

People's Festival of Innovations (PFoI) 2025

17th- 20th November, 2025

India International Centre, New Delhi

From Spark to Scale: Transforming innovative ideas to socially relevant solutions

Agenda

Date	Venue	Time	Sessions
17th Nov	Seminar Room (Common Session)	10.30 - 01.00	
	Seminar hall verandah	10.50-11.20 AM	Opening Session- Festival Theme Talk – (From Spark to Scale: Transforming innovative ideas to socially relevant solutions Dr. Harish Hande, Co-Founder, SELCO Solar Light Private Limited
		11.20-12.00 PM	Social Alliance for Accelerating Transformative & High-impact Innovations An Interactive Session with Innovators and SAATHI partners Session moderator: Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO & Director, C-CAMP Panel Members: Dr. Dilip Kumar Chekuri, MediValley-AMTZ, Ms. Suman Gupta- BSC BioNEST Bio-Incubator (BBB), RCB, Ms. Megha Jain, Gates Foundation, Dr. Anil Wali, BioCyTiH Foundation, Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar, KIIT
		12.00-12.10 PM	Inaugural – Lighting the lamp
		12.10-12.15 PM	Welcome Address – Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO & Director, C-CAMP
		12.15-12.20 PM	Opening Remarks – Dr. Swati Basu, Former Scientific Secretary, O/o PSA
		12.20-12.25 PM	Opening Address - Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director
		12.25-12.30 PM	Special Address – Prof. Anil Gupta, Founder, Honey Bee Network, SRISTI, GIAN & NIF, Visiting Faculty, IIMA, IITB, Academy Professor, AcSIR
		12.30-12.35 PM	Festival Vision Address — About the Festival – Dr. Renu Swarup, Former Secretary, Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India
		12.35-12.45 PM	Inaugural Address – Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University
		12.45-01.10 PM	Launch of SAATHI (Social Alliance for Accelerating Transformative & High-impact Innovations) video of PFoI (3 min) Address by Ms. Archna Vyas (5 min) Launch of SAATHI poster (2 min) Group pic with all partners (2 min)

			Dr. Dilip Kumar Chekuri, MediValley-AMTZ, Ms. Suman Gupta- BSC BioNEST Bio-Incubator (BBB), RCB, Ms. Archna Vyas, Gates Foundation, Ms. Megha Jain, Gates Foundation, Dr. Anil Wali, BioCyTiH Foundation, Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar, KIIT	
		01.10 PM	Vote of thanks	
	Gandhi King Plaza (GKP)	01.10- 01.30	Inauguration of Exhibition	
	Seminar Room - Common Session	02.15 -3.15 PM	Session 1: Scaling Innovations for Societal Impact —Dr Renu Swarup and Dr Anil Gupta Why does taking an idea to scale fail at multiple steps — overcoming the challenges Session Moderator: Dr Renu Swarup & Dr Anil Gupta Panel Members: Dr. Markandeya Gorantla, ATGC, Dr. Pramod Garg, AIIMS, Dr. Suphiya Khan, Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Arun Chandru, Pandorum Sunil Khairnar (Founder and Director of Indigram Group) Brigadier Ganesham P Vivekanand Sundaram	
	Seminar Rooms (parallel sessions)	3.15 – 4.30 PM	Session: 2 Identifying need based challenges - finding the right solutions (C-CAMP Team to identify this beforehand) In this session the Experts will interact with the innovators and respond to the issues raised by them on how to take innovations to scale and deployment Interactive Q &/A SESSION Session Moderator: Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, Director General R&D, KIIT Panel Members: Dr. Amit Dinda, AIIMS, Dr. PVM Rao, IITD, Dr. Ashwani Pareek, NABI, Dr. Shams Yazdani, ICGEB	Session: Tapping grassroots knowledge, institutions, and technologies for rural transformation. Chair: Dr Sanjay Singh, Chair ASRB Dr Rajbir Singh- Deputy Director General of Agriculture Extension at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai VC SKAUST K Prof Laxman Sharma (Dean, Sikkim University) Grassroots innovators: Dharambir Khamboj G K Ratnakar Gurmeil singh Prerna Samakhya wool

	GKP (common session)	4.30 PM-6.00 PM	Interactive session focusing on marginal and remote/tribal areas Moderated by Dr Mrutyunjay and Dr Aslam Story Telling (2 grassroot + 1 deeptech)	
18 th Nov	Seminar Room (Parallel Sessions)	10 .00- 1.30 PM		
		10.00-11.30 AM	Session 3: Smart Capital: How to unlock Funding— View points from Investors and Government on opportunities which exist Session Moderator: Dr. Premnath Venugopalan, Founding Director, Venture Centre Panel Members: Ms. Padmaja Ruparel, IAN, Ms. Rema Subramanian, Ankur Capital, Dr. Shrishendhu Mukherjee, Wadhvani Foundation, Dr. Manish Diwan, Head, Biofoundry	Session: Tapping Grassroots creativity and frugal innovations- an international perspective Keynote Speakers: Serge Rohmer- Professor and a Research Engineer/Scientist (Enseignant chercheur) at the University of Technology of Troyes (UTT) in France Nigel Collin (Australian business and creativity expert, author)
	Seminar hall verandah	11.45 - 1.15 PM	Session 4: Building the right partnerships — taking innovations to impact This session will focus on how innovations are taken forward to create an impact Experts who have facilitated it and Startups who have created that impact will share their thoughts Session Moderator: Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, Chairman and Managing Director, IKP Knowledge Park. Panel Members: Dr. Neeraj Jain, PATH, Dr. Amit Shah, Jhpiego, Mr. Vivek Mishra, Fibroheal, Dr. Manoj Kumar Rupa, Capsber	“Innovation through Enterprises, Markets & Institutions” Hemendra Mathur (Chair & Moderator) Keynote Speaker: Sunil Khairnar (Founder and Director of Indigram Group) Founder presentations (Forecast, Biome, Sajeevan) Anish Kumar Startup Founders
	Seminar Room (Parallel sessions)	2.30 – 4. 00 PM	Master Class on IP and Technology Transfer Dr. Shrishendhu Mukherjee, Wadhvani Foundation, Dr Malathi Lakshmikumaran, L&S Attorneys and Dr. Rijuta Garapaty, Sathguru consultants	Leveraging IP for grassroots innovators: Pravin Anand – Managing Partner & Head of Litigation at the law firm Anand and Anand Vikrant Rana – Managing Partner at S.S. Rana & Co., New Delhi. Jatin Y. Trivedi – Senior Partner at Y.J. Trivedi & Co., Ahmedabad.

	GKP	4.00 PM—5.30	SPECIAL SESSION ON Remote locations —tier 3/4 - Prof. Anil Gupta Story Telling (2 grassroot + 2 deeptech)	
19th Nov	GKP (common session)	10.00-1.00 PM 10.00 – 11.15 AM	Discussion 1- Scaling Innovations –Assessing the Impact of Social innovations This session will be a free-flowing conversation with innovators focusing on how do we assess the impact of social innovations Lead Talk & Moderator – Dr. Satyajit Majumdar, Managing Director, TISS Incube Foundation Session Moderator: Dr. Satyajit Majumdar, Managing Director, TISS Incube Foundation Panel Members: Mr. Sujay Dixit, CEO, TISS Incube Foundation, Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora, Adviser, Northern Region S&T Cluster (PI-RAHI: PU IIT Ropar Regional Accelerator for Holistic Innovation Foundation); Former Executive Director, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology, Dr. Vipin Kumar, NIF, Dr. Anamika Dey, CEO, GIAN, Dr Ranjay Kumar Singh, ICAR	
	GKP (parallel session)	11.45 – 1.00PM	Discussion 2 - Scalability vs Sustainability This session will be a free flowing conversation moderated by a senior expert focusing on how to strike a balance between scaling innovations and ensuring their sustainability. It is important to create the right framework of policy and ecosystem Session Moderator: Dr. Kavita Singh, Independent Director, Gennova Biopharmaceutical Panel Members: Dr. Avijit Bansal, SIB, Dr. Nitin Sisodia, Founder & CEO Sohum Innovation Lab, Dr. Srikant Sastri, Investor and Startup Mentor,	Grassroots Innovators (Online Innovators, big screen LCD needed) Sunflower Seed Variety- Surendra Pal Sunflower Seed Extractor- Lakhanlal Patel Pepper Thresher- Binoy Sebastian Low cost fish dryer and stove- Maibam Deben Singh Annapurna Rice Library- Mahan Chandra Borah Tractor Operated Orchard Sprayer - Rajendra Jadhav Sola Wood Sheet Making Machine (Sheet Slicing) - Deepak Sardar Mittidhan: hand tools for workers - Hiren Panchal Polanga Decorticator- Rajesh Sahoo Root-Fusion Nutmeg: Multi-Root Approach Grafted Saplings for Enhanced Yield & Resilience- Gopi C. M HRMN-99 Apple Variety- Hariman Sharma Rice/Grain Sorting Machine - Mohan Sharma Tractor-Bund: Precision Bund Maker with Adjustable Settings- Mridupaban Handique

				Fruits and Vegetable Capper- Shaji Varghese SK4, a high-yielding turmeric variety - Sachin Kamlakar Karekar Improved Drought Tolerant Dual Purpose Sorghum Variety- Himatbhai Virjibhai Lakkad
	GKP	2.00 - 5.00 PM	Story Telling (3 grassroot + 3 deeptech). Moderated by Prof Anil Gupta Interactions between Deeptech and Grass root	
20 th Nov	GKP (common session)	10.30 – 12.30 PM	Investor One-on-One interactions IAN, Blume, Social Alpha, BioRx	
	GKP (common session)	12.30 – 02.00 PM	Interactive sessions between deeptech & grassroot and Feedback Moderators- Dr. Swarup and Prof. Gupta	