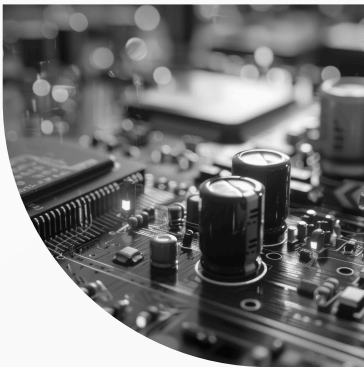


ITEL Foundation

# Building India for Technology Leadership



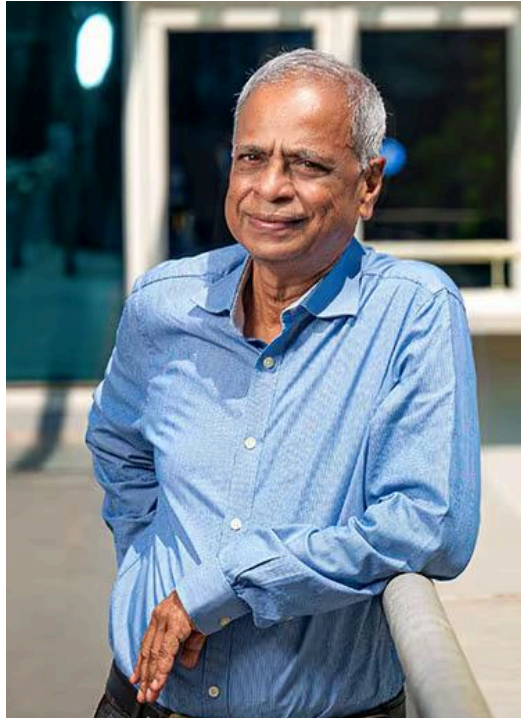
Annual Report  
2025-2026



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# Message from the Chairman



We are happy to present ITEL Foundation's first Annual Report - a milestone that marks our foundation year and the courage it took to begin.

This year was less about perfection and more about belief. Belief in people coming together, in teams learning as they build, in collaboration across institutions, and in returning to the very core of technology to ask why it matters and whom it serves.

We found new partners, tested ideas, faced our share of ups and downs, and emerged stronger with every step.

I am grateful to our partners, mentors, team, and supporters who continue to believe in ITEL's mission. With this collective energy, we look ahead with optimism, committed to building solutions that serve people and the nation.

Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala  
Institute Professor, IIT Madras  
Chairman, ITEL Foundation

# Year in Numbers

10

Focused Consortiums

8

Major Technology Initiatives

22

Institute Partners

22

Industry Partners

43

Deep-tech Startups Incubated

12+

Technology domains incubated across

54.17 Cr

Funding Raised by our Startups

# Technology Initiatives

ITEL Foundation is on a mission to solve some of India's most complex, seemingly impossible problems. Each of our technology initiatives is centered around one such problem, and led by a consortium of industry experts, researchers, scientists, startups and young technologists working together toward a common goal.

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## HASHTIC

Making 15 Kms in 20 minutes a reality.

9

## Eliminating Urban Waterlogging

Waterlogging-free cities in India by 2030.

14

## Assistive Technology

Solving engineering challenges, building affordability and access in 6+ areas.

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## Climate Tech (Materials and Resource Management)

Value from waste, circularity and advanced functional materials for India

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## Climate Tech (Energy)

Powering India's shift to Clean Energy through technology and policy push.

30

## Cybersecurity

Targeting 90% sovereign cybersecurity products in India by 2035.

34

## Vikram Sarabhai AI Labs

Edge-native, Sovereign in 22+ Indian languages, serving every Indian

36

## Build Club

Nurturing India's next generation of innovators and technologists.



# HASHTIC

## Revolutionizing the urban commute



The average Indian loses up to 2 years of their life simply stuck in traffic.

Urban congestion is on the rise across India's cities, with a commute less than 15km taking over an hour. The reason - heavy traffic and overcrowded roads. Rapid urbanization led to an explosion in the number of vehicles, but the road infrastructure has not kept pace with this growth. As more people continue to migrate to cities, the pressure on the road network and public transport will increase. Extended time on the road leads to delays, but also adds to pollution, stress and loss of productivity. Last-mile connectivity in public transport is still an issue, and without effective solutions, the problem is likely to worsen over time.

We took up the challenge, and developed a solution that makes a 15km commute possible in 20 minutes. A solution for the present, and for the future.

## About HASHTIC

Our solution to the urban congestion problem is a High-throughput Autonomous Sustainable Human Transportation for India's next Century. We call it HASHTIC.

HASHTIC is designed to transform the urban commute experience across Indian cities. Travel duration will be predictable and reliable — giving commuters the confidence of knowing their ETA. Beyond speed and reliability, HASHTIC is designed to be comfortable, safe and is intended to serve the general public at a fare comparable to the cost of a two-wheeler trip — making the solution available to the everyday commuter.

The system involves elevated corridors, laid out in a grid across the city. The corridors are elevated at two different heights, with no intersections, no signals, no stopping. AI-driven autonomous pods will travel on these corridors, carrying two passengers each. The grid is designed such that up to 20 different route options exist between any two points in the city. A centralized controller assigns the least-congested route in real time. Every intersection in the grid has a station, ensuring that the commuter can find their nearest station within 400 metres.

## Foundation Learnings

HASHTIC's development journey began with a series of scaled toy-model experiments that proved instrumental in validating core system concepts. These early prototypes also led to key breakthroughs, including the development of a proprietary track-changing mechanism. The Conceptual Model is showcased at the IIT Madras Research Park campus. The team also developed a full-scale POD to test the autonomous movement on the road.



This road-ready POD was presented to the Hon'ble Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh, Department of Science and Technology. In April 2025, preparation for an on-ground trial began in two phases - development of the POD, followed by the tracks.

## Preparation for the on-ground trial

The POD was designed in-house by our engineers. Once the design was in place, it underwent software simulations and motion studies to assess the design in real-world conditions. The POD was also assembled in-house, in collaboration with experts from a rising mobility startup. By November 2025, the HASHTIC POD was ready for the on-ground trial.

In December 2025, the team began preparation to build a 480-metre ground-level track in Karapakkam, Chennai. Despite initial challenges with the terrain, the site selection, layout planning, and track construction progressed quickly. The trial is being conducted at ground level rather than on an elevated platform. This allows for more intensive testing, rapid iteration, and fail-safe validation.



Stages of the site preparation at Karapakkam, Chennai captured from November 2025 to early March 2026.



## The Next Milestone

We are on schedule to conduct the first on-ground trial run at the end of April 2026, with both PODs and rail infrastructure fully in place. This milestone will mark the culmination of the on-ground trial and provide the foundation for the next stage of development — progressing HASHTIC toward deployment in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh at the end of 2027. What began as a seemingly impossible problem has paved the way for a futuristic, robust solution that is getting closer to real-world implementation.

# HASHTIC Consortium

## Institute Partners

Prof. Kannan Lakshminarayanan	CEET, IIT Madras
Prof. Kaushal Kumar Jha	CEET, IIT Madras
Prof. K. N. Sathyanarayana	IIT Tirupati
Prof. Lokesh Kalahasthi	IIT Tirupati
Prof. Nityadharan	IIT Tirupati
Prof. Mahendrakumar Madhavan	IIT Hyderabad
Prof. Anil R	College of Engineering, Trivandrum
Prof. Venkatesh G	IIT Madras

## Industry Partners

_____	L&T Construction and Railway Division
_____	Bharat Forge
_____	Infineon
_____	ST Micro
Shiv Shanker Ravichandran	Enduring Structures

## Startup Partners

Flowtrik Technologies
Cygni
E-Motive
Zealev

## ITEL Foundation Members

Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala	Chairman, ITEL Foundation
Dr. Soundar Balakumaran	ITEL Foundation
Padmalakshmi Shankar	ITEL Foundation
Jyoti Purohit	ITEL Foundation
Sampath Kumar V	ITEL Foundation
Aghil Prakash M	ITEL Foundation
Akilan M	ITEL Foundation
Sriharan B	ITEL Foundation



# Eliminating Urban Waterlogging



Little can force life in India's bustling cities to a halt. But during the monsoons, water floods homes and streets - stopping people from stepping out for work, washing away belongings, and causing injury and sickness.

Climate change has made monsoons increasingly unpredictable. The deeper question is whether our cities are prepared to handle the heavy rainfall, given their unique topologies, drainage systems and risk levels.

Inadequate drainage systems, drain blockages due to improper garbage disposal, lack of real time data are only some of the factors that add to the problem. Unfortunately, the current approach to urban waterlogging is only reactionary - typically draining out the water once the damage is already done.



## The Proposed Solution

ITEL has formed the Urban Waterlogging Mitigation Forum (UWMF), a consortium of industry representatives, researchers, startups and academic institutions working to replace temporary solutions and mere flood management systems with long-term, well-planned solutions.

The proposed solution is a comprehensive, technology-driven approach that combines mapping, drainage improvement, real-time monitoring, and simulation-based planning to create scalable, sustainable solutions for urban flood mitigation.

The first step is to understand the natural terrain of the region. Digital terrain maps at 1m granularity are produced for experts to study the geology in detail. In parallel, the natural water pathways and stormwater drain networks are mapped.

These three inputs - terrain maps, drain maps, and historic rainfall data - are fed into a simulation software to model the waterlogging across the city. These simulations help in identifying areas that are most prone to flooding, whether due to naturally low-lying geography, insufficient drainage, or blocked natural water pathways.

Drainage systems pose another serious challenge. Existing stormwater drains - open and closed - are inspected and cleared of blockages. We are also working with startups that are developing robots capable of entering, inspecting and cleaning the drains. Some areas may require more drains in addition to the existing ones. Local administrative bodies will play the key role in the construction of these new drains, and in the removal of encroachments to the natural water pathways wherever possible.

For real-time monitoring, sensors and cameras must be deployed across the city and in the stormwater drains. These sensors can measure water levels and trigger alerts before the flooding occurs. Gauges must be installed in the drains to measure, and help further analyse any excessive water flow.



## From Initial Brainstorming to a Defined Pilot Study

The Initiative commenced with early technical discussions, and has evolved into a structured implementation effort. In November 2025, Changodar, Gujarat was selected as the pilot site, following which the detailed execution plans were laid out. As of March 2026, the core team, in partnership with IIT Gandhinagar, reviewed the progress of the pilot study, and has prepared for next-phase implementation.



## The Next Milestone: Real-world Validation

In the upcoming year, the consortium will focus on successful field implementation in Changodar. Steady progress is being made on sensor deployments for real-time data collection, and preparation is underway for drainage assessment, blockage identification, and system performance studies. The team is optimistic about the end-to-end testing and full-scale field execution in the course of the next year.

# Eliminating Urban Waterlogging

## Institute Partners

Prof. Udit Bhatia	IIT Gandhinagar
Prof. S. R. Gandhi	IIT Gandhinagar
Prof. Auroop Ganguly	Northeastern University
Prof. Arup Kumar Sarma	IIT Guwahati
Prof. Subimal Ghosh	IIT Bombay
Prof. Raghu Murtugudde	IIT Bombay
Prof. Harish Puppalla	SRM University Andhra Pradesh
Prof. Pranav Peddinti	SRM University Andhra Pradesh
Mr. Kartikey Chaturvedi	Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
Mr. Pushp Bajaj	Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

## ITEL Foundation Members

Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala	Chairman, ITEL Foundation
Sandhya Ravikumar	ITEL Foundation

## Startup and Industry Partners

Divanshu Kumar	Solinas Integrity
Raj Kumar	Solinas Integrity
Vinayak Kadirur	Solinas Integrity
D. C. Sekhar	AlphaMERS
Vivek Kapadia	Jalkruti
Dr. Divya Upadhyay	AIResQ CLIMSOLS
Raavi Patel	AIResQ CLIMSOLS



# Assistive Technology



India is home to the world's largest population of individuals living with disabilities and a rapidly growing ageing demographic. While Assistive Technology (AT) continues to evolve globally, most of these innovations are designed for high-income markets, placing them out of reach of millions of Indians - due to unaffordability or unavailability. This gap treats disability as a burden rather than a solvable engineering challenge.

If India is to truly become an inclusive society and evolve as a Purple Economy, we believe that Assistive Technology can not be a mere afterthought. India has a world-class pool of technical talent; we must harness this talent to focus on indigenous innovation. We must build affordable, accessible Assistive Technology products that are accessible to every individual.

## Building Solutions that Bring Hope



ITEL Foundation's Assistive Technology Consortium is focused on driving innovation, and bringing researchers, scientists, startups, disability, allied health professionals and rehabilitation specialists together toward building solutions to address multiple disabilities.

The Hope through Hearing initiative was formed toward developing affordable Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) Screeners to ensure that any hearing impairment is identified early, and digitizing patient records to close the gaps in follow-up care.

To address the challenges of visual impairment, one of our startups is developing AI-powered smart glasses that can read aloud printed text and scan the environment to describe the individual's surroundings in native Indian languages.

We believe that Indian Sign Language (ISL), the primary language used by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) community must receive the same priority as any spoken language. We are developing a Translation Suite called InDigo that leverages AI to convert sign language to text and vice versa, ensuring the digital world is truly accessible and inclusive.

Toward mobility impairment & rehabilitation, we are developing RehabRelive - a series of technologies and devices that use interactive, game-like interfaces to restore motor function and strength following an injury or stroke.

Mental Health & Geriatrics is one of our newer focus areas. We are building an AI-powered Buddy - a companion bot that is designed to offer emotional support, social interaction simulation, and a non-judgmental space for cognitive engagement and therapy.

## A Foundational Year

The past year proved to be instrumental in strengthening the technical, linguistic and institutional foundations for our Assistive Technology initiatives

The Indian Sign Language translation initiative, our most recent AT initiative, began accelerating in early 2026 with the formalization of partnerships with National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) and National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD). In February 2026, the indexing of the ISL word dictionary was completed, which marked a significant milestone for the initiative.

The development of the Geriatric AI Companion framework began in early April 2026, including the definition of the core care principles and engineering the conversational prompts designed to provide empathetic, non-judgmental support for the elderly.



## Looking Forward to Tangible Impact: The Upcoming Year

As part of the Hearing for Hope Initiative, we are optimistic about the development and pilot deployment of the affordable hearing aids to test their acoustic performance in real environmental conditions. We are also working toward the Proof of Concept (PoC) for an indigenously developed Cochlear Implant.

We continue to develop our newer initiatives, exploring technologies that can facilitate independent living, including tools that can help people with disabilities navigate their homes and workplaces with greater autonomy. We also plan to launch a pilot of the Geriatric Buddy, which is also being designed to serve as a tool for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

# Assistive Technology

## Institute Partners

Prof. Subramani Kanagaraj	IIT Guwahati
Dr. Poonam Kumari	IIT Guwahati
Dr. Mahima Arrawatia	IIT Guwahati
Dr. Sushmee Badhulika	IIIT Hyderabad
Dr. Raji Gopal	National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH)
Dr. Nachiketa Rout	National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)

## Industry Partners

Dr. Vidya Ramkumar	Sri Ramachandra Hospital
Sree Hari Nagarajan	Chakra Networks
Srimathy Narasimhan	Rela Hospital
Dr. Aniket Pandurangi	Unity Hospital Dharwad
Anitha Dhianeshwar	Flowtrik Technologies

## ITEL Foundation Members

Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala	Chairman, ITEL Foundation
Shreya Sivaramakrishnan	ITEL Foundation
Sugapriya R	ITEL Foundation

## Startup Partners

Panoculon Labs
Galanto Innovations
NeoMotion
Auralytix
Asphear Technologies
Chakra Networks
Iphiphi Technologies



# Climate Tech Materials and Resource Management



## Waste Management

India's landfills are the end result of poor waste management systems. Tonnes of wet waste tangled with dry plastics and debris are indiscriminately dumped into landfills, polluting the land and contaminating the soil. To add to the problem, the landfills are often set on fire to burn off the waste, leading to severe air pollution, and loss of recyclable organic matter.

Put simply, waste properly segregated is waste properly managed. By separating mixed waste into wet and dry fractions at scale, wet waste can be converted into compostable material, and dry waste into construction-grade shuttering boards. This approach ensures that the landfill problem is addressed, and what was once landfill-bound is turned into inputs for agriculture and infrastructure.

ITEL is bringing startups and innovators together to work on solutions across the pipeline - automated waste segregation, organic waste-to-compost applications, assess feedstock viability for Compressed Bio-gas production, and support technical improvements to enhance the performance of the upcycled materials. The consortium also helps startups navigate policy barriers, enabling them to translate promising solutions into scalable products.

### Bringing the Right Startups to the Mission

The waste-to-compost effort commenced in late 2025 and has progressed rapidly. Today, ITEL works with industry and startup partners to drive the mission. In parallel, the team began testing materials to improve the structural strength of the materials upcycled from dry waste.

### An End-to-End Waste Processing Pipeline

Over the next year, the team aims at the completion of the wet waste processing stream. ITEL will also continue to incubate startups building robust industry partnerships that can further the mission.

## Soil Quality Improvement



Chemical fertilizers entered India's agricultural landscape to improve the yield and productivity. Unfortunately, Indian agriculture has suffered from subsidy-driven chemical fertilizer overuse, burdening the economy and our soil. The excessive use of these chemical fertilizers has depleted the soil by ridding it of natural microorganisms that can replenish nutrients. These fertilizers have also impacted the groundwater resource, and led to increased GHG emissions associated with fertilizer production and use, and increased dependence on imported agricultural inputs.

### Building Solutions Designed to Save and Serve our Soil

ITEL's mission is to facilitate the shift to biofertilizer-based solutions developed indigenously, reducing the dependence on fossil-fuel derived chemical fertilizers. Our startups and researchers are working together to develop biofertilizer systems that encapsulate nutrient-fixing microbes in a polymeric gel to support microbial activity through controlled release.

Our technologists are also developing low-cost IoT-based sensing systems that will aid farmers in real-time monitoring of the soil's chemical parameters and crop growth to support effective application.

### Bringing App and Agriculture Together

In early 2026, the team began the first phase of development and data collection for the App that can aid farmers in monitoring the soil quality and crop parameters in real-time.

Over the next year, the initiative will focus on completion of the Agriculture App, building it as a voice-enabled platform designed for 22 Indian languages. We also aim at piloting this app, deploying it at a smaller scale within farmer groups to gather feedback.

## Biomass Upcycling

### A Seasonal Crisis

Every year, approximately 42 million tonnes of paddy straw are generated across North India, the vast majority of which goes underutilized. In the absence of viable large-scale processing infrastructure, farmers resort to open-field burning, a practice that triggers severe winter smog across Delhi and its surrounding regions. This is not an isolated incident but a recurring, systemic crisis that wastes an enormous renewable resource and leads to serious public health and environmental repercussions. people.

### Turning Waste into Energy

One of our partners is developing an integrated biomass upcycling platform designed to address this challenge at scale. The solution centers on deploying 11 scalable biomass conversion technologies capable of channeling the full ~42 MMTPA (million metric tonnes per annum) of paddy straw through productive bioenergy pathways.

Through these technologies, agricultural residue gets converted into a diverse portfolio of high-value outputs, including Bio-CNG, Ethanol, and Power; Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and Green Hydrogen; and Briquettes, Pellets, and other value-added products.

### Building a Fully Integrated Biomass Supply Chain

Together with our partners, we are addressing the entire value chain, reducing leakages, improving efficiency, and creating reliable offtake channels across multiple industries. This goal is to make large-scale biomass collection economically viable for farmers and aggregators alike.

## Sustainable and Advanced Functional Materials

Materials used in modern industries rely heavily on petrochemical-intensive inputs and energy-intensive manufacturing processes. While these materials have served industry well, their environmental cost, supply chain concentration, and price volatility make them increasingly untenable as long-term foundations for a sustainable economy. Bio-inspired material strategies have emerged as a compelling alternative, demonstrating the ability to outperform conventional options across all three critical dimensions: performance, sustainability, and cost.

## Bio-Inspired Hybrid Materials for High-Performance Applications

We incubated Orhin Pvt Ltd, an early-stage startup developing a class of bio-inspired hybrid materials for applications across aerospace, robotics, sports, and biomedical sectors.

The approach integrates Molecular Biomimicry with an Automated Design-Build-Test-Learn system, a closed-loop development methodology that accelerates iteration and optimisation beyond what conventional materials R&D allows. The result is a platform capable of producing high-performance parts at low cost and with high sustainability credentials, addressing nearly all the well-known limitations of Carbon Fiber Reinforced Composites (CFRC) including cost, manufacturing time, shaping constraints, and supply chain fragility.

The performance economics are striking. In UAV applications, Orhin's materials are predicted to deliver approximately 56% lower cost of goods (COGS) compared to CFRC, while delivering around 700% more performance per rupee invested.

## Bamboo-Based Sustainable Composites for Everyday Infrastructure

We continue to work closely with a startup based at IIT Guwahati that is developing sustainable, eco-friendly composite materials for civil, aviation, marine, and household applications using natural bamboo fibre. Products already envisioned include shuttering boards, road signs, drone blades, and wall panels.

Bamboo's natural properties make it an exceptional industrial material. It matures in just four to five years (a fraction of the time required by timber), actively absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> during its growth cycle, performs reliably in hot and rainy environments, and requires only simple tooling and machinery for processing. These characteristics translate directly into lower capital requirements, accessible rural manufacturing, and a genuinely low-carbon material lifecycle. By substituting petrochemical composites with bamboo-based alternatives, this solution addresses cost, supply chain resilience, and environmental impact simultaneously.

## Upcycling Glass

India generates between 7 and 8 million tonnes of glass waste every year. Despite glass being one of the few materials that can be recycled infinitely with zero loss in quality, only 14–18% of this waste is currently recovered. The remaining 82–86% ends up in landfills, resulting in a permanently reusable resource being gone to waste.

## Enabling Technology-driven Glass Circularity

We work with a startup that deploys an integrated platform combining AI, Blockchain, and IoT to enable end-to-end glass bottle reuse and recycling, from collection and authentication to processing and value-added product manufacturing.

Through this solution, recovered glass can be transformed into a range of high-value output streams, each with distinct market applications.

Cullets (processed glass fragments), when introduced into glass manufacturing, deliver a 3% energy reduction for every 10% cullet used, carbon savings of 250–300 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne, and a 2–3% reduction in production costs. For energy-intensive glass manufacturers, this translates into significant and ongoing operational savings.

Foam Glass (an advanced insulation material produced from recycled glass) serves the chemical industry and construction sector, and is notable for its low-temperature processing requirements, making it an energy-efficient value-added product with strong demand fundamentals.

## Lithium-ion Battery Recycling

The rapid growth of electric vehicles, renewable energy storage, and consumer electronics across India is creating an equally rapid accumulation of spent lithium-ion batteries (LIBs). Yet India's formal recycling infrastructure for these batteries remains underdeveloped. At present, less than 2% of lithium-ion batteries are recycled through formal channels in the country. The remainder flows into informal recycling networks where poor handling leads to material loss, toxic contamination, and lasting environmental damage.

With the right policy interventions and technology infrastructure, India has the potential to unlock a USD 3.5 billion lithium-ion battery recycling and production ecosystem by 2030. The critical materials locked inside spent batteries - Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, and Manganese - are precisely the same materials that India currently imports at significant cost for new battery manufacturing. A robust domestic recycling industry would simultaneously reduce import dependency, lower battery production costs, and eliminate a growing environmental liability.

## ITEL Foundation's Battery Recycling R&D

Our Battery Recycling Laboratory was established to develop and validate the green chemistry approaches needed to make LIB recycling safe, efficient, and economically viable at scale. The lab's research is anchored in three core technical directions.

The first is the application of sustainable chemistry approaches to recover critical metals (Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, and Manganese) from spent cells. Unlike conventional pyrometallurgical methods, which are energy-intensive and emission-heavy, our green approaches prioritise low-emission hydrometallurgical and direct recovery pathways.

The second is graphite upcycling, recovering the graphite anode material from spent batteries and processing it into value-added materials for industrial use, rather than discarding it as waste. This expands the economic return from each recycled battery significantly.

The third is direct cathode recovery, a technically sophisticated approach that recovers cathode materials in a form that can be reintroduced directly into new battery manufacturing, minimising the energy and chemical inputs required to reconstitute battery-grade materials from scratch.

## An Intentional Technology Path

Our research evaluates recycling approaches across five performance dimensions: energy efficiency, emission levels, revenue potential, process simplicity, and safety. This multi-parameter framework guides the selection of approaches that are best suited to India's industrial context in terms of processes, but also practical deployability at the scale and cost structure that Indian manufacturers require.

## Rethinking Water Purification for India with CDI

Reverse Osmosis (RO) has become the default water purification technology across Indian urban households and communities. Yet RO comes with limitations like high water wastage, significant energy consumption, and a dependency on imported membranes that keeps costs elevated and supply chains fragile. For a country with large populations dependent on brackish groundwater sources, and with growing pressure on both water resources and household energy budgets, there is an urgent need for a smarter, more sustainable alternative.

## Replacing RO with a Smarter, Sustainable Alternative

Capacitive Deionization (CDI) is an electrochemical water purification process that removes dissolved salts and ions from water by passing it through charged electrodes without the pressure-driven membrane filtration that makes RO systems energy-intensive and wasteful. CDI is particularly well-suited to brackish water treatment and point-of-use applications, making it highly relevant for Indian urban communities where groundwater salinity is a persistent challenge.

The primary barrier to CDI's widespread adoption in India today is the high cost of the specialised membranes and electrode materials that the technology requires, which are currently imported. This import dependency inflates unit costs but also limits the ability to optimise materials for Indian water quality conditions and manufacturing economics.

Our mission is to tackle this bottleneck. By developing biomass and agri-based functional carbon materials indigenously, we aim to produce high-performance CDI electrodes from locally available, renewable feedstocks.

IIT Guwahati (IITG) leads the membrane development and system prototyping work, bringing deep materials science and electrochemical engineering expertise to the initiative. ITEL contributes the sensors and electronics development in-house, ensuring that the full system - from water chemistry sensing to intelligent purification control — is designed and built indigenously.

A close-up, high-angle photograph of solar panels. The panels are dark with a grid of thin, light-colored lines. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image, containing the text 'Climate Tech' and 'Energy'.

# Climate Tech

## Energy

# Addressing India's Rising Air Quality Concern

Air quality in the Delhi-NCR region has reached levels that warrant urgent, systematic intervention. AQI levels have peaked at 460 on the most severe pollution days, and PM2.5 concentrations in winter months. An estimated 1.7 million people die annually in India due to poor air quality. Respiratory conditions in newborns and children have risen significantly, schools have faced extended closures, and demand for respiratory medication across the region continues to grow.

The sources of this pollution are multiple and interconnected: vehicle emissions from a predominantly ICE-powered fleet, industrial coal and petrol consumption, inadequate waste management leading to garbage burning, and the seasonal burning of paddy straw across North India, which contributes significantly to the region's winter smog.

## Adopting a Systematic Approach

Our mission is to address the rising air quality concerns through technology development, ecosystem building, and policy engagement. The mission is structured around four intervention areas. The first is accelerating the transition from ICE vehicles to zero emission vehicles across private and commercial segments. The second is enabling the retrofitting of existing petrol vehicles, providing a near-term emissions reduction pathway for the large incumbent fleet. The third is supporting the shift of industrial energy consumption from coal and petrol to electricity. The fourth is addressing garbage burning through improved waste management practices and infrastructure.

## Harnessing Solid Green Hydrogen

Conventional green hydrogen, while environmentally promising, faces a critical barrier to mass adoption: storage and logistics. Gaseous hydrogen requires high-pressure tanks, specialized infrastructure, and complex supply chains, making it costly and difficult to scale, particularly for off-grid applications.

One of our startups, Vaayuneer Sciences is leading the way in developing QH<sub>2</sub>, a solid-form green hydrogen fuel that carries the same potential as conventional hydrogen, but can be bagged and stored like a conventional dry commodity. Generated directly using natural sunlight, QH<sub>2</sub> represents a field-validated breakthrough in renewable energy at Technology Readiness Level 5.

Key advantages of QH<sub>2</sub> include long-term stability, capable of being stored safely over months and significantly lower all-in costs. While conventional green hydrogen costs approximately INR 700/kg including storage, QH<sub>2</sub> is produced and stored at ~INR 200/kg, making it 3.5 times more affordable.

## Intellectual Property & Competitive Moat

Our technology is protected by 6 filed patents, of which 2 have already been granted, giving our startup Vaayuneer Sciences sole ownership of this innovation. This strong IP position establishes a durable competitive advantage as global demand for clean energy infrastructure accelerates.

## PEM Fuel Cell Development

Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cells represent one of the most promising technologies in the clean energy transition. Operating at efficiencies of 50–60%, they nearly double the output of conventional internal combustion (IC) engines, which typically achieve only 25–30% efficiency. This stark performance advantage makes PEM fuel cells a compelling proposition for transportation, stationary power, and industrial applications, provided the cost barrier can be overcome.

## The Cost and Scale Challenge

Despite their technical superiority, PEM fuel cells remain expensive to manufacture, primarily due to the high material costs of three critical components: platinum-based catalysts, Nafion® membranes, and bipolar plates. Compounding this is the challenge of manufacturing scale — current production processes are not optimized for high volumes, keeping unit costs elevated and limiting mainstream adoption. The current market forecast stands at INR 1,00,000 per kW, a price point that remains out of reach for most Indian industrial and mobility applications.

## Our Mission: Halving the Cost

Our target is to bring PEM fuel cell costs down to Rs. 50,000/kW — a 50% reduction from existing market rates. To achieve this, ITEL has adopted a consortium-based approach, bringing together complementary capabilities to develop both the fuel cell Stack and Balance of Plant (BoP) entirely in-house. This integrated development model reduces dependence on imported components, shortens the supply chain, and creates a foundation for cost-competitive, domestically manufactured fuel cells.

## Future R&D and MSME Ecosystem Development

Looking ahead, ITEL's research roadmap includes developing viable alternatives to Dupont's proprietary Nafion® membrane — one of the costliest single components in a PEM stack. Beyond the immediate technology goal, this R&D agenda is designed to support broader innovation within India's MSME sector, enabling a network of smaller manufacturers and suppliers to participate in and benefit from the emerging hydrogen economy.

## Perovskite - Next Generation Solar PV Technology

Today, the dominant technology in the solar energy generation is Crystalline Silicon (c-Si) — a mature, cost-effective solution that powers the majority of solar installations worldwide. However, India is completely reliant on imports for this technology. For a nation of India's scale and strategic ambition, this dependence represents a significant energy security risk.

### Building Technology Sovereignty in Solar

Our mission is to substantially reduce India's dependence on imported solar products and foreign-controlled technology. We incubated P3C Technologies, a startup working on next-generation Perovskite solar PV, a technology widely regarded as the most promising successor to crystalline silicon, capable of delivering higher efficiencies at lower production costs.

Even as Perovskite development progresses, P3C is already delivering meaningful advances across the solar PV spectrum. On the conventional side, P3C's lower-cost single-junction solar PV pathway has the potential to reduce panel costs by 30–50% compared to current market offerings — a transformative reduction for large-scale deployments. In terms of efficiency, P3C's glass panels achieve 23%+ efficiency, while their flexible solar solutions deliver 16%+, opening up applications across non-traditional surfaces and form factors.

The most significant near-term milestone is P3C's work on 4T-Tandem Multi-junction Perovskite architecture — combining Perovskite layers over Crystalline Silicon or pure Perovskite stacks to achieve efficiencies exceeding 28%. This places P3C at the frontier of global solar research, and well ahead of the efficiency ceiling that conventional c-Si technology is approaching.

## Power Electronics

As India accelerates its transition to renewable energy, a quiet but critical vulnerability is revealed - India is overwhelmingly dependent on imports of power electronics. The essential building blocks of a modern energy grid including bidirectional converters, battery chargers, inverters, static synchronous compensators, and motor controllers, are sourced largely from foreign manufacturers, exposing India to both cost pressures and strategic security risks.

The time has come for India to design, manufacture, and deploy high-quality power electronics rooted in frugal engineering and built specifically for Indian applications.

### A Three-Pronged Strategy: Talent, Startups, and Scale

ITEL's approach to establishing Indian competitiveness in power electronics rests on three interlocking pillars. First, nurturing a generation of engineers who can design, build and commercially deploy power electronics solutions. Second is startup incubation. Our focus is on creating the entrepreneurial ecosystem needed to translate design capability into products. Third is industry enablement, where we help existing companies scale and compete with imported alternatives.

Central to the talent development mission is the Power Electronics Finishing School, an initiative established by ITEL Foundation in partnership with IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, and IIT Madras, and supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The programme is structured as a six-month, hands-on learning experience, deliberately practical in orientation, designed to produce engineers who can immediately contribute to the design and commercialization of solar, battery, and renewable energy inverters and converters.

### Designing for India's Energy Future from Within

We are advancing a portfolio of indigenously developed Power Conversion Systems (PCS) spanning a wide range of applications:

The 10 KVA – 25 kWh Hybrid Inverter with Storage is designed for residential and UPS applications, with feasibility completed and specifications defined. A standout feature is its black-start capability (the ability to restart independently without grid support) combined with programmable optimization of power export, making it well-suited for off-grid and hybrid deployments.

The 120 kVA PCS for Battery Energy Storage Systems, currently at Technology Readiness Level 6 (TRL 6), is approaching commercialization and is designed for commercial and industrial storage applications.

At the utility scale, our team is developing a 5 MVA PCS for Grid Battery Energy Storage Systems, with feasibility studies currently underway. This system is being engineered with Zero Voltage Ride Through capability and dynamic reactive power compensation — critical features for grid stability in high-renewable-penetration environments.

## Intelligent Energy Management Systems

As large facilities integrate more renewable energy into their operations, a new and often underappreciated challenge emerges: managing it intelligently. Variable renewable sources by nature generate energy unpredictably, while consumption patterns shift across hours, shifts, and seasons. The result is a 24×7 demand-supply balancing problem that, left unmanaged, leads to two costly outcomes: elevated electricity bills driven by peak-hour tariffs, and inefficient energy usage driven by fixed demand charges that penalize facilities for their highest consumption moments.

### Building Intelligence for India's Energy Future

In alignment with our larger vision, we joined hands with Elements Energy, a startup that is focused on helping large energy consumers reduce power costs and increase renewable energy utilization through intelligent 24×7 energy management, storage optimization, and peak demand control.

Together, we are addressing the need to coordinate multiple energy sources — grid power, rooftop solar, battery storage, and backup systems — in real time, responding dynamically to fluctuating loads across different times of day and operational conditions.

The Time-of-Day (TOD) operational cycle, a key feature of modern commercial electricity tariffs, creates the challenge of energy costs varying significantly by hour, and an intelligent system that anticipates and responds to these cycles can generate substantial, consistent savings at scale.

## Retrofitting India's Two and Three-Wheeler Fleet

India's two- and three-wheeler fleet is the backbone of the nation's personal mobility and last-mile logistics ecosystem. With over 200 million two-wheelers and several million three-wheelers on the road, this segment represents the single largest component of India's vehicle fleet, and one of its most significant contributors to fuel consumption, urban air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. In densely populated cities, where two- and three-wheelers dominate street-level traffic, the cumulative impact on air quality and carbon output is profound.

The transition to electric mobility is well underway, with new electric two- and three-wheelers gaining meaningful market traction. Yet the pace of new vehicle adoption alone cannot address the scale of the challenge. The hundreds of millions of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles already on India's roads will continue to operate for many years to come. India needs a parallel transitional pathway that can accelerate impact without requiring complete fleet turnover.

### The Case for Retrofitting

Retrofitting (the conversion of existing petrol or diesel-powered vehicles to electric vehicles) offers a cost-effective, scalable, and immediate pathway toward the electrification of India's fleet. Rather than writing off the millions of existing ICE vehicles, retrofit solutions extend their operational life while fundamentally transforming their environmental and economic profile. For vehicle owners, the benefits are tangible: lower fuel and maintenance costs, reduced dependence on volatile fossil fuel prices, and continued use of their vehicle.

## Building India's ICE-to-EV Retrofit Ecosystem

Our mission is to build and enable technology solutions aimed at accelerating the ICE-to-EV retrofit market for two- and three-wheelers in India. This encompasses standardisation, certification frameworks, and deployment infrastructure required to make retrofit solutions accessible, trustworthy, and scalable across the country.

# Climate Tech

## Institute Partners

Shaibal Khar	IIT Bombay
Dhriti Ghosh	IIT Dharwad
Soumitra Satapati	IIT Roorkee
Dinesh Kabra	IIT Bombay
Sooraj Kumar	IIT BHU, P3C Technologies
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Dr. Ujwal	R.V. College of Engineering
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Bhaskar Sreeram	L&T
Atul Abhyankar	L&T
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Swaminathan Viswanathan	Memfill Tech Pvt. Ltd.

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Srinidhi Varadarajan	ITEL Foundation
Dr. Malati Raghunath	ITEL Foundation
Shanmukha Dev	ITEL Foundation
Dr. Bhuvana Sridhar	ITEL Foundation



# Building Sovereign Cybersecurity

Over the last two decades, India has transformed into a digital economy. This digital transformation means that India is more reliant on cloud and digital infrastructure than it has ever been. While a more digital India is largely good, it also places India in a vulnerable position - we are prone to cyber attack now more than ever. India faced over 1.3 million cybersecurity incidents in 2023, and this number is on the rise.

## The Challenge



Cybersecurity and encryption are the foundational technologies for national security and digital sovereignty. But the challenges are many. The unpredictability of threats range from ransomware, phishing, data breach to state-sponsored attacks on critical infrastructure. There is a critical shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals, researchers, and specialized academic programs in the country. India has very few indigenous cybersecurity products, forcing us to rely on imported technology.

In the current scenario of increasing cyber threat, India cannot afford to let this vulnerability hinder our growth and progress. Cybersecurity and encryption are the foundational technologies for national security and digital sovereignty. It is essential for every individual, organization, industry and the government to adopt robust cyber defences.

India has made progress CERT-In, National Cyber Security Policy 2013, and the more recent data protection laws. Yet, academic and R&D efforts must scale up for India to build indigenous cybersecurity systems and become self-reliant in protecting our own digital infrastructure.

## The Indian Cybersecurity Academic Network (ICAN)

ITEL Foundation established the Indian Cybersecurity Academic Network (ICAN), bringing together researchers and academicians from institutions across the country, including IITs, IISc and IIITs, startups and industry representatives together in response to this rising national challenge.

ICAN's mission is to build a collaborative, research-driven ecosystem to strengthen India's ability to defend, innovate, and lead in the global cybersecurity domain. Over the next 10 years, ICAN will focus on building capability, nurturing startups, and helping Indian cybersecurity products grow and scale.

### A Year of Significant Progress

In the past year, ICAN has successfully conducted two Faculty Development Programs (FDP). The Summer course from June 2025 to July 2025 was hosted by IIT Madras, and witnessed participation from 180+ faculty members from institutions across India. The Winter course from November 2025 to December 2025 was hosted by IIIT Hyderabad, and welcomed 40+ participants.

The Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has joined hands with ICAN toward the development and standardization of the Cybersecurity curriculum across universities in India. Efforts on this front have seen significant progress, with the curriculum being meticulously designed and validated by industry.

### Creating a Policy Push, Training Leaders in Tech: Next Milestone

In 2026 and early 2027, the focus will remain on identifying, incubating and nurturing startups in the cybersecurity domain, helping them build and scale sovereign cybersecurity products. Through our collaboration with CERT-In and IDRBT, we also aim to contribute to the policy framework to define the usage of AI to prevent, and eliminate threats.

Efforts are also underway to develop a curriculum that will train Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) leaders to safeguard their organization's digital infrastructure and raise defenses against cyber attacks.

ICAN will continue to refine the Cybersecurity curriculum, based on the results of the DSCI skill gap and workforce studies set to be conducted across India. The collaboration will also include ICAN providing mentorship support to any Innovation Challenges that DSCI will host in the upcoming year.

# Indian Cybersecurity Academic Network (ICAN) - Cybersecurity Consortium

## Institute Partners

Ashutosh Bahaguna	CERT-In
Biswabandhan Panda	IIT Bombay
Chester Rebeiro	IIT Madras
Debabrata Mishra	IIT Kanpur
Debapriya Basu Roy	IIT Kanpur
Deepak Kumar	Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)
Geeta Yadav	IIT Ropar
H Krishnamoorthy	IISc Bangalore
John Augustine	IIT Madras
K. C. Sivaramakrishnan	IIT Madras
Kameswari Chebrolu	IIT Bombay
Mainack Mondal	IIT Kharagpur
Mathanan Kailas	IIT Madras
Mukul Joshi	IIT Bombay
Rammohan Srinivasan	IIT Madras
S. Venkatesan	IIIT Allahabad
Santanu Saha	IIT Madras
Sayandeep Saha	IIT Bombay
Urbi Chatterjee	IIT Kanpur
V. N. Sastry	Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)

## Industry Partners

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Praveen Vishakantiah	Ex-Intel
Shridhar Shukla	K Point Tech
Sree Hari Nagarajan	Chakra Networks

## ITEL Foundation Members

Sandhya Ravikumar	ITEL Foundation
Prasanna Souresh	ITEL Foundation



**Vikram  
Sarabhai  
AI Labs**

Artificial Intelligence has become the very pulse of several modern, advanced solutions that are being developed across the world. As we aim for global technology leadership, India must build sovereign AI infrastructure that is designed for its realities.

The Vikram Sarabhai AI (VSAI) Labs was established in September 2025 as the multidisciplinary artificial intelligence research and development lab of ITEL Foundation. The Lab comprises a strong, multi-layered team including senior technical advisors, experienced AI engineers, and young emerging talent, combining deep research-oriented thinking and rapid execution capability.

## The Story Behind the Name

The lab was named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, a visionary who seamlessly combined scientific excellence with entrepreneurial thinking. This is also the philosophy that lies at the heart of VSAI Labs - to nurture innovation that is not just technologically advanced, but also deeply impactful and scalable in the real world.

## Democratizing AI Access for India through Language Inclusivity

Rather than being confined to one problem statement or area, VSAI Labs is designed to explore and build solutions across diverse domains including healthcare, Agritech, Fintech, Edutech, Assistive Technology, AI for Wellness, Conversational AI, Robotics and agentic systems.

At its core, the lab aims to address one of the most fundamental and large-scale challenges in India—the language barrier to accessing technology and digital knowledge resources. Despite rapid advancements in AI, it remains inaccessible to a significant portion of India's population due to limited access to tools in their native languages.

VSAI Labs is bridging this gap by enabling AI-powered systems that support interaction, learning, and problem-solving in 22 Indian languages.

The vision is to create a future where every individual in India, regardless of linguistic background, can seamlessly interact with AI for education, productivity, and everyday needs.

## Progress Toward Real-World Impact

VSAI Labs has made significant strides in advancing accessible and inclusive AI solutions for diverse Indian languages.

ITEL joined hands with IndiaAI Mission to facilitate the incubation of 25 deep-tech AI startups and enable early-stage innovation by providing grant support, access to high-performance compute infrastructure along with software development ecosystems and tooling support.

This collaboration also led to the first AI Pitch Event hosted by ITEL Foundation, in collaboration with IndiaAI Mission. The event received 400+ applications from early-stage AI startups across the country, and aimed at identifying and rewarding the Top 5 Startups.

A major technological breakthrough achieved by the VSAI Labs is the development of the Speech-to-Text (STT) and Text-to-Speech (TTS) systems that run entirely on edge devices. These systems operate with zero cloud dependency and no internet requirement, significantly reducing cost and improving accessibility in low-resource environments. These capabilities are further being extended to Text-to-Text translation systems in edge environments, and Advanced ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) pipelines optimized for Indian languages.

Work has also steadily progressed from prototype to real-world relevance with the AI-powered educational tools being deployed with NGO partners, targeting both students and teachers. These solutions are being used to offer STEM learning support, career guidance and to help manage exam-related stress. Early user engagement indicated promising results and positive feedback on the ease of interaction in native languages and practical usefulness in learning and guidance contexts

Over the next year, VSAI Labs will steer focus toward the different domains. In Edtech, the team is building personalized tutoring tools for teachers and students, inspired by the Indian 'Guru Shishya Parampara'. The team is building AI for Fintech, helping the lower-income communities gain access to more financial literacy and awareness in their own languages. AI for Wellness is the most recent initiative that is focused on bringing India's rich knowledge of home remedies to every household. VSAI Labs will also continue to develop the Agritech solutions to support farmers, and the Geriatric AI Chatbot (in association with the Assistive Technology initiative) to serve as a companion for India's growing elderly population.



**Build Club**  
**Nurturing the**  
**Next Generation**  
**of Innovators**



If India is to become a global technology leader, we must focus on leveraging one of our biggest strengths. India produces a vast pool of young engineers every year. Unfortunately, access to practical, hands-on learning has remained uneven especially beyond the tier-1 premier institutions. If inspired and nurtured, these young engineers transform into bright, curious minds with the potential to build world-class products. This is the purpose behind Build Club.

## Ethos of Build Club: Play, Build and Learn

At the heart of Build Club is a simple belief: learning should feel joyful; like a child playing with LEGO – curious, hands-on and endlessly imaginative. Our goal is to build a collective where students learn from each other and build together.

Build Club has evolved as a vibrant student-led community situated within the Universities/Colleges. The space remains open round the clock, every day, including weekends. The intention is to promote learning not as a passive activity, but as an active, collaborative, and enjoyable pursuit. Students are encouraged to push boundaries, explore new ideas, and support one another.

Unlike the conventional classroom model, Build Club follows a staged learning pathway to support skill development. The program promotes sustained growth through structured yet flexible learning phases. Each stage strengthens both technical competence and problem-solving capabilities of the student.

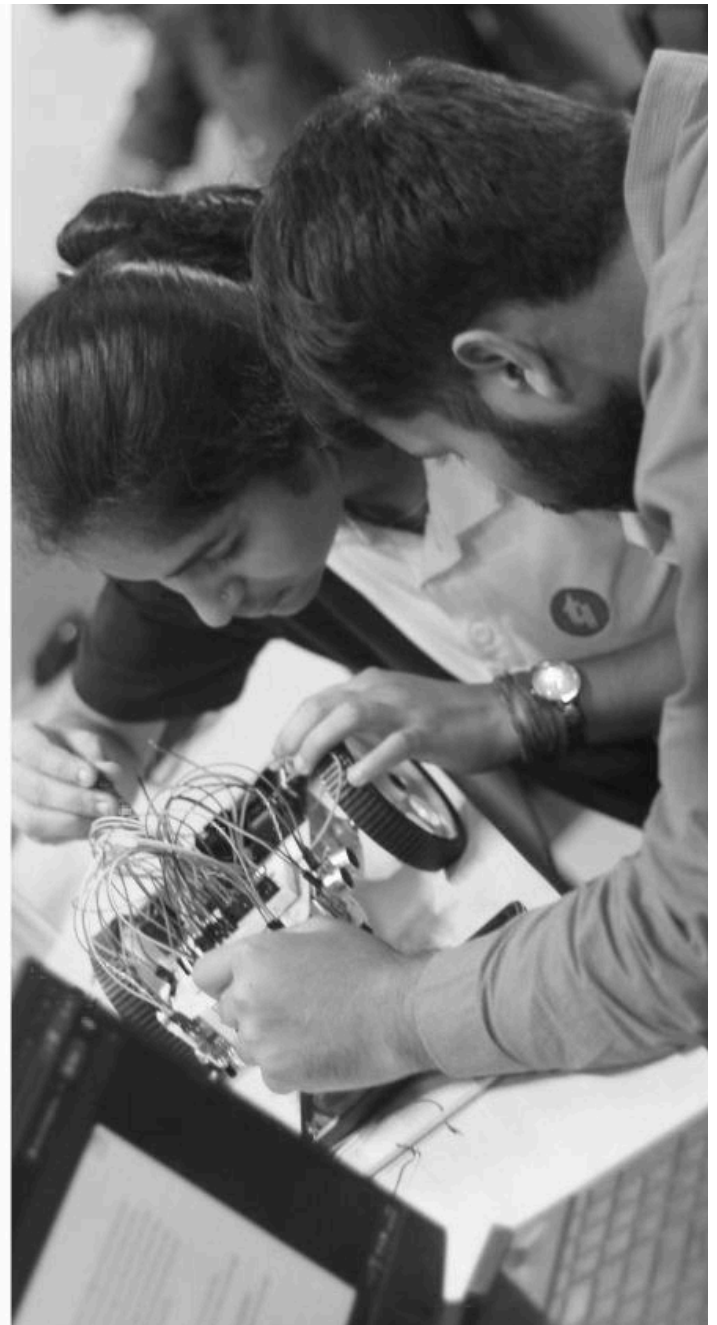
## Build Club Structure

**Start Build on Day One** - Students kickstart their Build journey with simple projects that they can tinker & play with. Several new projects have been added to the program including General Electronics (Dancing LEDs, Rolling Display, Virtual Builds and more), IoT, Communications, Power Electronics, Robotics (including Line-Bot, Maze-Bot and Mecanum-Bot, Control Systems, PCB Design, Computer Aided Design, Mechanics and several Software Builds (including Image Processing, E-Marketplace Web Application). The vast array of projects are designed for students to experience hands-on success, boosting their confidence that they can build real systems.

**Sophisticated Build (Building Robots)** - After students carry out their simple build projects and gain hands-on confidence, they progress to a deeper and more intuitive exploration of robotics.

**Building Robots** follows a 'Learn and Build' approach. This learning experience typically spans 40+ hours, giving students the time and depth needed to develop strong conceptual clarity. Students put their learning into practice by designing and building their own robotics projects—applying ideas from theoretical learning to real builds.

**Building More Complex Technologies** - The Integrated Circuit (IC) Build project offers a pathway for students to learn IC design. The primary goal of this project is to nurture a chip-design culture and build a strong talent pipeline for India's growing semiconductor ecosystem. The Virtual Reality (VR) module is based on the 'Learn and Operate' approach, designed to train students in highly realistic VR environments that simulate real-world industrial workflows.





## The Way Forward

Over the next two years, ITEL aims to establish Build Clubs in more than 100 colleges, through partners across India.

### 10 Build Club Partnerships Established

- SRM University Andhra Pradesh
- Assam Don Bosco University (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)
- University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)
- Girijananda Chowdary University (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)
- St. Antony's College, Meghalaya (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)
- JIS College of Engineering (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)
- Narula Institute of Engineering (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)
- Ideal College of Engineering (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)
- Academy of Technology (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)
- Techno India (Affiliated to IIM Calcutta Innovation Park TIC)

25+ Build Club partnerships are expected to go live in the next 6 months.

# Startup Incubation Program

Designed to nurture India's early-stage deep-tech startups and accelerate their progress from idea to a successful real-world solution.

We believe that startups play an instrumental role in solving India's complex, large-scale challenges, and drive India towards a position of global technology leadership.

The ITEL Startup Incubation Program is designed to nurture entrepreneurs and innovators from across the country who are creating bold, high-impact solutions. Our aim is to promote indigenous product design and development, help them scale and commercialize, and enhance their competitiveness in the global market.

The Incubation Program follows a well-structured 'deep-nurturing process', helping startups progress from early-stage ideas to scalable, market-ready products.

## Nurturing the Entrepreneurial Mindset to Build a Successful Startup

The Program goes beyond providing access to industry stalwarts, collaboration with scholars and researchers from esteemed educational institutions, and state-of-the-art R&D facilities across the country. It is designed to nurture an entrepreneurial mindset and imparts the necessary training and discipline required to scale their ideas into successful, impactful ventures.

### 40+ Incubated Startups



# Pillars of Strength

CSR Partners, Advisory Board and  
Technical Advisory Committee, Our Team  
and Extended Partners

## CSR for ITEL Foundation (FY 2024-25 and 2025-26)

ITEL Foundation acknowledges, with sincere gratitude, the invaluable support of our CSR partners. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing our technology initiatives and amplifying our impact. We remain committed to honoring that trust through meaningful, transparent work going forward.

### Individual Contributions

Mr. Senapathy Gopalakrishnan  
Mr. Anand Suresh Deshpande  
Mr. Sanjeev Bikhchandani  
Mr. Rajan Anandan  
Dr. Saurabh Srivastava  
Mr. Mukesh Bansal  
Shri. Shridhar Shukla  
Mr. Gaurav Bhatnagar  
Mr. Manish Dhingra  
Mr. Naval Bansal

### Corporate and Institution Contributions

The Convergence Foundation  
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Arro Nomos Investments Pvt. Ltd.  
L&T Technology Services Ltd.  
Wipro Foundation  
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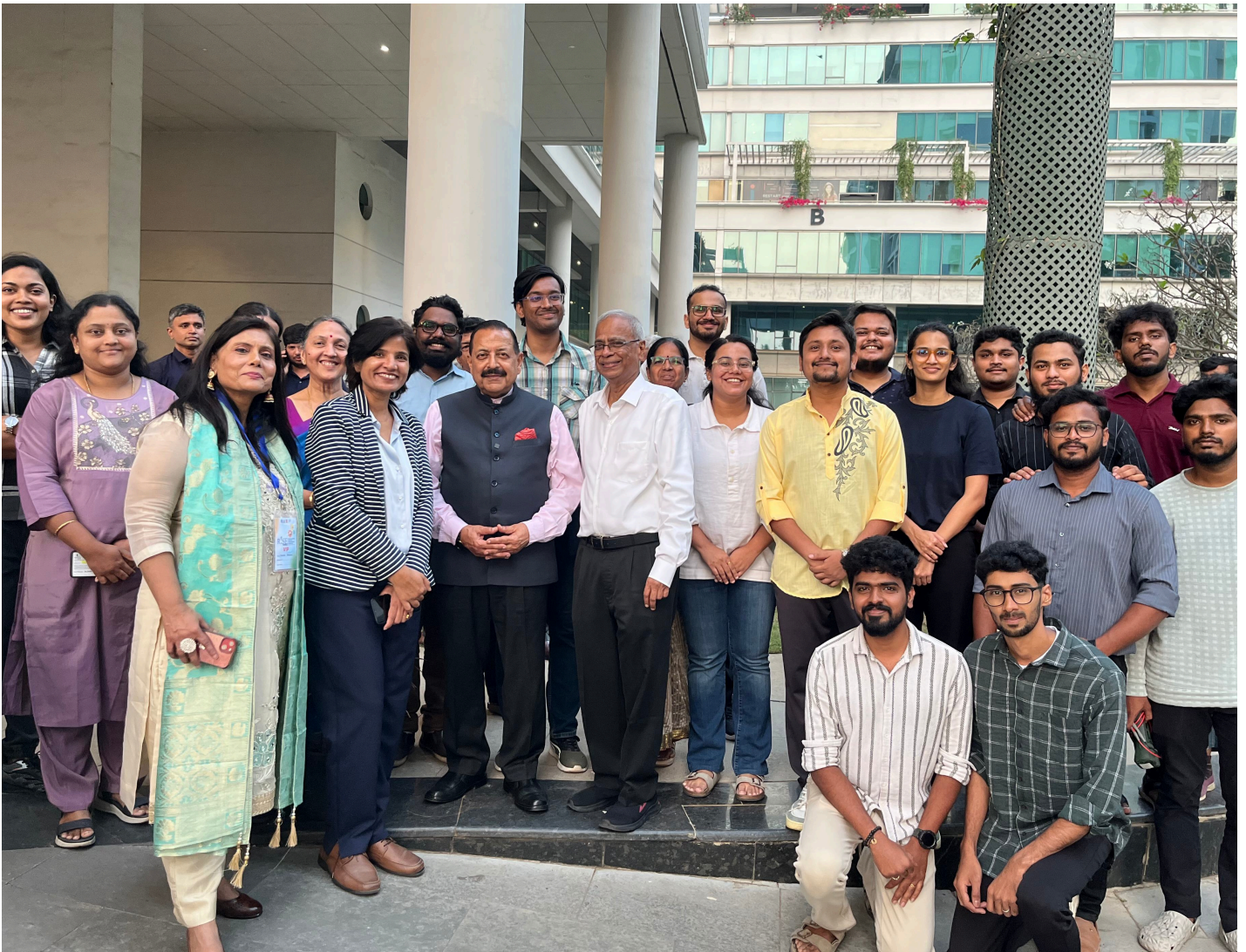
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Anil Prabhakar	Professor, IIT Madras

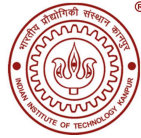
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Uday Khankhoje	Associate Professor, IIT Madras
Umesh Sirsiwal	Architect, Uptycs
Sreehari Nagarajan	CEO of Chakra Network Pvt. Ltd.
Sanjay Nandipaku	'Eelectric' Electronics Systems Engineer
Nivedha R M	CEO & Founder at Trashcon
Rajashree R	Strategic Advisor, ITEL Foundation
Ram Vittal	CEO, Marex Americas
Ethayaraja Mani	Professor at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
Krishnan Balasubramanian	Institute Professor at IIT Madras
Srimathy Narasimhan	Program Leader - Neuro Rehabilitation

# Our Team

55+ members and consistently expanding



## Institute Partners



## Industry Partners



## Incubator Partners



## VC & Investor Partners



# The Next Chapter: Message from the CEO



This past year has been one of foundations.

Across every initiative in this report, we have moved from problem identification to active solution-building. The coming year is about moving from foundations to proof points.

HASHTIC will conduct its first on-ground trial. CDI water purification will progress from lab to field. The Power Electronics Finishing School will produce its first cohort of engineers. Build Club will expand to more colleges. Our battery recycling laboratory will validate its first green chemistry processes. Reneonix, PRESPL, Orhin, Admeca, P3C, Vaayuneer, and Elements Energy will each take meaningful steps from development toward commercialization.

But beyond individual milestones, what we are building is a larger ecosystem. One where researchers, founders, industry partners, students, and policymakers are connected around a shared conviction that India's most complex problems are also India's greatest opportunities, and that technology, built the Indian way, is how we seize them.

India does not lack talent. It does not lack ideas. What it has historically lacked is the connective tissue — the institutions, the platforms, the networks — that turn individual brilliance into collective, scaled impact. That is what ITEL Foundation exists to build.

We enter the next year with more drive, more partners, more learners, and more momentum than the last. The circle is growing. And the impact is only beginning.

Reema Saha  
Chief Executive Officer  
ITEL Foundation

Where India's impossible challenges find the people determined to solve them.

[www.itelfoundation.in](http://www.itelfoundation.in)