

# Scaling Industrial Intelligence

**AKARSH HEBBAR** on how platforms connecting innovators with enterprises are becoming vital for India's industrial expansion push

**On the biggest challenge facing India's innovation ecosystem...**

India is not short of ideas or entrepreneurial talent. The larger challenge lies in converting innovation into meaningful industrial impact. Startups often lack access to large operating environments to test and scale technologies, while industries seek solutions that improve productivity, safety, sustainability and efficiency. Bridging this gap is critical to unlocking the next phase of technology-led growth. Creating stronger collaboration mechanisms will determine how quickly innovations translate into commercial success and broader economic gains. Faster technology adoption can significantly enhance competitiveness, strengthen supply chains and support sustainable industrial development across sectors.

**On how artificial intelligence is transforming industries...**

Artificial intelligence is evolving from a standalone digital tool into an intelligence layer connecting assets, processes and people. Technologies such as predictive maintenance, computer vision, digital twins and autonomous systems are helping sectors like mining, metals, manufacturing and energy move towards intelligent, self-optimising operations. Their true value, however, emerges only when deployed successfully at industrial scale. Reliable implementation and continuous learning are essential for achieving sustained efficiency improvements and resilience. Data-driven decision-making is enabling enterprises to optimise resources, minimise downtime and improve operational performance.



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**On the role V-Spark DeepTech Ventures aims to play...**

V-Spark is building a large industrial innovation ecosystem by connecting startups with real-world challenges across mining, metals, energy and manufacturing. The platform plans to engage more than 1,000 startups and generate over \$ 400 million in business value over the next three years. Its focus is on accelerating the adoption of deep-tech, AI and

emerging technologies capable of delivering measurable outcomes. The initiative also seeks to foster long-term partnerships that encourage innovation and value creation. Such collaborations can help startups validate solutions while enabling businesses to address evolving challenges.

**On why industry-startup collaboration matters for India...**

Successful innovations deliver benefits far beyond individual deployments. Scaling solutions across industries boosts productivity, enhances safety, lowers resource consumption and strengthens resilience.

India has the engineering talent, digital capabilities and industrial scale, and the country's next growth chapter will depend not just on inventing technologies but on embedding them into everyday operations. Platforms

that connect startups with industry can help build a more competitive and self-reliant economy. Such collaboration can accelerate industrial transformation, create new opportunities and strengthen India's manufacturing ambitions. **■**

**As told to Ashish Sinha**