

# INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT 2022

T H E M E  
 “Global Innovation Ecosystem for Sustainable Entrepreneurship”

Thursday, **December 15**, 2022 | T-HUB, Hyderabad

The **Institute of Directors (IOD)**, India – Hyderabad Region, organized a one-day summit on **Innovation & Entrepreneurship** themed '**Global Innovation Ecosystem for Sustainable Entrepreneurship**'. The summit was held in T – Hub, Hyderabad, an institution known for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Some of the notable topics that were deliberated upon during its course include, curating an ecosystem for business excellence, nurturing entrepreneurship, sustainable development, and more. The summit received a rousing response with over 140 delegates attending it, including various founders and co-founders, existing and budding entrepreneurs, prominent members from start-up ecosystems, innovation centres, academia, Government officials, and more. A well laid out program, consisting of numerous panel discussions and an inaugural session led by leading faces of the industry and ecosystem added immense value and insight to the whole summit.

A one minute silence was observed before the formal start of the event, to pay homage to the departed soul of **Lt. Gen J. S.**

**Ahluwalia, PVSM** (Retd.), former President of the Institute of Directors, India. He was remembered for his unparalleled contributions in 'Building tomorrow's Boards' and 'promoting corporate governance globally'.

## Plenary Session I – Inaugural Session

The '**Welcome Address**' was delivered by:

### Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli

Honorary Chairman  
 Institute of Directors – Hyderabad &  
 Honorary Consul General  
 Republic of Korea in Hyderabad

**Mr. Chukkapalli** started off by extending a warm welcome to all the distinguished speakers, event partners and the audience. He briefed the august gathering about the conception and idea behind the summit, the theme and the scope of the topics earmarked for panel discussion. He also shared some important insights on IOD's work and the coveted conferences that have been organised over the years.



Distinguished speakers of the Inaugural Session

(L to R) **Mr. Srinivas Rao Maankali**, **Mr. Ramachandru Tejavath, IAS (Retd.)**, **Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli**, **Ms. Jennifer Larson**, **Mr. BVR Mohan Reddy** and **Mr. J. A. Chowdary**



**Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli**  
Honorary Chairman  
Institute of Directors – Hyderabad Region &  
Honorary Consul General  
Republic of Korea in Hyderabad  
delivering the **'Welcome Address'**



**Mr. Srinivas Rao Mahankali**  
Chief Executive Officer  
T – HUB, Hyderabad  
delivering the **'Special Address'**



**Mr. J. A. Chowdary**  
Founding Director  
Software Technologies Parks of India –  
Bangalore, Hyderabad & Chennai  
delivering the **'Guest of Honour Address'**

The **'Special Address'** was delivered by:

**Mr. Srinivas Rao Mahankali**

Chief Executive Officer  
T-Hub, Hyderabad

**Mr. Mahankali** apprised everyone about the role of T-Hub, Hyderabad and how it works closely with T-Works and TASK in helping Start-up entities to make the transition from concept to prototype. He stressed on the importance of 'Commercialisation of an Idea' as the key to growth and the idea of 'Societal Good' as the primary goal for any start-up.

The **'Guest of Honour Address'** was delivered by:

**1. Mr. J. A. Chowdary**

Founder Director  
Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) – Bangalore,  
Hyderabad & Chennai

**2. Dr. BVR Mohan Reddy**

Founder Chairman  
Cyient Limited, Hyderabad

**Mr. Chowdary** shared that, Manpower, Money, Market Access, Meet-up Opportunities and Mentoring are the five key ingredients for any Centre of Excellence.

**Dr. Reddy** spoke on the finer aspects of great entrepreneurship. He stated that Idea, Risk and Economic Value – are the three major factors in successful entrepreneurship. While innovation is integral to entrepreneurship, he emphasised on the adoption of the new wave of Digital Technology, which according to him will remain the backbone for success. He further noted that

FTA's will fuel prosperity through job creation and enable seamless mobility of goods and services.

Following this was the **'Guest of Honour & Chief Guest Address'**, delivered by:

**Ms. Jennifer Larson**

Consul General  
Consulate of United States of America in Hyderabad

**Ms. Larson** recognised the importance of immigrants in US economy and start-up ecosystem. This was evident from the fact that 80% of the unicorns in US were established by immigrants, out of which, a major chunk came from India.

**Plenary Keynote Session II – Global Innovation Ecosystem (Interactive Session with Consul Generals)**

The Session was Chaired by:

**Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli**

Honorary Chairman  
Institute of Directors – Hyderabad &  
Honorary Consul General  
Republic of Korea in Hyderabad

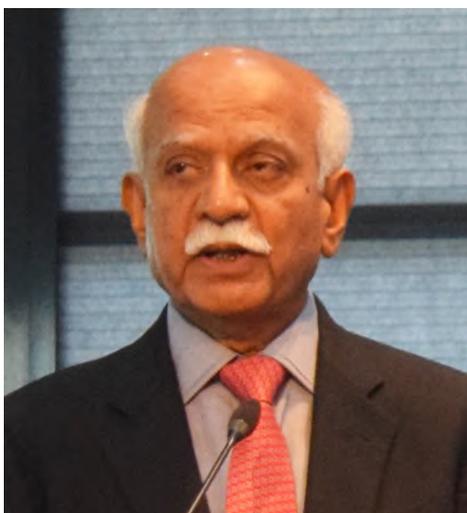
The Session had the following Distinguished Speakers:

**1. Mr. Gareth Wynnwen**

Deputy High Commissioner  
British High Commission, Hyderabad

**2. Mr. Edgar Pang Tze Chiang**

Consul General  
Consulate General of Singapore in Chennai



**Mr. BVR Mohan Reddy**  
Founder Chairman & Board Member  
Cyient Limited  
delivering the 'Guest of Honour Address'



**Ms. Jennifer Larson**  
Consul General  
US Consulate in Hyderabad  
delivering the  
'Guest of Honour & Chief Guest Address'



**Mr. Shiva Rao Tummalapalli**  
Honorary Director  
Institute of Directors - Hyderabad Region &  
Chief Executive Officer, Future Labs  
as 'Session Chair'

3. **Mr. Orhan Yalman Okan**  
Consul General  
Consulate General of Turkey in Hyderabad
4. **Mr. David Eggleston**  
Deputy Consul General  
The Australian Consul-General in Chennai
5. **Mr. Vikas Kohli**  
Senior Policy Advisor - Innovation  
Embassy of Kingdom of the Netherlands in New Delhi
6. **Dr. Swetha Suresh**  
Head of Innovation, Swissnex in India  
Consulate General of Switzerland in Bengaluru

**Mr. Wynnowen** emphasized on his strong experience building science and innovation partnerships, and expressed that Telangana is home to an exciting tech industry.

**Mr. Chiang** said that in Singapore, the Twin Engine for Growth is - Innovation and Internationalisation. To ensure this is done, a good sum of 1% of the GDP is spent on Science, Technology and Research (STAR).

**Mr. Okan** said, he aims to strengthen diplomatic ties in the State of Telangana. He also mentioned that, he is exploring potential opportunities in industrial and technological front by meeting and understanding from the industry officials.

**Mr. Eggleston** talked about Australia's efforts in promoting partnership with Indian start-ups through boot camps and how this will be further scaled up through the India-Australia FTA, which shall be in place by 29th December 2022.

**Mr. Kohli** talked about the expertise possessed by Netherlands in WAH (Water, Agriculture and Health) and how they are collaborating with Indian start-ups in this sphere. Netherlands continues to partner India in critical area like Agriculture,



Distinguished Speakers of the Session on 'Global Innovation Ecosystem'  
(L to R) **Mr. Vikas Kohli**, **Mr. David Eggleston**, **Mr. Edgar Pang Tze Chiang**, **Mr. Suresh Chukkappalli**, **Mr. Gareth Wynnowen**, **Mr. Orhan Yalman Okan** and **Dr. Swetha Suresh**



Distinguished Speakers of the Session on 'Collaborative Innovation Ecosystems for Business Excellence' seen with **Mr. Shiva Rao Tummalapalli** (extreme left) and **Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli** (third from the left) (L to R) **Mr. Sabareesh Nair**, **Mr. Vikram Jain**, **Dr. Shashi Bala Singh**, **Dr. Nandita Sethi**, **Mr. J. A. Chowdary** and **Mr. Abdul Ekram**

Horticulture, Cyber Security and Emerging Technologies. To enable this, they are constantly in touch with the industry, academia, policy bodies like Data Security Council of India and the start-up ecosystem. He also pointed out the growing presence of Indian diaspora in Netherlands and its positive impact.

**Dr. Suresh** mentioned Switzerland's collaboration with Indian Industry for a pilot project in Gujarat on Anti-microbial resistance along with their work with IIT in Area of Blockchain Technology. In addition to this, Switzerland is also actively involved in reducing carbon footprint and measures to support rural farming economy.

### Plenary Keynote Session III – Collaborative Innovation Ecosystems for Business Excellence

The Session was Chaired by:

#### **Dr. Nandita Sethi**

Founder & Managing Director  
The Entrepreneur Zone, Hyderabad

The Session had the following Distinguished Speakers:

- 1. Dr. Shashi Bala Singh**  
Director  
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad
- 2. Mr. J. A. Chowdary**  
Founding Director  
Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) – Bangalore, Hyderabad & Chennai
- 3. Mr. Abdul Ekram**  
Trade & Investment Commissioner  
Australian Trade & Investment Commission, Chennai
- 4. Mr. Vikram Jain**  
Trade Commissioner  
Consulate General of Canada in Hyderabad
- 5. Mr. Sabareesh Nair**  
Regional Director (India – South)  
Enterprise Singapore

**Dr. Singh** while speaking on the topic 'Orchestrate Innovation Ecosystems to Enhance Collaboration' shared NIPER role in encouraging incubators in the pharmaceutical sectors and gave



Distinguished Speakers of the Session on 'Green Growth & Pathways to Sustainable Development' (L to R) **Ms. Tanvi Sahdev**, **Mr. Prashant Tiwari**, **Mr. K. S. Venkatagiri** and **Dr. Rambabu Paravastu**

specific examples about it. She highlighted about 'Avishkaran' programme of NIPER that aims to stimulate and facilitate R&D activities in the area of pharmaceutical sciences. She stated that program encourages early-stage entrepreneurs towards new technologies and products. She also remarked that pharmaceutical Industry needs support from other sciences and technologies.

**Mr. Chowdary** spoke on 'Transformational Strategies for Handling Digital Disruptions' and pointed out that it is the challenge for survival which creates the ground for innovation to spring up. It is in this context, he predicted that there is a good possibility that the next unicorn will be from the rural economy.

Mr. Ekram highlighted the new opportunities available to Indians and the session was ended with a note that collaborative innovation would lead to problem solving and meet Sustainable Development Goals.

**Mr. Jain** said that Canada is recognised as a global leader in sustainable management, since they promote wood construction that saves resources such as water and sand, which are in short supply in India. Wood which happens to be bio-degradable, recyclable, reusable, eco-friendly, carbon negative, and saves water and sand, is a critical area for potential collaboration between India and Canada. This is something that Canada is already promoting along with collaboration in waste management projects.

**Mr. Nair** spoke on Singapore encourages Frugal Innovation. He said it is all about learning how to create more value with less. Frugal innovation avoids over-engineering by adopting a “good-enough” technology approach to meet the needs for an identified market. They feel any enterprise would be under some form of constraint - be financial, social, environmental or physical circumstances of the situation.

Discussions were also held on Singapore's policy to encourage frugal innovation with the goal to create more from less. The idea is to avoid over-engineering by adopting a “good-enough”

technology approach to meet the needs for an identified market. This approach can also help organisations innovate under trying circumstances emanating from financial, social, environmental and physical constraints. The session culminated with the consensus that collaborative innovation would lead to problem solving and helping meet SDG goals.

### **Plenary Keynote Session IV – Green Growth & Pathways to Sustainable Development**

The Session was Chaired by:

#### **Mr. K. S. Venkatagiri**

Executive Director

CII – Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre, Hyderabad

The Session had the following Distinguished Speakers:

- 1. Dr. Paravastu Rambabu**  
Advisor & Chief Sustainability Officer  
Greenko Group
- 2. Mr. Prashant Tiwari**  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
Amara Raja Batteries Limited, Hyderabad
- 3. Ms. Tanvi Sahdev**  
Country Manager  
HELIOZ Global Services Private Limited

The session delved on crucial question of how can going green be competitive and enable growth? The panel agreed that there is no absolute answer to this as both can be achieved in tandem. In fact it was pointed out that it was realised after numerous studies that going green can actually lower costs.

Discussions also focussed on renewable energy and its growing acceptance across the industry as the primary source since it is increasingly becoming cheaper as compared to conventional sources.

However, the panel did observe that there is still lot to be desired in terms of integration of the concept of going green with the



Distinguished Speakers of the Session on 'Sustainable Finance'  
(L to R) **Mr. Murali Vaidyanathan, Mr. Hitesh Sachdev, Mr. M. B. N. Rao and Mr. Pramod Kumar Vijayargia**

circular economy as only 8.6% of our economy has actually managed to adopt greener measures when it comes to end to end operations. The discussion concluded with the call for an urgent need to promote Eco-labelling for building products and implementation of Carbon Marketing Policy.

### Plenary Keynote Session V – Sustainable Finance

The Chair of the Session was:

#### Mr. M. B. N. Rao

former Chairman & Managing Director  
Canara Bank & Indian Bank

The Session had the following Distinguished Speakers:

#### 1. Mr. R. V. R. Prasad

Deputy General Manager  
SIDBI, Regional Office, Hyderabad

#### 2. Mr. Hitesh Sachdev

Head – Start-up Engagement and Investment  
ICICI Bank Limited, Mumbai

#### 3. Mr. Murali Vaidyanathan

Senior President & Country Head, Branch Banking  
Equitas Small Finance Bank, Chennai

The panel started with realisation that wealth creation is possible only through patient investing not through the lure for quick buck. A major chunk of the discussion focussed on the idea of financial credit worthiness and how innovative technology has changed the landscape when it comes to tracking and enabling a more informed credit policy and operation. Technology has now ensured aggregation of credit card, home/education/personal loans/ working capital through data sharing which in turn has added value to financial institution's decision making process.

This is something which is being utilised in not only banking which takes into account past performance but also in the venture capital market where future growth potential is assessed. The financial sector today, thanks to technology is not only assessing the 'capacity to pay, of a consumer but also the 'intention to pay'.

As the panel discussion ended, **Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli** in conclusion stated that the role of policy making shall be to build

good support system. Enterprise building is not a valuation game as it has increasingly become but the focus needs to return towards achieving actual turnover. Only then enterprises would boost employment and be useful to the economy. He further observed the key drivers of growth are – energy, domain technology, digital technology, fintech, co-creation and collaboration. Talking about integration and sharing of information, he pointed out that 'while problems can be local, solutions can be global'. To further the impact of innovation the tapping of talent from rural schools is imperative for innovative Ideas as well as solutions to grow. Encouraging Ideas that are sustainable would spur national development.

All sessions were followed by an interactive **Q&A Session**.

The '**Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks**' was delivered by:

#### Mr. Shiva Rao Tummalapalli

Honorary Director  
Institute of Directors – Hyderabad Region  
Chief Executive Officer  
Future Labs, Hyderabad

**Mr. Tummalapalli** summarised the discussions and assured IOD would take forward the key points that have emerged from the discussions. He concluded the summit by proposing the Vote of Thanks.

Sincere thanks were conveyed to the Chief Guest, all distinguished Speakers, Participants, and Partners.

Gratitude was also expressed to T – Hub, Hyderabad for the state-of-the-art facility and the excellent arrangements.

IOD is especially grateful to its **Event Partners**.

IOD's **Gold Partner** was CtrlS

IOD's **Silver Partners** were State Bank of India and ICICI Bank

IOD's **Supporting Partner** was SIDBI

This Report is compiled by:

#### Mr. Ramakrishna Vemuri

IOD Life Member &  
former Regional Director  
Institute of Directors – Hyderabad

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