REPORT

CSIR's Start-Up Conclave 2025

Pooja Virmani

ON 14-15 September 2025, four premier laboratories of the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) — NBRI, CDRI, IITR and CIMAP, jointly organised the fourth edition of CSIR's Start-Up Conclave at the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow. The first three were organised at Jammu, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. The event was based on the theme "Translating Research and Development into Start-Ups: Innovation for Agriculture, Environment and Health for Industries and Societies."

The main objectives of the two-day event were connecting investors, providing a collaboration platform, showcasing innovation in technologies, technological transfers, and partnerships, giving a foundation to young innovators, collaborations with Uttar Pradesh Government and strengthening the ecosystem by bringing out sustainable solutions for the betterment of the environment. The remarkable conclave was loaded with some key activities like Panel Discussions, Technology Showcase, Business-to-Business & Business-to-Government meetings, Handholding Sessions, Start-up Pitch Sessions, Workshops and Awareness Sessions. Under the CSIR Floriculture & Aroma Mission, a dedicated Farmer's Welfare Session was also organised hand-in-hand by CSIR-NBRI & CSIR-CIMAP to empower farmers by bringing the technological utilities to the desk for their upliftment.

The target audience of this initiative by CSIR was mainly Young Entrepreneurs, Faculty, Researchers & Students, Farmers, VCs & Angel Investors, Industry Leaders & R&D Heads, Start-ups in Biotech, Pharma, Aroma, Agriculture & Environment, Policy Makers & Govt representatives, and Central & State Govt Departments.

A Swastika-shaped "Lotus Garden" was also inaugurated at the CSIR-NBRI by Minister of Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh. It is India's first such facility wherein attempts to conserve biodiversity, along with creating economic opportunities, have been made while keeping the cultural symbolism on top, as the symbols of 'Swastik' and 'Lotus' both have strong traditional significance. The garden has several ponds, which have more than 60 varieties of lotus flowers and around 50 varieties of water lilies brought from across the globe. The unique garden will act as a bridge between floriculturists, entrepreneurs and the pharma industry, serving various medicinal, industrial, and traditional purposes. The highlight of the Lotus Park was "Namoh Kamal", developed by none other than CSIR-NBRI, the world's first 108-petal lotus flower named after India's Hon'ble PM Mr Narendra Modi. This absolutely wonderful and captivating variety of flowers made it to the "Kaun Banega Crorepati" by becoming a prize-winning question in the famous TV reality quiz show. Several stalls of innovative start-ups and ventures were put up in