

Ratan Tata Innovation Hub Opens Doors to 20,000 Startups Across Andhra Pradesh

From deep-tech incubation to a five-day startup sprint, RTIH's hub-and-spoke model is designed to put entrepreneurship within reach of every district in Andhra Pradesh



Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh May 21, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - *The Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH), Andhra Pradesh's flagship government-backed incubation and entrepreneurship initiative, has officially commenced operations with a central hub in Amaravati and five regional spoke centres spanning the length of the state. Inaugurated on August 20, 2025, at Mayuri Tech Park in Mangalagiri, the initiative represents one of India's most wide-reaching state-level efforts to build a distributed startup ecosystem.*

The 50,000-square-foot central hub in Amaravati serves as the operational anchor for a hub-and-spoke network that extends to Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Tirupati, and Anantapur. This distributed model is designed to deliver institutional incubation support to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities that have historically lacked access to organized startup infrastructure. Over the next five years, RTIH aims to support 20,000 startups and generate over 100,000 direct jobs across Andhra Pradesh.

Established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and developed in alignment with the AP Innovation and Startup Policy 4.0 (2024–2029), RTIH is positioned as a central pillar of the state's broader strategy to build a technology-driven economy. The initiative draws support from partnerships with major industrial groups and is connected to the AP Innovation Society (APIS), which provides institutional oversight.

A Multi-Stage Support Framework for Founders

RTIH has introduced three structured programs catering to entrepreneurs at different stages of their journey.

The Future Founders Program is a six-week pre-incubation initiative designed to help early-stage innovators convert ideas into working prototypes and reach their first customers. The program covers product development fundamentals, market validation, and customer discovery—forming the first step in RTIH's support ladder.

The RTIH Catalyst Incubation Program targets startups that already have validated prototypes or proof of concepts. Startups selected under this program are eligible for funding support of up to Rs 30 lakhs, alongside mentorship, network access, and technical resources. The program follows a structured growth framework intended to accelerate startups toward market readiness.

The SPARK program is a five-day intensive designed for aspiring entrepreneurs at the ideation stage. Focused on nurturing innovation, SPARK introduces participants to problem-solving frameworks, entrepreneurial thinking, and practical business concepts within a compressed and high-energy format.

Deep-Tech and Emerging Sector Focus

RTIH's incubation priorities are concentrated in high-growth technology sectors, including artificial intelligence, electric mobility, biotechnology, green energy, advanced manufacturing, quantum computing, and climate technology. The sector focus reflects both national economic priorities and Andhra Pradesh's natural resource and industrial strengths.

In a direct extension of its mandate, RTIH recently launched the AP-AER Mission Hackathon 1.0 — a statewide innovation challenge organized under the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The hackathon targets alternate energy solutions across four primary domains: cooking energy, mobility and transport, agriculture and rural energy, and MSMEs and industrial energy. The challenge is open to applicants from across India and is aligned with the Swarandhra Vision 2047, emphasizing deployment-first, locally resilient energy systems.

Reaching Founders Beyond State Capitals

One of RTIH's distinguishing features is its deliberate effort to extend incubation infrastructure beyond Amaravati. Regional spoke centres in cities such as Rajahmundry and Anantapur are equipped to serve founders who would otherwise need to relocate to access institutional support. This decentralized approach forms the backbone of Andhra Pradesh's vision of nurturing "One Entrepreneur in Every Family"—a long-term social and economic goal outlined in RTIH's operational guidelines.

The initiative has also drawn attention at national industry forums. RTIH participated in the 30th CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam, where it conducted virtual tours and hosted a session on innovation, inclusion, and impact alongside the One Family One Entrepreneur program. Representatives from the Tata Group and leading logistics company BlackBuck were among the speakers at the summit.

RTIH continues to accept applications from startups and aspiring entrepreneurs across eligible technology sectors. More information about the hub, its programs, and the application process is available at <https://rtih.co.in>.

Contact Information: Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH) Mayuri Tech Park, Mangalagiri, Amaravati,

Andhra Pradesh Website: <https://rtih.co.in> Email: connect@rtih.co.in Phone: [+91 7396603335](tel:+917396603335).

Media Contact

Master Publications

*****@gmail.com

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