai/Dr. Anuj Kumar Shukla/ Medha Singh
Dr Amit Agarwal
Prashant Mathur
Dr. Sanjeev Parashar/ Satyasiba Das/Aisha Ansari
Mr. Samiran Mitra
Dr. Roshan Mathew
Dr. Dipayan Priyadarshi
Dr.Byju John
Mr.Pankaj Tiwari
Ravi Kumar Tiwari
Alok Kumar
R S Talwekar
Dr. R N Patel
Dr. Nishant Tripathi
Saurav Yadav
Dr. Tulika Sharma