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IKP Knowledge Park launches ARK to bridge deep-science commercialisation gap

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Each selected startup receives up to Rs 2 crore in total value



IKP Knowledge Park has announced the launch of IKP ARK, a specialised venture acceleration program designed to transition breakthrough science ventures from the laboratory to the market. The programme addresses the commercialisation gap where deep-science startups often fail due to fragmented support and a lack of engineering or regulatory readiness, rather than weak science.

Unlike traditional advisory-led programmes, IKP ARK utilises an embedded operations team that works alongside founders to build the company from within.

The programme focuses on de-risking seven key stack elements, including: • Productisation and Manufacturing: Moving from lab-scale to pilot-ready production. • Regulatory & Clinical Validation: Providing operational support for CDSCO/FSSAI pathways. • Go-to-Market & Fundraising: Refining business models and activating a 20-year investor network.

Each selected startup receives up to Rs 2 crore in total value, which includes: • Direct Capital: Up to Rs 1 crore in milestone-linked funding. • Operator Value: Up to Rs 1 crore in specialised services, including regulatory advisory and access to SmartFab infrastructure.

The 12-month programme is divided into three distinct phases: 1. The Crucible (5+1 Days): A residential diagnostic phase to identify gaps and sign a "Venture Blueprint". 2. The Accelerator (4 Months): An intensive phase of weekly micro-sprints to retire operational risks. 3. Build & Scale (6 Months): A founder-led phase focused on securing first customers, regulatory submissions, and Series A funding.

The inaugural cohort is dedicated to MedTech and HealthTech ventures, with future cohorts planned for Synthetic Biology, Climate Tech, and Materials. Applications for Cohort 1 will open mid- April, 2026. Startups must have demonstrated a Proof of Concept (TRL 3+) and possess novel, defensible science to be eligible.

Dr Satya Prakash Dash, CEO, IKP Knowledge Park on the launch of ARK said, "Deep science ventures often fail because the journey from the lab to the market is fragmented and poorly supported. With IKP ARK, we are changing how we support founders by embedding our own deep operational expertise directly inside each venture to retire risks. Our mission is to provide a structured trajectory and firepower—from capital to manufacturing readiness—needed to carry breakthrough innovations safely across the turbulent passage from the lab to the global market. My team led by Dr Sridhar Ramanathan, Aaqib Jameel and others are poised to engage with world class innovators & builders."