An Inspiring Journey to RISE Foundation, IISER Kolkata – Fuelling the Spirit of Entrepreneurship

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Organized by: Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)

Destination: RISE Foundation – IISER Kolkata Incubation Centre

Celebrating Innovation Day with a Vision – A Transformative Outreach Program to RISE Foundation, IISER Kolkata

In celebration of *Innovation Day 2025*, the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) proudly organized an exclusive outreach visit to the **RISE Foundation, IISER Kolkata** — a premier Research, Innovation, and Incubation Centre in Eastern India. This initiative was specially curated for the winners of **Nirman Mela – Startup Fair 2025**, held at Swami Vivekananda University. These young, dynamic student innovators already possessed viable startup ideas, and this direct exposure to a national-level innovation hub proved to be a landmark experience in their entrepreneurial journey.

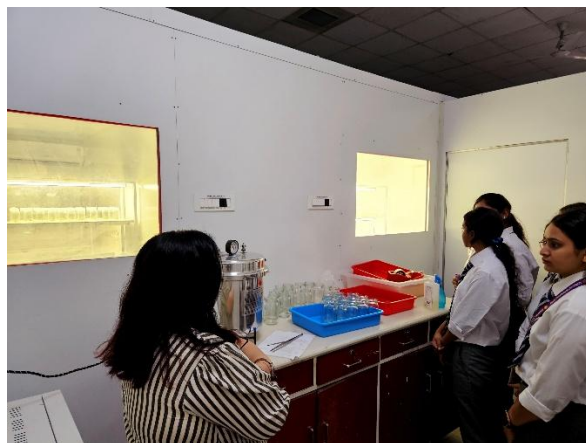### A Gateway to India's Innovation Ecosystem

The RISE Foundation (Research Innovation and Scientific Entrepreneurship), located within the IISER Kolkata campus, serves as a catalyst in bridging academic research and entrepreneurial pursuits. Supported by the **NIDHI-TBI Scheme** of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, and IISER Kolkata, RISE has established itself as a **nodal hub for scientific entrepreneurship** across Eastern and North-Eastern India.

During the visit, students had the opportunity to:

- Explore **state-of-the-art laboratories** and incubation facilities.

- Learn about **ongoing startup ventures** supported under the RISE umbrella.

- Understand the **process of converting academic research into viable business solutions**.

- Gain insights into **pre-incubation mentoring**, startup funding avenues, and support structures.

- Engage with RISE's **network of experts and startup founders**.

- Witness how **grassroots innovation and indigenous technologies** are nurtured into scalable enterprises.

This immersive experience was not only educational but also inspirational. The students saw firsthand how scientific research can transition into impactful products and services, supported by strategic mentorship, infrastructure, and funding.

Empowering Young Innovators

The visit also shed light on how **RISE Foundation is empowering students and researchers** to take the leap into entrepreneurship. From idea validation to legal and IP support, RISE ensures a smooth journey from lab bench to market shelf. The foundation's efforts in engaging youth, especially from semi-urban and rural Bengal, were particularly encouraging to our student participants.

The students appreciated how RISE acts as a *melting pot for diverse startup ideas*, attracting proposals from all over Eastern and North-Eastern India. They were excited to learn about future opportunities to collaborate with RISE through internships, incubation, or co-innovation platforms.

A Treat for Aspiring Entrepreneurs

For students passionate about innovation and enterprise, this was more than just a field visit — it was a **treat for the mind and soul**. The vibrant ecosystem, the stories of real-world innovation, and the hands-on exposure to a government-supported incubation model sparked new ideas, collaborations, and aspirations.

The IIC proudly celebrates Innovation Day 2025 through this impactful initiative, reaffirming our commitment to fostering **innovation-led thinking** and **entrepreneurial culture** among students.

Looking Ahead

As the Institution's Innovation Council continues to build pathways for students to connect with India's innovation landscape, we plan to organize more such outreach programs, startup exposure visits, and mentoring opportunities. Through these efforts, we aim to spark curiosity, encourage risk-taking, and build the next generation of **scientific entrepreneurs**.

Let Innovation Day 2025 be remembered as the day **ideas met opportunity**.

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