

# KTR: KREST is a gateway for entrepreneurs from rest of India

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kakatiya Sandbox, a non-profit organisation, received Rs 20 crore from Kanwal Rekhi, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, to promote and scale rural entrepreneurship programmes at TiE Global Summit 2022 on Wednesday. The capital fund will seed the Kanwal Rekhi Rural Entrepreneurship and Startup Centre (KREST) which will be a part of K-hub, a social innovation hub run by Kakatiya Sandbox (KS) in Nizamabad to improve economic prosperity in the region.

KT Rama Rao, Minister MA, UD, I&C and IT of Telangana, was present at the summit. He said, "I am confident that KREST will become a bustling centre for innovation and entrepreneurship in Telangana. It is also well poised to become a gateway for entrepreneurs from the rest of India looking to solve the challenges of rural India."

Kanwal Rekhi said, "Indians have raised the bar in the US and built great prosperity through entrepreneurship. We

want a similar movement in India to create an ecosystem which supports 10 million entrepreneurs when India turns 100 years in 2047. I believe that India has the potential to become the bread basket of the world. To achieve that goal, it needs an entrepreneur-driven infusion of technology and techniques in this sector."

The Kakatiya Sandbox, an extension of the Deshpande Foundation, was founded by entrepreneurs Raju Reddy, and

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Phanindra Sama in Nizamabad, Telangana in 2013. It is a place for impact catalysts to test ideas, make changes and eventually develop truly scalable solutions to bring about rural transformation.

KREST will replicate Deshpande foundation's pre-existing model from Hubballi, Karnataka, in Nizamabad. It will build a 10,000 sq. ft. building where 30+ startups can be incubated at a time, Raju Reddy, the Co-founder of Kakatiya

Sandbox, said, "KREST will support mission-driven entrepreneurs solving problems in agriculture, healthcare, education and rural livelihood.

Kanwal's considerable contribution has the potential to be transformative, and I believe KREST can become a model for other parts of rural and semi-urban India." He further said, "KS hopes to catalyse the North Telangana region as an engine of economic growth and prosperity."