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RSC Innovation Festival 2026 Brings Together Grassroots Innovators, Startups and Students in Bhubaneswar

*Regional Science Centre Celebrates National Science Day Highlighting the Theme 'Global
Science for Global Well-Being'*

Bhubaneswar, 28 February 2026: The Regional Science Centre (RSC), Bhubaneswar, celebrated National Science Day by inaugurating the Innovation Festival 2026 on Saturday, 28 February 2026, at its premises in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The festival was inaugurated by Dr. Manas Ranjan Panda, Deputy Director, STPI (Software Technology Parks of India), Bhubaneswar, in the presence of Dr. Vivek Kumar, Scientist and Head, SDDM, National Innovation Foundation (NIF), Bhubaneswar, and Shri Kapil Jain, Project Coordinator, Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar. Organised jointly by RSC, Startup Odisha, and the Bhubaneswar City Knowledge and Innovation Cluster (BCKIC), the event brought together grassroots innovators, incubators, startups, academic institutions, government officials, and school students under a single platform to celebrate and advance science-driven innovation for the theme — Global Science for Global Well-Being.

A Confluence of Innovation and Inspiration

The Innovation Festival 2026 featured an exhibition of stalls set up by rural innovators, technology startups, incubators, and institutions from across Odisha, providing a rare opportunity for school students and the general public to witness ground-level innovation first-hand. The event also saw active participation from institutions such as the DADHIKI Group of Institutions and Biju Patnaik Institute of Film and Technology, Government of Odisha, among others.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Vivek Kumar, Scientist and Head, SDDM, National Innovation Foundation, underscored the inclusive philosophy of the festival.

"Our effort in this festival is to bring grassroots innovators, school students, entrepreneurs, startups, and institutions together in one place, so that their creativity and outcomes serve our society."

— **Dr. Vivek Kumar, Scientist & Head, SDDM, NIF, Bhubaneswar**

Shri Kapil Jain, Project Coordinator, RSC, Bhubaneswar, spoke about the vision of transforming the Science Centre into an inclusive ecosystem that welcomes all age groups and stakeholders. He recounted how visitor feedback, collected shortly after joining the Centre three years ago, inspired this new direction.

"People told me they had childhood memories with the Science Centre but had not visited in a long time. That answer opened a new chapter for us. From that day, I decided that we should build at least an ecosystem in the Science Centre where institutions, startups, innovators, and young entrepreneurs are also part of our visitor and contributor group."

— **Shri Kapil Jain, Project Coordinator, RSC, Bhubaneswar**

Dr. Manas Ranjan Panda, Deputy Director, STPI, in his address highlighted India's transformation from a technology consumer to a technology creator, and stressed the importance of nurturing youth-driven innovation through strong policy frameworks, tinkering labs, incubators, and startup ecosystems. He noted that India is now ranked among the top three countries in the startup ecosystem globally, with more than 2 lakh startups operational across the country, and more than 2,000 startups active in Odisha alone.

"Invention creates knowledge; innovation creates impact — impact on society and on human life. India is a young country, and that is our greatest advantage. The right platform, the right policy, and the right ecosystem are all converging. This Innovation Festival is exactly the kind of collaborative platform we need to turn ideas into products for the society at large."

— **Dr. Manas Ranjan Panda, Dy. Director, STPI, Bhubaneswar**

A New Chapter for Science Outreach in Odisha

The Innovation Festival 2026 marks a significant milestone for the Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar, as it expands its mandate beyond school outreach to become a vibrant hub for innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship. With rural innovators showcasing scalable solutions alongside startups and academic institutions, and school students witnessing real-world innovation first-hand, the festival successfully demonstrated that science and innovation can emerge from every corner of society, not just from elite institutions or metropolitan centres.

The event was organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, National Council of Science Museums, and received support from Startup Odisha and the Bhubaneswar City Knowledge and Innovation Cluster Foundation. The organisers expressed their intent to make the Innovation Festival an annual landmark event, fostering a culture of grassroots innovation and scientific temper across Odisha.

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Under the Ministry of Culture, National Council of Science Museums