

COBONEWS

VOL. VI, NO. 2, July 2026 Edition



विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग
Department of
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



NM-ICPS



IHFC



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DEFENCE

INDUSTRY X.0

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AGRICULTURE

MEDICAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR VISIONARIES



Prof. Rangan Banerjee

Director, IIT Delhi

“

I am delighted that IHFC has grown into a platform for innovation, research and technology translation in cobotics. IHFC has entered into meaningful partnerships with academia, researchers, startups, industry and government to support technologies that create impact in society. I look forward to IHFC playing a catalytic role in enabling Indian cobotics being globally competitive and relevant to national needs.

”



Dr. Ekta Kapoor

Scientist - G & Head,
Frontier & Futuristic
Technologies (FFT),
DST, Govt. of India

“

As IHFC completes five years of its operations and enters its sixth year, it is truly gratifying to reflect on the milestones achieved in the areas of technology development, capacity building, entrepreneurship support, and international engagement. These efforts have contributed to strengthening the institutional and programmatic ecosystem under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

Building on the experience gained so far, the Mission will continue to emphasise collaborative efforts among government, academia, and industry, with a focus on sustained innovation and long-term national priorities for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

On this occasion, and while extending Season's Greetings, we reiterate our commitment to advancing research, supporting talent development, and enabling technology-led solutions in line with the goals of the NM-ICPS Mission.

Jai Hind!

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“

The first half of 2026 has been both exciting and rewarding for all of us at IHFC. It gives me immense pleasure to witness six wonderful years of IHFC since its establishment. As I look back, I feel proud of how far we have come in our efforts to translating ideas into real-world impact, from supporting startups on their commercialization journey and advancing cobotics, to expanding our global collaborations and strengthening our innovation ecosystem. Every initiative has been driven by a shared commitment to solving meaningful challenges and creating technologies that matter.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you will see not just the milestones we have achieved, but the people, partnerships, and collective effort behind them. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this journey. I look forward to building on this momentum together as we continue to innovate, collaborate, and create lasting impact.

”

**Prof. Subir Kumar Saha**

Project Director, IHFC
Professor, Dept. of
Mechanical
Engineering, IIT Delhi

“

The past six months have marked an important chapter in IHFC's journey. With the receipt of our FCRA license at the start of the year, we were able to open new pathways for international collaboration, and it has been encouraging to see these opportunities translate into meaningful action across our core mandates. On the capacity-building front, our partnership with the International Telecommunication Union has taken us to five countries across Africa through Training of Trainers workshops in AI and robotics, extending IHFC's learning and skilling efforts beyond national boundaries. In entrepreneurship and innovation, our engagement with the robotics ecosystem in Odense, Denmark has provided valuable global exposure and fresh perspectives on how innovation ecosystems can evolve through collaboration. On the research and translation front, securing our first internationally funded project through the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, under the Lab to Market initiative, has been a significant milestone in strengthening the journey from research to real-world impact.

As we complete six years of IHFC, it is deeply rewarding to see our work in research translation, innovation, and deep-tech capacity building find relevance and recognition on a global stage. The last six months have been less about isolated milestones and more about building a more connected, outward-looking IHFC—one that is expanding its reach while staying rooted in its mission to create meaningful impact.

”

**Ashutosh Dutt Sharma**

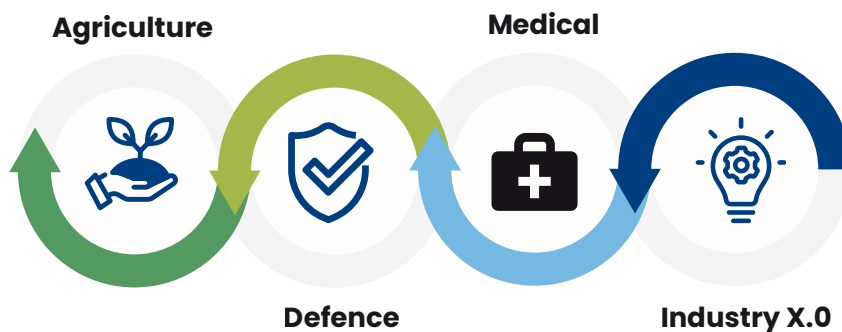
Chief Executive
Officer, IHFC, IIT
Delhi

ABOUT IHFC

The I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC), the Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Delhi, was established in June 2020 as a Section 8 company under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

IHFC's vision and mission revolve around translating cutting-edge research into state-of-the-art technology products and services in the field of collaborative robotics (cobotics). From developing indigenously made technologies to establishing innovation facilities such as the Medical Cobotics Centres, Drone Technology Park, and Co-Innovation Centres in collaboration with premier institutes all across India, IHFC fosters innovation, promotes entrepreneurship, and drives socio-economic impact through the deployment of advanced technologies.

OUR 4 KEY APPLICATION AREAS



OUR ECOSYSTEM

50+

Startups Incubated

25+ Revenue Generating | **6** with global presence | Supporting **25+** Pre-seed ventures

65+

R&D Projects

12 Joint Projects with NSF, USA | **17+** States | **28+** institutes | **100+** Faculty | **150+** Publications & Patents

12+

Innovation Facilities

Across premier Indian institution
10 Co-Innovation Centres | **4** Medical Cobotics Centers | **1** Drone Technology Park

5+

International Collaboration

Includes:
NSF, USA | NEDO, Japan | ITU, Switzerland | Embassy of Vietnam | Odense, Denmark

1Lakh+

People Upskilled in Robotics, AI, STEM, Emerging Technology

IHFC goes GLOBAL!

IHFC Showcases India's Robotics Strength at Denmark



IHFC was invited to participate, strengthening India's global robotics presence as Team India—led by IHFC (TIH, IIT Delhi) with Addverb Technologies, Milagrow, L&T, and Tech Mahindra—participated in NextGen Robotics under the GINP project on May 6. The delegation showcased India's capabilities and visited leading robotics organizations, including Odense Robotics, Universal Robots, the Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller Institute, and SDU Robotics.

IHFC CEO Ashutosh Dutt Sharma also represented India at the forum From Competition to Collaboration – Strengthening Global Robotics Together, highlighting the importance of trust and long-term partnerships. The engagements reinforced IHFC's expanding global footprint and India's growing role in deep-tech robotics.



IHFC Strengthens Global AI and Robotics Capacity



IHFC expanded its global presence by partnering with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the AI and Robotics Youth Training Programme, which equips educators with hands-on skills in artificial intelligence, robotics, coding, and responsible technology use. The initiative aims to provide secondary-level educators with the knowledge and tools needed to introduce foundational AI and robotics education to students aged 10–18.

As part of this global initiative, implemented across five African countries, IHFC conducted Training of Trainers workshops for educators in Nigeria on 6 May 2026, Kenya on 11 May 2026, and Ghana on 15 May 2026, extending its capacity-building efforts beyond India. These engagements reflect IHFC's growing role in international deep-tech education and its commitment to expanding access to future-ready learning ecosystems through global partnerships.



IHFC Partners with U.S. Embassy New Delhi

U.S.–India Technology Dialogues: Advancing Democratic Innovation Through Future Tech

IHFC has partnered with the U.S. Embassy New Delhi to host a series of high-impact technology dialogues that bring together leaders from government, industry, academia, and startups to advance collaboration in AI, cybersecurity, semiconductors, quantum technologies, and critical minerals.

CSR-themed dialogue on AI & Cybersecurity

First in the series, IHFC hosted a dialogue on "The Future of U.S.–India Collaboration in AI & Cybersecurity" on 11 February 2026 at the American Center, New Delhi. The session brought together leaders from Intel, IBM, the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), FTI Consulting, and IHFC to discuss technology-led CSR and innovation. The dialogue strengthened collaboration between industry, academia, and government to advance AI and cybersecurity for societal impact.



DeepTech Meets Global Markets: Unlocking U.S. Market Opportunities

On 9 April 2026, IHFC organized a dialogue on "Unlocking U.S. Market Opportunities for Indian Tech Startups" at the American Center, New Delhi. Featuring experts from MathWorks, KPMG India, Peer Robotics, and the U.S. Embassy, the forum explored market access, investment pathways, and cross-border partnerships for Indian deep-tech startups. The session provided actionable insights to help startups build, pilot, and scale innovations in the U.S. market.



Lab to Market Workshop : 3-Day Residential Training Program



The first workshop in the three-part series under IHFC's U.S. Embassy-supported Lab to Market deep-tech upskilling program has been successfully concluded at Delhi from 24–26 June 2026, with excellent participation. The program aims to equip researchers, entrepreneurs, and early-stage startups with the skills needed for productization, market validation, regulatory navigation, and investor readiness, helping bridge the gap between lab innovation and commercial impact.

Our Key Collaborations



Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

AI VidyaSetu 1.0, led by IHFC with Kendriya Vidyalaya and PM Shri, brought together 3,660 teams from 913 schools for a national AI hackathon for students in Grades 8–12. The initiative promoted hands-on AI/ML innovation, with Kendriya Vidyalaya IIT Powai and Kendriya Vidyalaya Dhar emerging as the junior and senior champions.



REC Limited

On 26 May, IHFC partnered with REC to establish 10 robotic labs in government schools across Karnal under the Green Innovator Immersive Learning Lab initiative. The labs will give students hands-on exposure to robotics, coding, STEM, AR/VR, and digital literacy, building future-ready skills at the grassroots level.



MedTech Impact Call 2026

Calling all Startups in MedTech and Healthcare!

Focus Areas:

- ✓ Digital Health & Telemedicine
- ✓ AI & Data-Driven Health
- ✓ MedTech & Advanced Devices
- ✓ Biotech & Health Innovation
- ✓ Health Infrastructure & Systems
- ✓ Preventive & Public Health Tech
- ✓ Med Pharma
- ✓ Robotics in healthcare

Benefits:

- ✓ Mentorship
- ✓ Academic Support
- ✓ Industry Connect
- ✓ Funding up to INR 5 Cr.

Last Date of Submission
8th April 2026



India Accelerator

IHFC collaborated with India Accelerator to launch a joint call for proposals for MedTech startups, creating a platform for promising ideas to access support, mentorship, and growth opportunities. The initiative reflects IHFC's continued commitment to strengthening the innovation ecosystem and enabling healthcare-focused startups to move from concept to impact.

Google for Developers Google for Developers

On 15 May, IHFC, in collaboration with Google for Developers, hosted AI Day for Startups at IIT Delhi, bringing together startup founders, industry leaders, and mentors. The event supported around 300 participants in turning AI ideas into prototypes while building valuable connections for future growth and collaboration.



Our Grand Projects: Research in Action

Workshops were organized to facilitate discussions and define pathways for commercializing IHFC's Grand Projects, bringing together researchers, industry leaders, and collaborators to address current challenges and chart the future roadmap. These included the **Industry Robotics X.0 Workshop** held on 13 February 2026 at IIT Delhi, the **Intelligent Sensing and Secure Communication Workshop** held on 25 February 2026 at IIT Delhi, the **Healthcare Robotics Grand Project Workshop** held on 31 March 2026 at IIT Mandi, and the **Drone Applications Workshop**. Together, these workshops strengthened academia-industry engagement and created valuable momentum for translation, validation, and commercialization across key deep-tech areas.



Industry Robotics X.0



Intelligent Sensing and Secure Communication



Healthcare Robotics



Drone Applications

Lab 2 Market Workshops @ Co-Innovation Centers





LAB-TO-MARKET SEMINAR
 TRANSFORM YOUR LAB IDEA INTO A MILLION-DOLLAR SUCCESS!

What You Will Gain

- ✓ Deep Insights
- ✓ Cutting-Edge Strategies
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Lab-To-Market Roadmap
- ✓ Regulatory Compliances
- ✓ Marketing Strategies

Perfect For

- ✓ Faculty
- ✓ Researchers
- ✓ Startups
- ✓ Industry Leaders
- ✓ Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Seminar Date:
29th January 2026
 Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
 Sir Vivekananda Hall, CRC Block, SRMIST
 Main campus, Kattankulathur, Chennai

REGISTRATION FEES
 ₹1800/- (incl. of GST)
LIMITED SEATS
 APPLY NOW!!
 Launch Date: 9th JANUARY 2026
 Deadline Extension: 28th JANUARY 2026

For queries: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM Email: contact@ihfc.co.in Phone: 7042654553

Scan here to Register



IHFC's Lab to Market workshop series, in collaboration with its Co-Innovative Centres, were organized at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (29 January 2026) and IIST Shibpur (27-28 February 2026) as an initiative towards bridging the gap between academic research and commercialization. These workshops consisted of sessions that provided practical insights and a gateway to translational research, marketing strategies, discussions on startup journeys from the IHFC ecosystem, and concluded with group presentations that put these lessons to practice on real world problems.



Our Outreach Highlights

Cobotalks: Ideas in Motion *Our Monthly Webinar Series*

14th January 2026

Prof. Dhiman Mallick



Title: Flexible Wearable Sensors for Biomedical Applications

58th

25th January 2026

Meenal Majumder



Title: Building Builders: What Entrepreneurship Taught Me About Developing People Who Can Change the World

59th

11th March 2026

Prof. Santanu Choudhary



Special Offline Edition

Title: Physical AI: AI for Robotics

60th

08th April 2026

Dr. Jaydev Desai



Title: Robotically Steerable Guidewires: A Step Towards Autonomous Endovascular Interventions

61st

13th May 2026

Siddharth Gupta



Title: ViTachyon Robotics: Redefining Tele-Robotic Ultrasound

62nd

10th June 2026

Prof. Dinesh Kalyanasundaram



Title: Industry 1.0 to 5.0 for Healthcare

63rd

IHFC Showcases Robotics, Automation, and Startup Innovation at Major Industry Forums

IHFC at Convergence India Expo 2026



IHFC CEO Ashutosh Dutt Sharma moderated the panel “Why Startups Fail? Insights from Founders, Investors & Operators”. The event also featured IHFC-incubated startups Xenobot Enterprises, NeuroDrishiti, and ViTachyon Robotics.

IHFC at CII Summit



On 30 April, IHFC CEO Ashutosh Dutt Sharma represented the organization at the CII Global Summit & Exposition on Robotics, Drones & Automation, and featured IHFC's startup ecosystem and insights on the future of MedTech.

Our Startups in Spotlight

Vitachyon Demonstration @AIIMS Delhi ViTachyon Robotics

A medical breakthrough of the IHFC READY program now incubated as ViTachyon Robotics, led by Siddharth Gupta and Udayan Banerjee, the Tele-Robotic Ultrasound Diagnostics system was successfully deployed at India's Maitri Station in Antarctica. A live demo of the medical robot was held at AIIMS, Delhi in January, where Dr Jitendra Singh showcased the power of the diagnostics that goes beyond the constraints of distances. This medical robot has the power to scan from 13,000 km away and the audience got to experience this first-hand through the demo.



Exobot Dynamics: A Story of Impact

Exobot Dynamics, founded by Munish Kumar, began with a deeply personal mission to create affordable prosthetics after a family accident and has since emerged as a strong example of deep-tech innovation with social impact. On 13 February 2026, the IHFC-incubated startup won top honors at the FICCI Mercedes-Benz Bharat Innovation & Business Ideas Challenge, and its flagship product, GripX, a lightweight AI-powered bionic hand, is helping redefine accessibility through affordable, practical assistive technology for users across diverse settings.



Funding Milestone for Kelvin6K

IHFC-incubated startup Kelvin6K recently strengthened its growth journey with funding support from Ritesh Agarwal, Founder & Group CEO of OYO Rooms, after impressing the Sharks on Shark Tank India. This support marks an important milestone for the startup as it continues to scale its end-to-end 3D printing solutions for the construction sector and drive innovation in sustainable building.



IHFC Startups at Bharat Innovates 2026

At Bharat Innovates 2026 in Nice, France, IHFC-incubated startups CYRAN AI, Femacare, and BotLab Dynamics showcased the strength of India's deep-tech ecosystem, standing out among 120 leading teams from the country. Cyran AI's strategic MoU with Safran Aircraft Engines for AI-powered edge intelligence in aerospace inspection and predictive maintenance, and BotLab Dynamics' journey from record-setting drone swarms to autonomous aerial systems, reflect how homegrown innovation is moving from breakthrough ideas to global impact.

Our Event Highlights



AI Impact Pre-Summit

IHFC concluded the AI Impact Pre-Summit on 23 January 2026, bringing together AI leaders and policymakers to discuss inclusive AI, governance, education, and funding breakthroughs. The event also showcased startups working on prosthetics, rescue robots, fleet safety, and AI smart glasses for the visually impaired.



Cobotalks Special Offline Edition

IHFC's 60th CoboTalks was a special in-person edition that brought together around 150 IIT Delhi students for an engaging offline session. In collaboration with BIRD CoE, the Robotics Club, and The Robotics Society, former IIT Delhi professor Santanu Choudhary introduced Physical AI and its real-world applications in healthcare, society, and problem-solving.



Vietnam Delegation's Visit

IHFC hosted Vietnam's Minister of Science and Technology, H.E. Mr. Vu Hai Quan, at IIT Delhi's Research & Innovation Park on 5 May, showcasing Indian deep-tech innovations in digital inclusion, drones, EV charging, and AI simulation. The collaboration continued at the Vietnam-India Forum on 6 May, where IHFC showcased its startups opening new pathways for partnership and technology transfer.

Our Capacity Building Program

Training Program for GNCTD IT Cadre Officers



IHFC, in collaboration with the Government of NCT of Delhi, organized a five-day residential training program for Senior IT Cadre Officers of GNCTD at the IIT Delhi Sonipat Campus from 5–9 January 2026. The program brought together 30 participants and focused on emerging areas of information technology, including AI, blockchain, cyber security, and data science.

KV Teachers Training



IHFC conducted the KVTT: Robotics and AI training program for Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers across India from 23 February to 27 March 2026. The physical program trained 346 teachers, strengthening their capacity in robotics and AI to support future-ready classroom learning.

WATCH OUT FOR



Dialogues on Pax Silica Coalition

In collaboration with U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, IHFC is organizing a series of high impact technology dialogues fostering collaboration between India & U.S. With two in the series already concluded, the upcoming sessions at American Center shall be exploring the themes around the U.S.'s Pax Silica Coalition which India has joined recently.



Robotics for Good Youth Challenge 2026

IHFC will once again be hosting the prestigious Robotics for Good Youth Challenge India 2026 in collaboration with International Telecommunications Union (ITU) under their AI for Good Initiative after successfully organising its 2024 & 2025 edition.

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Visit our website www.ihfc.co.in or scan the QR code to explore more about our diverse initiatives and how you can be part of our journey. Join us as we pave the way for a bold and dynamic future.

