

Official launch of Bengaluru Science and Technology Cluster (BeST)

The BeST cluster was formally launched at the plenary session of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022, by the Honorable PSA, Prof. Ajay Sood, in the presence of Prof. G Padmanabhan (former Director of IISc (Indian Institute of Science)) and Shri.S. Gopalakrishnan (Kris), Co-founder, Infosys, on 16th November 2022.

Some quotes during the launch: Prof. Sood observed that Bengaluru has enormous research & technological potential and Karnataka is a leader in science and technology. He anticipates the BeST cluster to catalyze the success of the S&T (Science & Technology) cluster initiative not just in Bengaluru but in the region, country, and internationally.

At the launch, Co-PI Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed said, "Bangalore is a city of science, innovation, and opportunity. The BeST cluster launch could be a landmark for Science and Technology in India and the world. We aim to bring together stakeholders with shared ecosystems, identify and address problems with locally relevant solutions, and then scale up nationally and internationally by building global competitiveness. BeST cluster activities will be based on this ground-up pyramid model."

Co-PI Prof Ambarish Ghosh said, "Bengaluru Tech Summit is the ideal launchpad for the BeST Cluster. The impact of the cluster can be defined in many ways. In addition to immediate social and economic impact at a city scale, we must also consider the impact on sustainability and being globally competitive."

The Honorable PSA, Prof. Ajay Sood, Prof. G Padmanabhan (former Director of IISc), and Shri.S.Gopalakrishnan (Kris), Co-Founder, Infosys, carried out the launch by unfurling the BeST cluster poster, which outlines the cluster's goals.



One Health Cell initiative by BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike)



Recommended by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC), the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India is coordinating the 'One Health Mission' as the 10th Mission under the PM-STIAC.

As a significant milestone in this theme's activities, the One Health team led by Prof. Uma Ramakrishnan from NCBS (National Center for Biological Sciences) and Prof. Farah Ishtiaq from TIGS (Tata Institute for Genetics and Society) had a meeting to form One Health Cell with BBMP on 23rd November 2022. The BBMP Health Commissioner chaired the meeting.

Recent developments at the BeST cluster

- 1 The BeST cluster is well on its way to becoming a separate section 8 entity. Stay tuned for updates on this.
- 2 We are in the process of hiring a dedicated workforce to support our numerous cluster activities. The panel finished candidate interviews on 23rd November 2022. Panelists included Prof. Prosenjit Sen, Prof. Namrata Gundiah, Prof. Ambarish Ghosh, Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, and Mr. Krishna Kumar. Among other things, the newly recruited team will help in fundraising, outreach, and program compliance .
- 3 Dr. Sapna Poti from the OPSA (Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser) office visited the BeST cluster on 18th November 2022 and met Prof. Ambarish Ghosh. As an outcome of the meeting, Dr. Poti enabled a connection with the Karnataka Innovation & Technology Society (KITS). The BeST team is now in touch with this group to explore potential areas of collaboration.

Relaunch of the BeST cluster website

The BeST cluster website was relaunched as an independent website with its domain credentials on 15th November 2022. <https://www.bestkc.in/>.

While the current website is primarily static, the plan is to focus on creating a logo for BeST, branding of BeST, and establishing an interactive digital presence for the cluster in the coming months.

In addition, BeST cluster will leverage credible social media forums to increase its visibility with the desired stakeholders.



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