



5th Annual GDC Symposium

Theme: **Translating Research into Impact at Scale**

Date: **January 30th 2025**

Time: **9.30 am to 5.00 pm**

Venue: **Terrace Hall, 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

09:00 am Registration and Networking Breakfast



09:30 am Welcome address



Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian

Chair Professor, IIT Madras

[Portfolio](#)



09:40 am Role of Innovation & Entrepreneurship in IIT Madras



Prof. V. Kamakoti

Director, IIT Madras

[Portfolio](#)



09:50 am Vision for GDC & Introduction of KeyNote Speaker 1 - Prof Subra Suresh



Dr. Gururaj Deshpande

Chairman, Sparta Group

[Portfolio](#)



10:00 am

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

[Portfolio](#)



10:50 am

Role of GDC in catalysing a Lab to Market movement in India



Mr. Raghuttama Rao

CEO-GDC

[Portfolio](#)



11:00 am

Inauguration of Startup Exhibition

11:15 am

Coffee & Networking



11:45 am

Fireside Chat : “The Role of Philanthropy in Promoting Deep-Tech Commercialisation”



Mr. Parth Ahya

Chief of Staff, Renaissance Philanthropy, USA

[Portfolio](#)



Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian

Chair Professor, IIT Madras

[Portfolio](#)



12:15 pm

Panel Discussion 1: How Can India become a "Product" Nation?



Mr Kris Gopalakrishnan Moderator

Chairman, Axillor Ventures

Portfolio



Prof Ashok Jhunjhunwala

*Institute Professor- IIT Madras, & Former President -
IIT Madras Research Park*

Portfolio



Dr Anand Deshpande

Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, Persistent Systems Limited

Portfolio



Dr Ashish Lele

Director- NCL, Pune

Portfolio



13:15 pm

Lunch

14:15 pm

Panel Discussion 2: Industry- Academia collaboration to Create Deep-tech startups through Open Innovation



Mr. Raghuttama Rao Moderator

CEO-GDC

Portfolio



Dr Georg Kuegerl

GM - Technology & IP Headquarter, TDK Corporation

Portfolio



Dr Ajay Mehta

*VP, Engineering Technology & Chief Engineer R&D,
Shell Projects & Technology, India*

Portfolio



Prof Ravi Bhallamudi

Director, NIT Surathkal, Mangalore

Portfolio



Prof Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam

Dept of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras

Portfolio





15:00 pm

Panel Discussion 3: Translating Lab Research to Market through Deep-tech Startups- The Founder's View



Mr. KV Anand

Moderator

Chief Innovation Officer, GDC

[Portfolio](#)



Dr. Sowmalya Mukherjee

Co-Founder & CEO, Tan90 Thermal Solutions Private Ltd

[Portfolio](#)



Ms Komal Shah

Co-founder & CEO, Periwinkle Labs Private Ltd

[Portfolio](#)



Mr. Divanshu Kumar

Co-founder & CEO, Solinas Integrity Private Ltd

[Portfolio](#)



16:00 pm

Takeaways from the Symposium



Mr M Subramanian

Chief Marketing Officer, GDC

[Portfolio](#)



16:05 pm

Coffee & Networking

16:30 pm

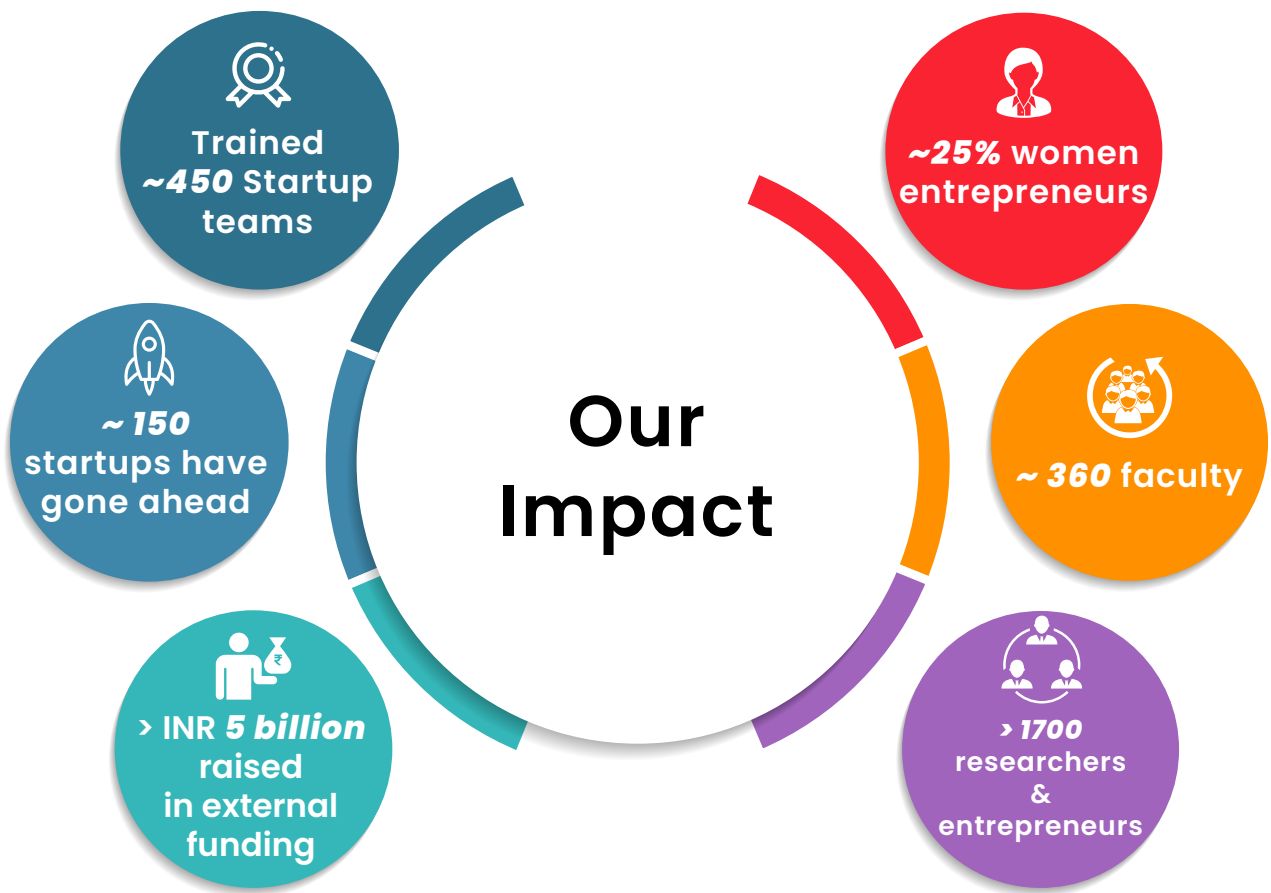
Visit to the Startup Exhibition

About GDC

GDC was established at IIT Madras in 2017 as a philanthropic initiative with the core objective of fostering innovation in STEM universities across India by facilitating the transformation of scientific research from laboratories to the marketplace through deep tech startups. GDC seeks to bridge the gap between India's world-class STEM research and the marketplace, empowering the next wave of deep-tech startups. Over the past six years, GDC has forged impactful collaborations with over 100 leading STEM institutions and incubators, fostering an ecosystem that has nurtured over 450 startups. Of these, more than 150 have successfully commercialized their innovations, with several attracting external funding exceeding Rs. 500 crores. Furthermore, over 100 startups are on the cusp of scaling their solutions to address some of India's most pressing socio-economic challenges.



Our Impact



**Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre
for Innovation and Entrepreneurship,
S7, II Floor, Sudha & Shankar Innovation Hub
IIT Madras, Chennai - 600 036**

 044 2257 8432

gdciitm.org