

Sponsorship Brochure

5th Annual GDC Symposium



Translating Research into Impact at Scale

January 30th 2025

Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship,
IIT Madras

Concept Note

As India celebrates its 75th anniversary as a sovereign democratic republic in 2025, it stands at the proverbial crossroads, evaluating alternative strategic choices for sustainable development. India recognises that it is critical to significantly improve the quality of human development initiatives from primary school to higher education if it is to join the pantheon of developed nations. To achieve such improvement in the quality of human resources and to solve myriad complex challenges, the government has underscored the vital role of science & technology. The National Education Policy 2020 and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act 2023 emphasise the central role of research & development in spurring India's socio-economic development. One of the core five themes of Viksit Bharat 2047 is Innovation, Science and Technology (Research and Development, Startups, Digital).

Indian Institute of Technology Madras has strongly supported India's socio-economic development through outstanding contributions in world-class education, research, technology, and innovation. The Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (GDC) has collaborated with over 100 universities, research labs, and incubators across India to develop the entrepreneurial quotient of the country's academic and scientific community by training over 1,700 researchers and entrepreneurs and nurturing over 450 deep-tech startups.

"GDC's programs are hugely transformative", say the participants. These programs, designed to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and business acumen in STEM researchers, have gained wide recognition among academia, industry, and policymakers. In addition to working with 100 academic institutions/incubators, GDC has partnered with government entities (e.g., DST, DBT) and leading corporations to launch transformational programs that spark entrepreneurial thinking essential for creating impact from the commercialisation of research.

GDC's 5th Annual Symposium, themed "Translating Research into Impact at Scale," will be a key platform to discuss actionable strategies for overcoming barriers to commercialising research in India. The Symposium will focus on successful translational research models, share insights into the commercialisation process, and explore how policies and industry collaborations can be improved to scale innovations in India.

The day-long symposium will convene distinguished thought leaders, including Prof. Subra Suresh, Dr. Gururaj Deshpande, Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, and Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, to explore how India can scale its research-driven innovations and emerge as a global leader in technology and entrepreneurship. The day-long symposium will also feature a dynamic exchange between senior academicians and global corporate leaders and a panel discussion with young startup founders to foster a dialogue on the critical steps needed to accelerate the commercialisation of research and drive transformative impact. On the sidelines of the symposium, about 15 deep-tech startups from across India will share their visions and achievements.

Symposium Agenda

Time (hrs)	Title	Speaker/Panelist
09:00	Registration and Networking Breakfast	
09:30	Welcome address	Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian , Chair Professor, IIT Madras Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
09:40	Role of Innovation & Entrepreneurship in IIT Madras	Prof. V. Kamakoti Director, IIT Madras
09:50	Vision for GDC & Introduction of KeyNote Speaker 1 - Prof Subra Suresh	Dr. Gururaj Deshpande , Chairman, Sparta Group
10:00	KeyNote 1 - How can India Harness the Potential of Translational Research through Startups ?	Prof Subra Suresh , Former Director, National Science Foundation (USA), Independent Director - Anusandhan National Research Foundation
10:50	Role of GDC in catalysing a Lab to Market movement in India	Mr. Raghuttama Rao , CEO-GDC
11:00	Inauguration of Startup Exhibition	Dignitaries go around the stalls of startups
11:15	Coffee & Networking	
11:45	Fireside Chat : "The Role of Philanthropy in Promoting Deep-Tech Commercialisation"	Mr. Parth Ahya , Chief of Staff, Renaissance Philanthropy Washington (D.C.), USA <i>in conversation with</i> Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian , Chair Professor, IIT Madras
12:15	Panel Discussion 1 : How Can India become a "Product" Nation?	Mr Kris Gopalakrishnan , Chairman, Axillor Ventures Prof Ashok Jhunjunwala , Institute Professor- IIT Madras, & Former President - IIT Madras Research Park Dr Anand Deshpande , Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, Persistent Systems Limited Dr Ashish Lele , Director- NCL, Pune

Time (hrs)	Title	Speaker/Panelist
13:15	Lunch	
14:15	Panel Discussion -2: Industry- Academia collaboration to Create Deep-tech startups through Open Innovation	<p>Moderator - Mr Raghuttama Rao, CEO (GDC) - Moderator</p> <p>Dr Georg Keugerl, GM - Technology & IP Headquarter, TDK Corporation</p> <p>Dr Ajay Mehta, VP, Engineering Technology & Chief Engineer R&D, Shell Projects & Technology, India</p> <p>Prof Ravi Bhallamuda, Director, NIT Surathkal, Mangalore</p> <p>Prof Mohansankar Sivaprakasam, Dept of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras</p>
15:15	Panel Discussion - 3: Translating Lab Research to Market through Deep-tech Startups - The Founder's View	<p>Moderator - Mr. KV Anand, Chief Innovation Officer, GDC</p> <p>Dr. Sowmalya Mukherjee, Co-Founder & CEO, Tan90 Thermal Solutions Private Ltd</p> <p>Ms Komal Shah, Co-founder & CEO, Periwinkle Labs Private Ltd</p> <p>Mr. Divanshu Kumar, Co-founder & CEO, Solinas Integrity Private Ltd</p>
16:00	Takeaways from the Symposium	Mr M Subramanian, Chief Marketing Officer, GDC
16:05	Coffee & Networking	
16:30	Visit to the Startup Exhibition	GDC startups stall (in Terrace Hall)

Previous Speakers



Dr. Chintan Vaishnav

Mission Director,
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
NITI Aayog



Dr. Abhay Karandikar

Secretary- Department of Science & Technology,
Government of India



Prof. V Kamakoti

Director, IIT Madras



Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed

CEO & Director,
C-CAMP, Bengaluru

Previous Speakers



Prof. Sudhir Varadarajan

Associate Professor- IIIT(DM), Kancheepuram;
Program Director - Program on Capacity Building on
Design &
Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Education



Prof. PV Madhusudhan Rao

Professor of Mechanical Engineering & Design;
Dean - Alumni Relations,
IIT Delhi



Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula

Ex-Dean, Alumni & Corporate Relations,
IIT Madras

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Product/Service Showcase

Capture the Attention of a Dynamic Audience

Speakers Profile

- Policymakers
- Corporate Leaders
- Scientists
- Investors
- Entrepreneurs

Attendee Profile

1. Entrepreneurs
2. Corporate Executives
3. Angel investors
4. Venture Capitalists
5. Incubators
6. STEM Faculty,
7. Researchers
8. Students
9. Media

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How to Become a Sponsor

For sponsorship inquiries, please contact:

Mr. M Subramanian,
CMO, GDC

Email: msubramanian@gdciitm.org

Phone No: 9840029370

Previous Symposia Highlights





Thank You

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For more information about GDC, please visit:

www.gdciitm.org