

Report on Propel Pitchfest25 at BML Munjal University



Event Name: Propel Pitchfest25

Date: 20th February 2025

Venue: BML Munjal University (BMU) Campus

Organised by: ACIC-BMU Foundation, Atal Community Innovation Centre at BMU, in collaboration

with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog

Introduction

Propel Pitchfest25 stood as a testament to BML Munjal University's unwavering commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Organised by the ACIC-BMU Foundation in collaboration with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, this flagship annual event brought together a convergence of entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders, and policymakers. The event aimed to catalyse the start-up ecosystem by providing a platform for emerging ventures to showcase their innovations, engage with potential investors, and gain insights from seasoned professionals. With a focus on sectors such as Deeptech, Medtech, Textile Innovation, Sustainability, and Social Impact, Propel Pitchfest25 underscored BMU's vision of nurturing transformative ideas that address real-world challenges.

Objectives of the Event

The primary objectives of Propel Pitchfest25 were:

- Facilitating Investment Opportunities: To provide start-ups with access to a substantial investment pool, enabling them to scale their operations and bring innovative solutions to market.
- Encouraging Cross-Border Collaboration: To launch initiatives like the Singapore-India Startup Corridor Programme, fostering international partnerships and expanding market access for Indian start-ups.
- Promoting Inclusivity in Entrepreneurship: To spotlight and support women-led and student-founded start-ups, ensuring diverse representation in the entrepreneurial landscape.
- Providing Mentorship and Skill Development: To offer masterclasses, boot camps, and investor clinics, equipping entrepreneurs with the necessary tools and knowledge to refine their business models and strategies.

Event Highlights





Inaugural Session: The event commenced with an opening address by Mr Davinder Singh, CEO of ACIC-BMU Foundation, who emphasised the role of Propel Pitchfest25 as a launchpad for innovation and a catalyst for entrepreneurial success. He highlighted the Foundation's achievements in nurturing over 70 start-ups, creating more than 500 jobs, and facilitating significant investments.

Start-up Showcases: Over 25 start-ups from sectors including Deeptech, Medtech, Textile Innovation, Sustainability, and Social Impact presented their innovative solutions. These showcases provided a platform for entrepreneurs to demonstrate their products and services to a diverse audience of investors and industry experts.

Investor Engagement: The event attracted a plethora of investors from India's start-up ecosystem, such as Indian Angel Network, India Accelerator, Pontaq VC, Sanchi Connect, Foxhog Ventures, JITO, Campus Fund, Campus Angels, Agility Ventures, Fluid Ventures, RTAF, She Capital, Lead Angels, Inflection Point Ventures, Indian Healthcare Angels, and Venture Catalysts. Their presence facilitated meaningful interactions and potential funding opportunities for participating start-ups.

Launch of the Singapore-India Start-up Corridor Programme: A significant milestone of the event was the inauguration of the Singapore-India Start-up Corridor Programme. This initiative aims to foster cross-border innovation, providing Indian start-ups with market access and networking opportunities in Singapore, thereby enhancing their global footprint.

Masterclasses and Investor Clinics: Entrepreneurs participated in specialised sessions led by industry experts, focusing on refining business models, attracting investments, and scaling ventures. These sessions provided practical insights and strategies to navigate the complexities of the start-up ecosystem.

Inclusivity Tracks: Dedicated tracks for women-led and student-founded start-ups were featured, reinforcing BMU's commitment to diversity and equitable opportunities in entrepreneurship. These tracks highlighted the unique challenges and successes of underrepresented groups in the start-up community.

Outcomes and Impact

Propel Pitchfest25 achieved significant milestones:

- Investment Facilitation: The event provided a crucial platform for start-ups to secure funding from a diverse pool of investors, bolstering their growth trajectories.
- International Collaboration: The launch of the Singapore-India Start-up Corridor Programme opened avenues for Indian start-ups to explore international markets and collaborations.
- Skill Enhancement: Participants benefited from expert-led sessions, gaining valuable knowledge to refine their business strategies and operations.

 Promotion of Diversity: By spotlighting women-led and student-founded start-ups, the event promoted inclusivity and encouraged a broader demographic to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

Conclusion

Propel Pitchfest25 exemplified BML Munjal University's dedication to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship. By bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders, the event not only facilitated investment and collaboration opportunities but also empowered entrepreneurs with the skills and networks necessary for success. The initiatives launched and connections forged during the event are poised to have a lasting impact on India's start-up ecosystem, reinforcing BMU's role as a catalyst for transformative change.