ITRI Pulse

India's Translational Research Initiative (ITRI)

April, 2026

About ITRI

India's Translational Research Initiative (ITRI) is a nationwide, collaborative philanthropic initiative to catalyse innovation and create impact through foundational science and translational research.

ITRI co-supports the Discovery to Innovation Accelerator (DIA) at C-CAMP to advance translational pathways for Deep-Science Innovation

The Discovery to Innovation Accelerator (DIA) at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), co-supported by India's Translational Research Initiative (ITRI), continues to demonstrate the power of catalytic funding in translating academic research into real-world solutions. Designed to de-risk promising early-stage discoveries in healthcare, agriculture, and the environment, DIA supports researchers in moving innovations beyond the laboratory toward commercially viable, industry-relevant technologies

By enabling stronger translational pathways between publicly funded research and market application, the DIA model is helping strengthen India's deep-science innovation ecosystem. ITRI's support reflects its broader mission of building the institutional and infrastructural bridges needed to move breakthrough research from labs to pilots, partnerships, and scalable impact.

TRC Spotlight: CAAR at IIT Madras Driving India's Automotive Innovation Future

The Centre of Excellence in Advanced Automotive Research (CAAR) at Indian Institute of Technology Madras is emerging as a key force in strengthening India's automotive innovation ecosystem by bridging the gap between research and commercialization in advanced mobility technologies. Conceived as a national open-access automotive R&D platform, CAAR is focused on enabling development-stage testing in critical areas such as electric vehicles, battery systems, power electronics, and software-defined vehicles domains central to India's future mobility competitiveness.

At the core of CAAR is a leadership team that blends academic excellence with industry expertise. The initiative is led by Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian as Lead Principal Investigator, supported by Thiruppathy Srinivasan as CEO. Together, they bring the scientific depth and executional experience needed to position CAAR as a strong translational bridge between academia, industry, and government in advancing next-generation automotive technologies.

Can Philanthropy Unlock India's Green Economy Potential?

In a recent episode of Unusual Suspects, hosted by Gaurav Choudhury of moneycontrol.com, Mirik Gogri joined Prof. Nagaraja (Naga) Prakasam, Resident Mentor, NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore, and Srikrishna Sridhar Murthy, Co-founder and CEO of Sattva Consulting, to discuss the structural barriers to scaling green innovation in India. The conversation highlighted three critical enablers for bridging the translational gap between scientific discovery and commercialization: the need for shared pilot and prototyping infrastructure to help lab innovations scale,

the importance of ensuring new green technologies are competitive, reliable, and safe for widespread adoption, and the necessity of stronger ecosystem coordination across research institutions, industry, investors, philanthropy, and policymakers. Together, these insights underscored that scaling green innovation in India requires building not just better technologies, but stronger systems around them.

View the entire podcast here

ITRI Participates in आरोग्य Next: Reimagining the Therapeutic Playbook at IIT Bombay under the aegis of Wadhwani Innovation and Translation Centre (WITC).

At a recent convening hosted by the Wadhwani Innovation & Translation Centre, IIT Bombay, Dr. Abdur Rub, ITRI-CEO, moderated a panel on "Towards Antyodaya: Improving Access to Next-Gen Therapeutics," addressing the challenge of making precision medicine affordable and accessible in India. He highlighted the widening gap between advances in biologics and cell therapies and the economic realities of patients, underscoring that innovation without affordability risks deepening healthcare inequity.

Bringing together experts from oncology, public health, and biopharma, the session explored how frugal engineering, scalable care models, and initiatives such as Biopharma SHAKTI can help bridge the gap between scientific breakthroughs and equitable patient access—ensuring next-generation therapeutics reach beyond major urban centers.

Dr. Abdur Rub joins the jury for Avaana–Startup India Grand Challenge for Deep Tech Innovation 2025–26

Dr. Abdur Rub, CEO, ITRI, joins the jury for the Avaana–Startup India Grand Challenge for Deep Tech Innovation 2025–26, a flagship national initiative by Avaana Capital and Startup India aimed at identifying and accelerating breakthrough deep-tech startups addressing India's strategic priorities. As a stream jury member, he will evaluate shortlisted innovators across sectors such as energy, advanced manufacturing, AI, space tech, and bioengineering, and provide strategic feedback to help

strengthen their commercialization pathways. The Grand Challenge offers selected startups grant support, mentorship, expert-led masterclasses, and access to strategic partnerships, making it an important platform for advancing India's frontier technology ecosystem.