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# **CATALYZING CHANGE**

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**A STRATEGIC VISIT TO MTI-HUB BY CEO, KIIT-TBI**

Prepared by:  
**Manipur Technology Innovation Hub**



## Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar

CEO, KIIT Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI)  
Chairman, Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation  
Cluster Foundation (BCKIC)

Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar is a distinguished figure in the fields of biotechnology and innovation management, currently serving as the Director General of Research & Development and Innovation at KIIT University. He holds the position of Chief Executive Officer at KIIT Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI), where he has been instrumental in nurturing over 390 startups across sectors such as engineering, energy, and biotechnology, leading to the creation of more than 6,000 jobs.

Dr. Suar earned his Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology from the University of Delhi, followed by postdoctoral research at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. In 2007, he established the School of Biotechnology at KIIT University, which has since been recognized as a Centre of Excellence by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

In his role as Chairman of the Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster Foundation (BCKIC), an initiative of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Dr. Suar focuses on fostering a robust science, technology, and innovation ecosystem in Odisha and the northeastern states.

Throughout his career, Dr. Suar has received numerous accolades, including the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) Professorship Award in 2012 and the GP Chatterjee Memorial Award during the 102nd Indian Science Congress. He has also been recognized as a Future Young Technical Leader by STARS Switzerland in 2010. His contributions extend to academia, with over 90 peer-reviewed research articles and three patents to his name.

# INTRODUCTION

On 17th May 2025, Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO of KIIT Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI) and Chairman of Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster Foundation (BCKIC), undertook an official visit to Manipur aimed at strengthening the regional innovation landscape. Recognized for his vast experience in building and nurturing startup ecosystems across India, Dr. Suar's visit was an important milestone for the Manipur Technology Innovation Hub (MTI HUB). The visit reflects a broader commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and technological innovation in the Northeastern states, with a special emphasis on supporting youth and women entrepreneurs who are key drivers of inclusive economic growth in the region.

## AGENDA OF VISIT

The visit was strategically planned with two primary objectives:

- **Expansion Prospects of MTI HUB:** To explore, deliberate, and chart out future growth opportunities for MTI HUB in partnership with the Government of Manipur. Discussions focused on infrastructure development, capacity enhancement, resource mobilization, and creating a more robust ecosystem that can support innovation at scale.
- **Engagement with Emerging Startups:** To directly interact with promising startups from various sectors within Manipur. This included understanding their innovations, challenges, and support needs. Dr. Suar aimed to provide valuable insights, mentorship, and facilitate connections with relevant funding agencies and government departments to help accelerate their growth trajectories.

## RECEPTION AT MTI HUB

Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar was warmly welcomed by the MTI HUB team upon his arrival at their office. The team greeted him with enthusiasm and respect, reflecting the excitement and honor of hosting a distinguished leader with vast experience in nurturing startups.

The cordial welcome set a positive tone for the day's engagements, highlighting the mutual respect and eagerness to learn from Dr. Suar's vast experience. His presence energized the MTI HUB community, reinforcing their dedication towards nurturing startups and creating sustainable growth opportunities within the region.



## PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON MTI-HUB'S JOURNEY AND VISION

Post-reception, Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar engaged in an insightful preliminary discussion with the core team members of MTI HUB. The session provided an overview of the hub's journey so far—its milestones, evolving startup ecosystem, and the unique challenges faced in the context of Manipur.

The team highlighted various incubation initiatives, success stories, and collaborative efforts that have taken shape under the hub's guidance. Dr. Suar, drawing from his rich experience, emphasized the importance of a long-term vision, scalable strategies, and leveraging regional strengths to build nationally competitive ventures.

He encouraged the team to focus on creating sustainable support structures for local entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, and shared perspectives on how similar hubs across the country are navigating their growth.

This thoughtful exchange not only affirmed MTI HUB's mission but also aligned its future roadmap with national innovation goals—setting the tone for the site visit to the permanent campus that followed.

## VISIT TO PERMANENT CAMPUS

Following the interaction at the MTI HUB office, Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar proceeded to visit the permanent campus site of MTI HUB, where construction work is currently in progress. The site visit was an important part of his agenda to assess the physical infrastructure being developed to support Manipur's growing startup ecosystem.

Dr. Suar expressed his appreciation for the progress made so far and commended the vision of establishing a dedicated innovation and incubation hub in the region. Recognizing the critical role that infrastructure plays in fostering innovation, he emphasized that a well-designed space can greatly influence productivity, collaboration, and startup culture.

During the visit, Dr. Suar shared valuable inputs and suggestions based on his vast experience in managing innovation spaces:

- **Space Management:** He recommended optimizing the layout to ensure flexible working zones that can adapt to different stages of startup development—from ideation to scaling.
- **Modular Infrastructure:** He suggested incorporating modular and multi-purpose areas that can function as co-working spaces, labs, and event zones depending on requirements.
- **Startup-Focused Amenities:** He emphasized the inclusion of facilities like a dedicated mentoring zone, product prototyping labs, high-speed connectivity, and breakout spaces to encourage creativity and team synergy.
- **Green and Open Design:** He also highlighted the importance of integrating sustainable practices, natural lighting, and open layouts to create an environment conducive to long working hours and collaboration.

## STARTUP INTERACTION PROGRAM & CELEBRATION OF THE ART OF GIVING

A special Startup Interaction Program was organized to facilitate meaningful engagement between Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar and over 30 promising startups from diverse sectors across Manipur. This program served as a platform for sharing innovative ideas, seeking guidance, and building connections.

Highlights of the session included:

- One-on-one interaction sessions where startups shared their ideas, sectoral focus, innovations, and growth challenges.
- Dr. Suar provided valuable feedback, insightful comments, and suggestions to help startups improve their offerings and scale their ventures.
- He shared information about funding channels, strategic partnerships, and government schemes that startups could leverage.
- Dr. Suar committed to connecting the startups with the right resource persons, central government departments, and institutional networks to help meet their operational and developmental needs.

The event was further enriched by the celebration of the *“Art of Giving”*, a global initiative that promotes compassion, kindness, and the spirit of sharing. Dr. Suar shared the significance of this philosophy, emphasizing that giving selflessly—whether through knowledge, guidance, or opportunities—can build stronger, more resilient communities. He encouraged young entrepreneurs to integrate this value into their journey, underlining its role in creating a supportive and sustainable innovation ecosystem.

As a gesture of appreciation, and in the spirit of the Art of Giving, several startups presented their own products to Dr. Suar at the conclusion of the program—celebrating his visit and recognizing his unwavering support for Manipur’s growing entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The interaction session was deeply insightful and left participants energized, enlightened, and motivated to pursue their entrepreneurial goals with renewed commitment.







## STRATEGIC DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT IMPHAL HOTEL

A high-level meeting was held at Imphal Hotel with representatives from the Government of Manipur, including:

- **Shri Th. Kirankumar**, IAS, Secretary (IT), Govt. of Manipur
- **Shri N. Deben Singh**, Director, Department of IT, Govt. of Manipur

During the meeting, discussions centered around:

- The growth trajectory and future expansion of MTI HUB.
- Collaborative opportunities to promote entrepreneurship across the state, with a particular emphasis on youth and women entrepreneurs.
- Dr. Suar's vision to bring in central government-supported programs and projects to benefit Manipur's startup ecosystem and contribute to the local economy.

The government officials appreciated Dr. Suar's vision and expressed their commitment to translating the discussion points into actionable outcomes. The meeting concluded on a positive and productive note, with the presentation of indigenous gift items made by MTI HUB-supported startups to the dignitaries.



## CONCLUSION

Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar's visit to Manipur was a resounding success, marked by meaningful interactions, strategic discussions, and a shared vision for empowering startups in the Northeast. His commitment to nurturing innovation and creating linkages for Manipur's entrepreneurs is expected to open new avenues for growth and collaboration.

The MTI HUB team expresses heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Suar for his invaluable time, insights, and support, and looks forward to continued cooperation with KIIT-TBI and BCKIC for the sustained development of the innovation ecosystem in Manipur.



*"Great leaders light the path, not just for today—  
but for generations to walk ahead."*

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## **MANIPUR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION HUB (MTI HUB)**

**An initiative by Dept. of Information Technology, Govt. of Manipur  
&  
Implemented by KIIT-TBI, Bhubaneswar**



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