ITRI Pulse

India's Translational Research Initiative (ITRI)

July 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.

Sashi Sairaman Joins ITRI as Chief Operating Officer (COO)

ITRI is pleased to welcome Sashi Sairaman as its Chief Operating Officer (COO). An entrepreneur, operator, and board leader with over two decades of experience, Sashi has built and scaled businesses across advanced manufacturing, complex engineering, technology, and digital transformation. She is an engineer by training and an MBA from IIM Calcutta, she has founded, bootstrapped, financed, and successfully exited multiple ventures. Prior to joining ITRI, Sashi worked with The Convergence Foundation, where she led district-level economic development initiatives focused on strengthening local economies through collaborative, systems-based approaches. She also serves on the Board of Governors of IIITDM Kurnool, is a Certified Independent Director, mentors social enterprises and deep-tech startups, and contributes to startup evaluation through Campus Angels. Her experience across industry, entrepreneurship, and institution building brings a strong operational and ecosystem perspective to ITRI.

ITRI Co-Hosts a Workshop on Building a National Sensor Consortium at CMTI, Bengaluru

ITRI co-hosted a national stakeholders' workshop to develop a shared vision for a National Sensor Hub and a collaborative consortium to strengthen India's sensor ecosystem with the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI), Bengaluru. The workshop was led by Dr. Abdur Rub, ITRI CEO, along with Harsha S. and Prof. M. M. Nayak from CMTI, and Dr. Sangeeta Semwal from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Together, they led discussions on priority sectors, technology gaps, and the infrastructure needed to accelerate sensor innovation and commercialization.

The discussions focused on a roadmap for indigenous sensor technologies. Participants identified the testing, calibration, certification, and validation facilities needed to support their development. They also explored the creation of a National Sensor Consortium, better use of existing infrastructure, and ways to improve shared access. The workshop highlighted the need for coordinated investments and the role of philanthropy in strengthening translational infrastructure. Together, these efforts can speed up the development and deployment of sensor technologies across strategic sectors.

TRC Spotlight: Advanced Manufacturing Translational Research Centre (AMTRaC) at IIT Delhi

The Advanced Manufacturing Translational Research Centre (AMTRaC) at IIT Delhi is envisioned as a dedicated Translational Research Centre (TRC) for advanced manufacturing, addressing a critical gap between engineering research and industrial deployment. Rather than focusing solely on component development, AMTRaC aims to develop validated manufacturing processes, document production know-how, and transfer these capabilities to industry through a coordinated national network spanning academia, MSMEs, industrial clusters, tool rooms, and technology partners.

Based at IIT Delhi, AMTRaC will use the institute's manufacturing facilities, industry links, and strategic location to support India's manufacturing growth. The centre will develop common manufacturing methods, testing processes, and technology transfer models while building a national network of partners. By helping move research into industry faster, AMTRaC aims to reduce import dependence and strengthen manufacturing across key sectors.

Dr. Abdur Rub Talks About Bridging the "Valley of Death" in Biopharma Innovation

Dr. Abdur Rub, ITRI CEO was featured in the inaugural episode of the Biologics Platform Conversations podcast, where he discussed why promising biopharmaceutical innovations often fail to progress from laboratory research to commercial deployment. He emphasized that while funding is essential, it is only one part of the solution. Building shared translational infrastructure, strengthening industry–academia collaboration, and creating coordinated pathways for technology validation, scale-up, and manufacturing are equally critical to enabling innovations to progress across Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs). The conversation highlighted the need to move beyond isolated investments and instead build integrated translational ecosystems that support innovators throughout the commercialization journey. Reinforcing ITRI's mission, Dr. Rub highlighted how shared infrastructure and collaborative ecosystems can bridge the "valley of death" between research and commercialization.

View the entire podcast here

ITRI Visits Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Manufacturing Cluster in Aurangabad

ITRI recently visited four key institutions in the Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar manufacturing clster to explore how regional manufacturing ecosystems can strengthen India's translational research landscape. The visit highlighted the value of shared testing, prototyping, and manufacturing infrastructure in accelerating research commercialization, while showcasing the role of incubators and cluster-based facilities in supporting MSMEs and startups with access to advanced equipment and product development. Discussions also identified key challenges, including the need for stronger precision manufacturing capabilities, advanced materials for EVs, improved quality consistency, and greater access to technology transfer from global partners.

Discussions on Sustainable Biomanufacturing, Smart Materials, and Healthcare at IKP Knowledge Park

ITRI visited IKP Knowledge Park to explore opportunities for advancing India's biomanufacturing ecosystem through translational research and strategic collaboration. During the visit, Mirik Gogri and Dr. Abdur Rub met with Satya Prakash Dash (CEO), Sridhar Ramanathan (Senior Vice President), and Prashant Gaur (Vice President) to discuss opportunities across sustainable biomanufacturing, smart materials, and healthcare. The discussions focused on strengthening the ecosystem required to translate scientific discoveries into scalable technologies by fostering stronger industry-academia partnerships and enabling commercialization.