



NIT Raipur FIE Wins National Incubator Award

Why in News?

The NIT Raipur Foundation for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FIE) will be awarded the **National Incubator Award** at the **4th India Entrepreneurship Summit** on **13th September** 2025 at NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi.

Key Points

- **Establishment:** NIT Raipur-FIE was founded in **March 2021** under the Department of Science and Technology's (DST) [National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations \(NIDHI\) program](#) as a non-profit technology business incubator.
- **Reason for Award:** Recognition for mentoring **35+ startups** in Chhattisgarh and providing strong technical support.
 - Startups incubated span **governance, medical devices, analytics, deep-tech, clean tech, and ICT.**
- **Organizer:** The summit is jointly organized by the **Entrepreneur Association of India (EAI)** and **Enterprising Zone (EZ)**, a government-funded, internationally recognized incubation center.
- **Significance:**
 - Strengthens India's Startup Ecosystem by mentoring youth in Chhattisgarh.
 - Helps position Chhattisgarh as an innovation hub.
 - Contributes to entrepreneurship promotion and technology-led economic growth.

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)

- **About:**
 - The NIDHI is a groundbreaking initiative designed to drive innovation, support startups, and create a thriving [entrepreneurial ecosystem](#) in India.
 - NIDHI comprises various components that provide a comprehensive framework for promoting and accelerating innovation-driven enterprises across the nation.
- **Components:**
 - **NIDHI-PRAYAS (Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring Innovators and Startups):**
 - Focuses on converting innovative ideas into tangible prototypes.
 - Offers mentoring and financial support at the Proof-of-Concept level.
 - **NIDHI Entrepreneurs-In-Residence (EIR) Program:**
 - Provides fellowships to students pursuing entrepreneurship.
 - Aims to nurture and encourage young entrepreneurs.
- **Key Players and Collaborators:**
 - **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR):**
 - NIDHI collaborates closely with [CSIR](#) to shape and develop cutting-edge incubation facilities.
 - Plays an active role in conceptualizing and developing advanced incubation facilities.

- Supports translating technology and products, benefiting society, industry, and the country.
- **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY):**
 - NIDHI's partnership with MeitY in the [Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs \(TIDE 2.0\) Scheme](#) empowers tech-driven startups.
 - Together, they provide financial and technical support to foster technology-based entrepreneurship.

Department of Science and Technology

- The foundation of DST was laid on 3rd May 1971 along the model of the **National Science Foundation (NSF), USA.**
- It provides funding and also makes **policies and coordinates scientific work** with other countries.
- It empowers scientists and scientific institutions and also works with a highly distributed system permeating stakeholders ranging from school, college, PhD, Postdoc students, young scientists, startups, and NGOs working in Science & Technology.

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