

Report

CII-HBNI Research Scholars' Summit on

Employment, Entrepreneurship and Startup Opportunities

"Translating Innovative Research into Employment, Entrepreneurship and Startups"

Held on 22 May 2026 at DAE Convention Centre, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai

The CII-HBNI Research Scholars' Summit 2026 was organized by Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Government of Maharashtra, and AIC- BARC Anushakti with the objective of creating awareness among research scholars and young researchers regarding opportunities in employment, entrepreneurship, translational research, startups, and academia-industry collaboration.

The summit was conducted at the DAE Convention Centre, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai, and brought together HBNI research scholars from CIs/OCCs in Mumbai, including BARC and Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) and ACTREC, along with participants from academic institutions, industries, incubation ecosystems, and participants nominated through CII from universities and institutes located in Mumbai and Maharashtra state. The summit received an encouraging response of 220 from research scholars, students, researchers, and participants from various institutions and organizations. A total of 153 participants from BARC-HBNI registered through the online portal, and attended the programme. From Tata Memorial Centre (TMC/ACTREC), 18 participants were registered and attended the programme. The summit also witnessed 50 participants from institutions and universities other than HBNI, and located in Mumbai and Maharashtra through CII nominations.

The programme commenced with the arrival of dignitaries and invited guests, followed by registration and interaction sessions. Senior representatives from HBNI, DAE institutions, Government of Maharashtra, CII, incubation ecosystems, industries, academia, and research organizations participated in the summit to interact with scholars across multiple disciplines.



Dignitaries during the inaugural session of the CII-HBNI Research Scholars' Summit 2026 organized by HBNI in association with CII, Government of Maharashtra, and AIC-BARC

The inaugural session included welcome remarks, theme address, keynote address, and special addresses focusing on innovation-driven research ecosystems,

entrepreneurship, translational research pathways, startup opportunities, and industry-academia collaboration. The keynote address by Dr. P. Anbalagan, IAS, Principal Secretary (Industries and Services), Government of Maharashtra highlighted the importance of science-driven growth, translational research, innovation ecosystems, startup promotion, and the broader vision of Viksit Bharat. The address also emphasized industrial innovation, circular economy initiatives, startup ecosystems, and stronger industry-academia engagement for national development.

The inaugural discussions highlighted the importance of transforming “papers into products”, promoting disruptive innovations, and strengthening collaboration among academia, industry, government agencies, incubation centres, investors, and research organizations. The remarks by Prof. U. Kamachi Mudali, Vice Chancellor, HBNI, highlighted the journey and achievements of HBNI, the role of DAE institutions in advanced scientific research and national development, and the importance of connecting fundamental research with industrial applications, entrepreneurship, and societal impact.

Special emphasis was laid on incubation ecosystems, translational research, and commercialization pathways through Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) and related innovation ecosystems. The need to bridge the gap between laboratory research and commercialization of technologies developed in national laboratories was highlighted. Emerging opportunities in Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Advanced Manufacturing, Digital Technologies, and innovation-driven industries were discussed, with encouragement to scholars to focus on interdisciplinary learning, real-world problem solving, innovation, and societal impact. Participants were encouraged to transform knowledge into innovation and innovation into societal impact.

The summit included thematic technical sessions covering Chemical Sciences, Engineering, Medical and Life Sciences, and Physics & Mathematics. These sessions focused on emerging career opportunities, translational research pathways, innovation ecosystems, startup opportunities, future workforce requirements, and industrial expectations from research scholars.

The discussions during the thematic sessions highlighted opportunities in sustainability-driven innovation, advanced materials, healthcare technologies, biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, advanced manufacturing, analytics, quantum technologies, computational sciences, and interdisciplinary research areas. Participants were encouraged to strengthen analytical thinking, problem-solving abilities, industry readiness, communication skills, and innovation-oriented approaches aligned with national and societal needs.

The valedictory session focused on entrepreneurship, startup incubation, translational research, technology commercialization, and the transition of research scholars from job seekers to job creators. The session also emphasized the importance of calculated risk-taking, interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation ecosystems, and stronger engagement with incubation centres and industries.

The summit concluded with an interactive summing-up session highlighting the future roadmap for research scholars, innovation ecosystems, academia–industry collaboration, startup culture, and translational research initiatives within HBNI and DAE institutions.

The summit successfully provided a common platform for interaction among research scholars, academic institutions, industries, startup ecosystems, policymakers, incubation centres, and innovation leaders.

Major Outcomes and Way Forward

The summit highlighted the growing importance of innovation-driven scientific ecosystems and the need to strengthen translational research, entrepreneurship, startup culture, and academia–industry collaboration. The discussions emphasized that future research ecosystems must move beyond conventional academic boundaries and actively promote innovation, technology translation, interdisciplinary learning, and societal impact-driven research.

A major message emerging from the summit was that future researchers should evolve from “job seekers” to “job creators” by actively contributing toward innovation, commercialization, indigenous technologies, startups, and societal applications of science and technology. Scholars were encouraged to explore entrepreneurship, translational research, incubation ecosystems, and industrial applications of scientific knowledge alongside conventional career pathways.

The summit emphasized that opportunities are abundant across disciplines for researchers willing to continuously learn, innovate, take informed risks, and work on real-world challenges. Discussions highlighted the importance of analytical thinking, problem-solving abilities, communication skills, adaptability, industry readiness, and interdisciplinary exposure as essential attributes for future scientific leadership.

Important themes discussed during the summit included employment versus entrepreneurship, safe career pathways versus calculated risk-taking, academia versus industry-oriented innovation ecosystems, and opportunities in India versus abroad. Participants were encouraged to make informed choices based on long-term vision, innovation potential, national priorities, and societal relevance.

The summit further emphasized that India-specific technological and societal challenges require India-centric scientific and innovation solutions. Research scholars were encouraged to contribute toward national missions, translational technologies, indigenous innovation, and technology-driven societal applications through stronger engagement with industries, incubation ecosystems, and policymakers.

The importance of DAE technologies, emerging opportunities in the nuclear sector and allied advanced technology domains, and stronger engagement between research scholars and DAE incubation ecosystems, particularly Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), was highlighted as an important future direction for technology translation and startup promotion.

Several suggestions also emerged for future initiatives, including focused DAE conclaves on entrepreneurship and technology translation, stronger academia–industry collaboration platforms, Technothon-type innovation activities, increased awareness regarding startup funding and incubation opportunities, and dedicated programmes on entrepreneurship, innovation, and translational research.

The programme concluded with a strong sense that national leadership, DAE leadership, HBNI, industries, incubation centres, and policymakers are highly supportive of innovation-led scientific ecosystems and translational research initiatives for national development.
