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TWO TOP UNIVERSITY STARTUP HUBS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP AIMED AT BOOSTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION ACROSS BORDERS

NYU Tandon Future Labs and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur Join Forces

Initiative Encourages New Businesses to Explore Global Opportunities

BROOKLYN, New York – Two universities internationally known for driving early-stage business activity have agreed to jointly support tech startups and entrepreneurial activity among tenant companies in their respective startup centers. The international collaboration links the [New York University Tandon School of Engineering Future Labs](#) – New York City’s premier academic entrepreneurial hub – to the [Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur \(IITK\) Incubators](#) – a leader in India’s rapidly growing entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The three-year agreement sets the framework for:

- Giving select startups from the IITK Incubators access to NYU Tandon Future Labs for support and mentoring, as well as insight into U.S. market
- Allowing Future Labs companies desiring to explore the Indian market to call upon IITK knowledge and resources
- Providing flex desk space to companies visiting from either country for short periods of time
- Planning mutually beneficial workshops, panels and other events focused on shared entrepreneurial concerns

The new agreement expands the Future Labs’ reputation as a launch pad for international startups seeking to enter the U.S. market. Other collaborations include startup centers in Germany, Canada, and Turkey. Similarly, the agreement furthers IITK’s status as a major driver of India’s startup landscape, now said to be one of the largest and rapidly growing [ecosystems](#) in the world with 20,000 startups valued at \$75 Billion and three to four startups being born everyday and funding of nearly \$8 Billion in the last one year.

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The Future Labs, a network of innovation spaces and programs that support early-stage startups in New York City, house and mentor startups in three technology sectors of critical importance: data-driven and data-intensive technologies at the [Data Future Lab](#) in Manhattan's Hudson Square neighborhood; digital technologies including virtual and augmented reality at the [Digital Future Lab](#) in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn; and clean energy/smart city technologies at the [Urban Future Lab](#) in its ACRE incubator in Downtown Brooklyn.

In addition, the Future Labs are home to [AI NexusLab](#), an accelerator-type program for artificial intelligence startups. The Future Labs also host an entrepreneur training program for military veterans transitioning to owning their own businesses.

"This collaboration will provide important opportunities to Future Lab entrepreneurs in a vibrant and dynamic new locale while inspiring IITK startups to join New York's burgeoning innovation economy," said Kurt H. Becker, Tandon's vice dean for research, innovation and entrepreneurship. "We are thrilled to launch this international venture with a new partner who shares our understanding of the importance of tech entrepreneurship and its role in moving academic research to the marketplace, where it can directly benefit society."

"This engagement will augment the large and vibrant innovation ecosystem at IIT Kanpur by providing the entrepreneurs with an opportunity to be part of a global ecosystem" said Dr. Phani, the Dean Resources and Alumni at IIT Kanpur. "We are very happy to engage in this sphere in addition to the academic engagements we already have with NYU and making both our visions of a global economy a reality."

"It's great to help with this tie-up and we will work to make it highly effective and useful to students and start-ups on both sides. We look forward to expanding this arrangement and including more institutional partners into the network in the near future" said Sanjiv Khosla, IITK's global liaison in New York City.

The two schools have enjoyed a close relationship that goes beyond their shared focus on entrepreneurship. Last year, IITK's Centre for Cyber Security for Critical Infrastructure and NYU Tandon's Center for Cyber Security entered into a seven-year agreement aimed at encouraging collaborative research and instruction in cyber attack prevention, detection, and mitigation; and the security of cyber physical systems in crucial industries like telecom, energy, and transportation.

Additionally, IITK hosts the India-wide Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW) games, which has grown since its founding at NYU Tandon to become the world's largest student-run cyber security event.

Tandon Dean Katepalli R. Sreenivasan welcomed the opportunity to strengthen the bonds between the two schools. "When institutions that share common goals partner, it increases the chances that those goals will be met," he said. "We are gratified that our counterparts at IITK are, like us, committed to making the world safer, cleaner, and, of course, more entrepreneurial."

"Access to the resources of two great institutions and our own New York office is a fillip to the entrepreneurial spirit as it provides budding entrepreneurs access to a broader platform is a major milestone in their journey towards supporting an entrepreneurial economy," added Manindra Agrawal, Deputy Director of IITK and professor of computer science and engineering.

About the New York University Tandon School of Engineering

The NYU Tandon School of Engineering dates to 1854, the founding date for both the New York University School of Civil Engineering and Architecture and the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute (widely known as Brooklyn Poly). A January 2014 merger created a comprehensive school of education and research in engineering and applied sciences, rooted in a tradition of invention and entrepreneurship and dedicated to furthering technology in service to society. In addition to its main location in Brooklyn, NYU Tandon collaborates with other schools within NYU, the country's largest private research university, and is closely connected to engineering programs at NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai. It operates Future Labs focused on start-up businesses in downtown Manhattan and Brooklyn and an award-winning online graduate program. For more information, visit engineering.nyu.edu.

About IIT Kanpur

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, is one of the premier institutions set up by the Government of India. Registered in 1959, the institute was assisted by nine leading institutions of U.S.A in the setting up of its academic programs and laboratories during the period 1962-72. With its record of path-breaking innovations and cutting edge research, the institute is known the world over as a learning centre of repute in engineering, science and several inter-disciplinary areas. In addition to formal undergraduate and postgraduate courses, the institute has been active in research and development in areas of value to both industry and government. For more information, visit www.iitk.ac.in.

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