DAAD India

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German Academic Exchange Service

DWIH New Delhi
Land der Ideen

Innovators Connect Tandem

2025

PARTICIPANT PROFILES

10 Nov - 20 Nov 2025

India

A PROGRAMME OF

SUPPORTED BY

HOST INCUBATORS

PARTNER INCUBATORS

Innovators Connect - Tandem 2025

10.11.-20.11.2025

Hyderabad and Bengaluru (India)

Innovator's Connect-Tandem: is a two-week immersion programme organized by the German Centre for Research and Innovation (DWIH New Delhi), a unit of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). It is aimed at early-career researchers and early-stage start-up founders from India and Germany. Participants are individuals incubated or conducting research at an incubator or start-up center within a university or research institution in either country. The programme's goal is to promote collaborative research and joint technology development.

This year, 27 participants are hosted across four research incubators in Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Throughout the programme, they will work in Indo-German teams to generate new ideas, receive training on bringing research innovations to market, gain tailored mentoring from experts in India and Germany, and get exposure to the start-up and innovation ecosystems of both nations. The programme includes design thinking workshops, information sessions, mentoring, networking opportunities, and start-up and industry visits.

The programme is co-curated in collaboration with a network of 14 research incubators from India and Germany, with an additional aim to foster cooperation among these incubators.

In 2025, the partner incubators are:

Germany: NXTGN, KIT Gründerschmiede (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), Transfer Centre TRACES (University of Stuttgart), Centre for Entrepreneurship (University of Rostock), Fraunhofer Venture (Fraunhofer Gesellschaft), Hei_Innovation (Heidelberg University), Gateway Excellence Start-up Center (University of Cologne), and Technical University of Braunschweig.

India: Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), ASPIRE Technology Business Incubator (University of Hyderabad), Foundation for Science Innovation and Development - FSID (Indian Institute of Science), KIIT-Technology Business Incubator - KIIT-TBI (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology), IIT Hyderabad Technology Incubation Centre - iTIC (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad), and Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre - SIIC (Indian Institute of Technology - IIT Kanpur).

The programme includes the following elements:

- **Teamwork:** Each team, with at least one participant from each country, tackles global challenges through new ideas by combining diverse skills and perspectives. Teams are matched and introduced digitally before the on-site program to kickstart idea development.
- **Mentoring:** Teams receive ongoing, customized mentoring from subject experts and start-up advisors and industry mentors at both host and German incubators.
- **Workshops & Information Sessions:** The programme opens with a design thinking workshop, followed by sessions on start-up fundamentals like value proposition, business modelling, intellectual property and market fit. Participants also gain insights into government support for international start-ups.
- **Pitch Session:** At the end of the programme, teams pitch their ideas to a jury of founders, industry experts, and researchers, with investors and the start-up community also in attendance. Winning teams will reconnect in Germany the following year to participate in a start-up conference, and access further incubator support.
- **Networking:** Participants connect with local and international networks of founders, advisors, and investors, both online and on-site. Indian winners can further expand their networks during their visit to Germany.

Participants hosted at

IIT Hyderabad Technology Incubation Centre (iTIC), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad

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IIT HYDERABAD
TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION CENTER

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

Amedeo Ceruti

PhD Researcher, Technical University of Munich (TUM)

Amedeo Ceruti is a research associate at the Chair of Energy Systems at the TUM, where he develops optimization models for renewable energy grids. He received his M.Sc. from the Technical University of Munich in 2021 and B.Sc. degree from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya BarcelonaTech in 2019. He was part of the first cohort at the TUM Climate Ventures lecture, where he developed and pitched the project topotherm.

/in/amedeoceruti/

Murali Duddi

PhD Researcher, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad

Murali Duddi is a doctoral scholar in Civil Engineering at IIT Hyderabad with a Master's in Structural Engineering. His work focuses on developing a multifunctional embedded smart PZT sensor for cradle-to-grave in-situ monitoring of concrete structures. The sensor supports diverse applications, including 3D-printed concrete, recycled aggregates, and sustainable cementitious materials. He has expertise in advanced material characterization and large-scale testing of concrete structures with an aim to contribute towards the development of smarter and more sustainable infrastructure. He has authored 10 publications and holds a patent.

/in/muraliduddi113/

Alexander Dietrich

PhD Researcher, Technical University of Munich (TUM)

/in/alexander-dietrich

Alexander Dietrich is a bioinformatician with a background in computer science, machine learning, and their application to large-scale biological data, including sequencing data from patients with infectious diseases and cancer. He is currently a PhD candidate in Data Science in Systems Biology at the TUM, where he also earned a master's degree in bioinformatics. His research focuses on cell-type deconvolution methods that computationally estimate cell-type proportions from biological samples.

Sushree Sangita Kar

PhD Researcher, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad

Sushree Sangita Kar is currently pursuing a PhD in Biotechnology at IIT Hyderabad, with a research focus on single-cell RNA sequencing data analysis in cancer. She holds a master's degree in Zoology from Banaras Hindu University, where she specialised in Molecular Reproductive Physiology. Her interests lie at the intersection of molecular biology, immunology, and preventive health. She is particularly passionate about the role of food and nutrition as preventive medicine in managing metabolic disorders.

/in/sushree-sangita-kar

Ahmad Abdulaal

IT Strategist, Team member - Pancreatech, University of Rostock

/in/ahmad-abdulaal

Ahmad Abdulaal is an IT Strategist in a subsidiary of a publicly traded company. He is also a team member of Pancreatech, which is applying for the EXIST grant to develop real-time, non-invasive blood sugar monitoring solutions powered by advanced AI to transform diabetes management through intelligent medical devices. He holds a master's in computer science with a specialization in Complex Systems from the University of Rostock. Through academic research projects and student assistant roles, he gained expertise in AI, machine learning, and sensor-based human activity recognition. He applies this knowledge to drive data-driven innovation and IT modernization.

Kalyani Eswar

PhD Researcher, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad

Kalyani Eswar is currently pursuing a PhD as a Prime Minister's Research Fellowship fellow at IIT Hyderabad, focusing on nanomedicine for theranostics. She holds a BTech in Biotechnology and a master's in molecular medicine. She received the 2024 Research Excellence Award from IIT Hyderabad. With 16 publications to her name and 161 citations, Kalyani is passionate about advancing translational science for impactful healthcare solutions.

/in/kalyani-eswar

Patrick Beyer

Master’s student & Founder - CONCARD, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

Patrick Beyer is pursuing a master’s in Technology and Management in Construction Operations at the KIT. He is also a research assistant at the Digital Engineering and Construction (DEC) institute, where he specializes in 3D laser scanning, automated building quality control, and digital documentation for facility management. Alongside, as the founder of CONCARD, he is focused on driving digitalization in the construction industry. He holds a bachelor’s in civil engineering from the University of Münster.

/in/pbeyer

Shivaganesh Rayapuram

PhD Researcher, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad

Shivaganesh Rayapuram is a Ph.D. scholar at IIT Hyderabad, working at the intersection of materials science and chemical engineering. His research focuses on green separation technologies for hydrocarbon processing, hydrogen purification, and carbon capture (CCUS). With a B.Tech from National Institute of Technology(NIT) Calicut and an M.Tech from IIT Hyderabad, he specialises in membrane-based separations using Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs) and green synthesis. His goal is to develop low-energy, sustainable methods to replace conventional, energy-intensive processes.

/in/r-s-ganesh

Alejandro Poiqui

Co-founder - Lunar, University of Hamburg

Alejandro Poiqui is the co-founder of Lunar, driving impactful, future-ready solutions rooted in sustainability and practicability through emerging technologies that can be used across industries to improve lives at scale. He holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Business Administration with a focus on Operations & Supply Chain Management at the University of Hamburg. During his masters, he worked at Philips in the Sales and Operations Planning team for Health Systems in the DACH region. He has a passion for innovation, AI, and operational excellence.

/in/a-poiqui/

Bikash Mohanty

Founder - Smaket Solutions Pvt Ltd, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Bhubhaneshwar

Bikash Mohanty is the Founder & Managing Director of Smaket Solutions Pvt Ltd, where he empowers unorganized businesses through digitization and funding access. He has 18+ years of experience in mobile application development, specializing in Android and Core Java. With expertise in Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Agile methodologies, Bikash has contributed to leading organizations like General Motors, Prudential, IMS healthcare, FEDEX, T-Mobile, Qualcomm, Kodiak, Nokia, and Digital Chocolate. He holds a BE in IT from Utkal University, India.

/in/bikash-mohanty

Participants hosted at

ASPIRE Technology Business Incubator, University of Hyderabad

Tobias Volkert

Founder - Docary, University of Heidelberg

Tobias Volkert is the founder of Docary, where he aims to improve documentation in psychotherapy using (local) LLMs and AI. He studied Mathematics and Physics, focusing on differential geometry, the renormalization group, complex systems, and theoretical biophysics. He has worked on several projects as a Machine Learning Engineer, Software Engineer, and Requirements Engineer, where he developed a passion for building software and solving user problems.

/in/tobias-volkert

Pauline-Marie Bewerunge

Co-founder - HeyOtters, Stuttgart Media University (HdM)

Pauline Bewerunge began her career as a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist with an MSc. in clinical psychology and psychotherapy from the Medical School Hamburg, where she recognized the urgent need for better mental health support for healthcare workers. Driven by this insight, she transitioned into web development and co-founded HeyOtters, an AI- and ML-powered platform supporting healthcare professionals' mental well-being. Backed by HdM Stuttgart and the EXIST scholarship, she advanced her start-up through programs like Vision Health Pioneers and the Sandbox Accelerator.

/in/pbewerunge/

Dr. Raga Deepthi Ediga

Founder and CEO - For HerWellbeing, University of Hyderabad

Dr. Ediga is the founder of 'For Her Wellbeing', a pioneering platform that leverages technology to deliver holistic, science-based wellness solutions. She holds a Ph.D. in Pediatric Metabolism from Heidelberg University and is dedicated to addressing critical challenges in women's health. Her personal experience with autoimmune conditions fueled her unwavering commitment to this field. Her work has led to transformative outcomes for women facing autoimmune conditions, infertility, PCOS & weight management issues.

/in/deepthiediga/

Participants hosted at

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), Bengaluru

Dr. Anshu Singh

Founder - Immunoedit, University of Heidelberg

Dr. Anshu Singh is the future founding CEO of ImmunoEdit, where she aims to empower immunotherapy research to bring patient derived immune cell services and provide high quality, ethically sourced and engineered immune cells to develop the next generation of immune therapies. She has a PhD in molecular biology and oncology from Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research (MPI-HLR), Bad Nauheim/CBTM Mannheim, with one year of business development experience at PlexoA GmbH and two vocational trainings, including Leadership Training from Campus Founder, Heilbronn and Life Science Management training.

/in/dr-anshu-singh

Dr. Swati Sagarika Panda

R & D Head, BabyCue Pvt. Ltd, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Bhubhaneshwar

Dr. Swati Sagarika Panda is leading the development of innovative probiotic and prebiotic formulations as the R & D Head at BabyCue Pvt. Ltd. to improve metabolic health outcomes. She has completed her PhD from National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Orissa in investigating the role of gut microbiota in regulating metabolic and neuronal health, with a particular focus on the gut-adipose-brain axis. Her research highlights the potential of targeted modulation of gut microbes to improve metabolic parameters and brain health.

in/swati-sagarika-panda

Dr. Alexander Puzicha

Postdoctoral Researcher, Technical University of Dortmund

Dr. Alexander Puzicha is a postdoctoral researcher in Computer Science, AI, and Robotics with a strong focus on maritime autonomy. His research advances autonomous systems for inland and offshore vessels. He completed his PhD with distinction in cooperation with Rheinmetall Electronics, developing a full autonomy stack and hardware prototypes for swarm robotics. His work bridges academic excellence and hands-on maritime experience, including a German patent for autonomous signal detection.

Mousumi Meghamala Nayak

PhD Researcher, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Bhubhaneshwar

Mousumi M. Nayak is a biotechnology researcher with a strong background in molecular diagnostics, microbiology, and applied biotechnology. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University, where she is focused on developing LAMP-based diagnostic kits for rapid and accurate pathogen detection. She has contributed to research on ocular cancers such as retinoblastoma and ocular lymphoma at the L. V. Prasad Eye Institute. Mousumi earned her master's degree in biotechnology from Ravenshaw University.

in/mousumi-meghamala-nayak

Dr. Hannah Doherty

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Cologne

Dr. Hannah Doherty is a postdoctoral researcher in Systems Microbiology at the Cluster of Excellence Cellular Stress Responses in Aging-Associated Diseases (CECAD), University of Cologne, with a strong interest in developing innovative strategies to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). She holds a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Birmingham, UK. Her research combines experimental and computational biology to explore resistance mechanisms and pathogenesis in *P. aeruginosa*. Through her research, she aims to develop actionable solutions to the AMR crisis.

/in/hannah-doherty

Dr. Shivakumar Gowda

Co-founder, ecoGenie biotech, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)

Dr. Shivakumar Gowda is the co-founder of ecoGenie Biotech, Bengaluru, developing sustainable biotech solutions for agriculture, waste valorisation, and natural product extraction with focus on extracting biopolymers from insects and agri-waste to create eco-friendly crop protection and bio-based products. His vision is to empower farmers and small agro-entrepreneurs with practical technologies that improve shelf life, reduce post-harvest losses, and enable residue-free farming. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR) and Jain University.

/in/dr-shivakumar-gowda

Savita Gupta

PhD Researcher, Max Planck Institute-Heart & Lung Research (MPI-HLR)

/in/savitaguptap

Savita Gupta is pursuing PhD at MPI-HLR focused on cardiac regeneration. She has identified a crucial gene for immune & fibrotic responses in a preclinical model & has pioneered time-efficient imaging & staining innovations, accelerating experimental workflows. With research experiences in esteemed institutions like Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)-Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), University of Hyderabad, NIT Rourkela & Biocon Biopharmaceutical, she is passionate about applying her expertise in biosimilars, immunology, molecular biology, microbiology, & science communication to improve patient outcomes.

Dr. Vivekanand Tiwari

Founder, Vitacrop Technologies Pvt. Ltd, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)

Dr. Vivekanand Tiwari is an entrepreneur in the field of plant biology, the Founder of Vitacrop Technologies Pvt. Ltd., India and the co-founder of ClimateCrop Ltd., Israel. He holds a Ph.D. in Plant Biotechnology with specialization in plant genetic engineering and gene-editing from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute. He was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel. His expertise lies in improving the abiotic stress tolerance and photosynthetic efficiency of plants.

/in/vivekanand-tiwari

Participants hosted at

Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID), Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru

Benjamin Schreiber

Research Associate, Fraunhofer Institute for Electronic Nano Systems (ENAS)

Benjamin Schreiber is a research associate at Fraunhofer ENAS in the International Sales department, where he maintains close contact with cutting-edge technologies and develops a strong understanding of market needs. He holds a master's degree in Sensory and Cognitive Psychology. His focus is on integrating physiological data to draw insights into mental health, giving him hands-on experience with programming and methodologies such as electroencephalography (EEG), eye tracking, and virtual reality (VR). Benjamin also leads the China Competence Center at TU Chemnitz.

/in/benjamin-schreiber

Mohit Pandey

PhD Researcher & Co-founder - SOLVINN Medtech, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur

Mohit Pandey is a PhD scholar at IIT Kanpur with expertise in chemical engineering, biomedical device innovation & advanced materials. He is a Fellow of School of International Biodesign - Synergizing Healthcare Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SIB-SHInE) and the co-founder at SOLVINN Medtech Pvt. Ltd., working on lymphedema therapy and neuromodulation devices. His research on laser texturing, plasma functionalization, sulfonation, and additive manufacturing of PEEK has led to 21 publications, several book chapters, 414 citations, and an h-index of 10.

/in/mohit-pandey

Mathis Hach

PhD Researcher, University of Rostock

Mathis Hach is a mechanical engineer with a strong focus on lightweight design and additive manufacturing. He is currently pursuing a PhD in the fracture mechanical behavior of brittle foams and the mechanical behavior of artificial bones. As one of the initiators of Bonetech, he aims to bridge research and real-world applications in medical equipment manufacturing. He holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Rostock.

/in/mathis-hach

Ghulam Farooqui

Co-founder & CEO, HealthQuant, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur

Ghulam Farooqui is the Co-founder & CEO of HealthQuant, a medtech startup developing a first-of-its-kind sweat-based wearable for non-invasive continuous glucose monitoring. He is a Blockchain for Impact (BFI)-Biome Fellow, Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), Government of India, Founder-in-Residence at Entrepreneur First and incubated at Startup Incubation & Innovation Centre (SIIC), IIT Kanpur. He was also supported by Common Research & Technology Development Hub (CRDTH), IIT Kharagpur. He holds a BS-MS degree from IIT Kanpur and focuses on translating biosensing research into scalable healthcare solutions.

/in/ghulam-farooqui/

Julian Wagner

Master's Student, University of Stuttgart

Julian Wagner is an interdisciplinary professional focused on leveraging technologies like Vision Language Models for innovative solutions, while exploring the intersections of AI with historical and cultural contexts. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in Digital Humanities focused on Large Language Models (LLMs) at University of Stuttgart and holds a bachelor's in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Julian has experience working at leading companies, where he contributed to projects involving data analysis, software development, and generative AI implementations.

/in/julian-wagner

Satyarthi Mishra

PhD Researcher, Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc)

Satyarthi Mishra is a doctoral scholar in Interdisciplinary Nanoscience and Engineering at IISc and a Prime Minister's Research Fellow. With a bachelor's degree in biotechnology, he explores microphysiological systems for disease modeling and drug discovery. His research focuses on ovarian metastasis across the peritoneum using 3D tissue culture and microfluidics, combining cell biology and microfabrication to advance human health through Bioengineering. He also actively engaged in organizing InnovateX, a pitch-to-win event hosted jointly with INCeNSE, a deep-tech incubator at IISc, enriching his skills in teamwork and leadership.

/in/satyarthi-mishra

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