

## Celebrating Growth, Innovation, and a Vision for the Future

As we look back on 2024, it has been nothing short of transformative for GDC. With our reach extending to more STEM institutions, collaborations with government and corporate leaders thriving, and startups from our programs achieving incredible milestones, GDC is proud to have fueled innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

This year, we're taking it further. We're excited to announce **GDC's 5th Annual Symposium, themed "Translating Research into Impact at Scale"**. This isn't just an event—it's a platform where India's brightest minds and changemakers will converge.



## Translating Research into Impact at Scale

Imagine this: universities, industry pioneers, government leaders, incubators, and investors, all in one room, discussing ideas and actionable strategies to overcome the barriers to research commercialization. It's a day of inspiration, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue—designed to drive real impact. If you're passionate about innovation, if you believe in the power of deep-tech to shape the future, this is your call to action.

📅 January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

🕒 Time: 9.30 am to 5.00 pm

📍 Terrace Hall, IIT Madras

Secure Your Spot

Join us for a conversation that will shape the next chapter of India's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Together, let's transform research into impact.

### GDC, IIT Madras to Lead Pioneering Study on India's Incubator Ecosystem

We are pleased to announce that NITI Aayog has entrusted GDC, IIT Madras to conduct a critical study on the Incubator Ecosystem within Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across India. This comprehensive study will critically assess the business models, challenges, and operational dynamics of incubators, with the aim of providing actionable insights that will guide the formulation of policies to enhance the effectiveness of incubators in driving innovation.

We invite incubators across India to be part of this landmark study. Your participation will provide valuable data to help shape a more dynamic and effective incubator ecosystem, empowering the next wave of startups.

**Please keep an eye on your inbox for our upcoming communication and further details.**



### Customer Discovery Session at MaDeIT Innovation Foundation, IITDM Kancheepuram



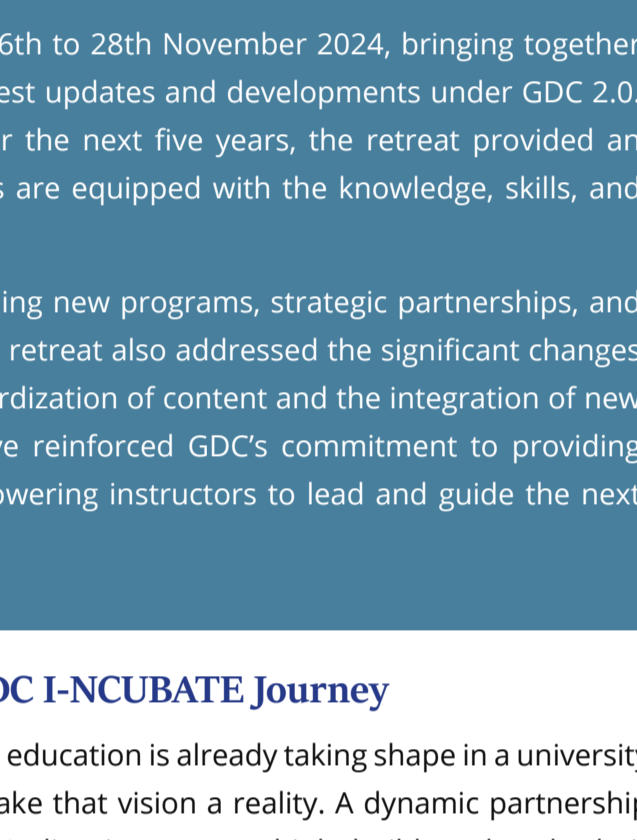
**In the Pic:** Mr. KV Anand, Chief Innovation Officer addressing the participants.

On October 2nd, 2024, Mr. KV Anand, Chief Innovation Officer at GDC, led a session on Customer Discovery at the MaDeIT Innovation Foundation, IITDM Kancheepuram. The session focused on the critical importance of deeply understanding customer needs, validating ideas, and utilizing real-world feedback to drive successful product development. Participants gained valuable insights into how these strategies can significantly enhance the effectiveness of their innovation process.

### Entrepreneurship Talk at TVS Training Services

On 19th October, Mr. Raghuttama Rao, CEO, GDC, delivered an engaging talk on Entrepreneurship to the graduating class and alumni at TVS Training Services. His session focused on the entrepreneurial journey, the importance of innovation, and the evolving startup ecosystem. Mr. Rao's words resonated deeply with the audience, offering guidance and inspiration for those ready to take the next step in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

We thank TVS Training Services for the opportunity to connect with the future leaders and innovators in the making!



**In the Pic:** Mr. Raghuttama Rao, CEO, GDC addressing the audience

### Inspiring Future Entrepreneurs: Lecture by Mr. Raghuttama Rao

On Oct 29th, 2024, Mr. Raghuttama Rao, CEO, GDC delivered a lecture on **"Wanting to Startup? - What an Aspiring Entrepreneur Should Know"**. This lecture was for IITM Students attending the course "Innovation and Entrepreneurship - A Multi-disciplinary Approach" and is designed to foster entrepreneurial thinking and innovation across disciplines, aiming to cultivate an entrepreneurial culture at the departmental, institutional, and national levels. Notably, the course features interactions with successful entrepreneurs and industry leaders, providing real-world insights into creating and growing businesses.

### GDC Instructors' Retreat: Empowering the Future of Entrepreneurship

GDC hosted a focused virtual Instructors' Retreat from 26th to 28th November 2024, bringing together both new and experienced instructors to align on the latest updates and developments under GDC 2.0. With a goal of scaling our reach to 500 institutions over the next five years, the retreat provided an opportunity to refine our approach, ensuring instructors are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and tools to guide deep-tech startups effectively.

Key discussions centered on the progress of GDC, including new programs, strategic partnerships, and the evolving role of instructors in shaping the future. The retreat also addressed the significant changes in our curriculum and pedagogy, emphasizing the standardization of content and the integration of new frameworks alongside traditional concepts. This initiative reinforced GDC's commitment to providing high-quality, practical entrepreneurial training and empowering instructors to lead and guide the next generation of deep-tech entrepreneurs.

### Transforming Ideas into Impact: The DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Journey

What if the next big innovation in healthcare, cleantech, or education is already taking shape in a university lab? The DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program is designed to make that vision a reality. A dynamic partnership between DST and GDC, this initiative is redefining how Indian innovators think, build, and scale their startups.

Through immersive, hands-on learning and real-world engagement, the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE isn't just about theory—it's about equipping participants to tackle real challenges with confidence. By pushing researchers and entrepreneurs beyond their comfort zones, the program fosters a new generation of innovators ready to drive impactful change across sectors.

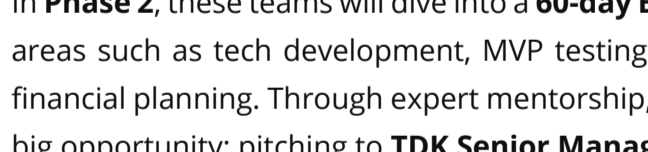
Want to learn more about how this program is shaping India's entrepreneurial future? Click below for the full story.

[Read More](#)

### A Successful Launch of the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program at IIT Madras

We are pleased to announce the successful launch of the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program at GDC, IIT Madras! The inaugural cohort kicked off with an insightful four-day workshop from December 8-11, 2024.

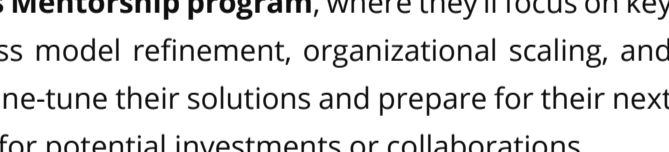
We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Praveen Ray, Prof. V. Kamakoti, and Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian for their inspiring addresses that set a strong foundation for the deep-tech startups participating in this transformative program.



Participants in action at DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Cohort 01

### DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Cohort 02

On December 21st, 2024, the second cohort of the **DST-GDC I-NCUBATE** Program was launched at IIT Madras, kicking off with an intensive four-day in-person workshop. This new group of deep-tech startups is now embarking on their journey of growth, innovation, and transformation. The workshop provided a collaborative space for participants to engage with mentors, gain hands-on experience, and refine their ideas.



Group photos: DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Cohort 2 participants

Applications are now open for the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Cohorts 03 & 04

[Apply Now](#)

To know more [Visit Us](#)

### CII CIES ICONN SUMMIT: Corporate Startup Connect



**In the Pic:** Mr. Raghuttama Rao along with other Panelists

Mr. R. Raghuttama Rao, CEO of GDC, recently participated as a panelist at the ICONN Summit 2024, organized by the CII Centre of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Startups (CII CIES). Held on 17th and 18th December in Hyderabad, India, the summit brought together key players from the corporate, startup, and investor ecosystems to explore the future of innovation and collaboration.

Mr. Rao was part of a panel on Driving India's Innovation: Start-ups, Corporate, & Academia Collaboration, where he shared his insights on the importance of fostering synergies between startups, corporates, and academia. The discussion focused on the evolving landscape of collaboration in India and the significant opportunities for growth and innovation that such partnerships can bring.

### GDC Open House at IIT Hyderabad

On December 18th, GDC conducted an Open House at IIT Hyderabad, providing an opportunity to showcase our programs and mission. The event aimed to engage the IIT Hyderabad community, including faculty, researchers, and students, in meaningful discussions about innovation and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Raghuttama Rao, CEO of GDC, delivered a presentation on GDC's mission and initiatives, while Mr. Subramanian, CMO of GDC, contributed actively to the discussions.

A heartfelt thank you to Prof. B.S. Murty, the Director of IIT Hyderabad, along with the management, faculty, researchers, and students for their active participation and support. We look forward to continued collaboration in nurturing the next wave of innovators.

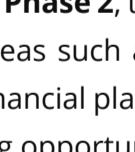


**In the Pic:** Mr. Raghuttama Rao, CEO, GDC addressing the participants at IIT Hyderabad

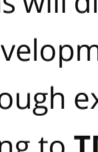
### TiiC Accelerator Program 2024: Shaping the Future of Health Tech Innovations

The TiiC Accelerator Program 2024, a visionary collaboration between TDK Corporation and the Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (GDC), is paving the way for the next generation of health tech innovators. More than just a funding initiative, the program is about empowering talented entrepreneurs to tackle some of the most pressing challenges in healthcare.

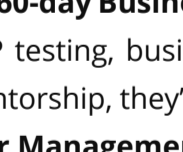
With Phase 1 now complete, we're pleased to announce that five exceptional teams have been selected to move on to Phase 2. After competing with nine impressive teams, these five were chosen for their exceptional potential to revolutionize healthcare with innovative technologies.



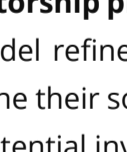
Avinya Infinity Solutions Pvt. Ltd.



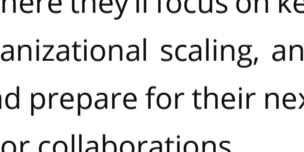
Healyantra



Open MedLabs



Periwinkle Technologies Pvt. Ltd.



ProDiagnox Healthcare Pvt. Ltd

In **Phase 2**, these teams will dive into a **60-day Business Mentorship program**, where they'll focus on key areas such as tech development, MVP testing, business model refinement, organizational scaling, and financial planning. Through expert mentorship, they'll fine-tune their solutions and prepare for their next big opportunity: pitching to **TDK Senior Management** for potential investments or collaborations.

What's in store for these emerging health tech startups? We'll be closely following their progress and sharing their breakthroughs in the journey toward shaping the future of healthcare.

Stay tuned for updates on these inspiring teams and their transformative innovations they're bringing to the healthcare landscape.

### GDC Startup News and Updates

#### Pfizer INDovation program boosts six start-ups with Rs. 1.5 crore grant BioLockey Healthworks Pvt Ltd



[Image Link](#)

Big wins call for bold beginnings! bioLOCKEY Healthworks, recent winner of the Pfizer INDovation Prize, is revolutionizing cervical cancer screening with its innovative selfCERVIX kit. This cutting-edge diagnostic tool, developed using their proprietary NANODx™ platform, addresses one of India's critical healthcare challenges with accessible, point-of-care solutions.

Their success story took flight with GDC's I-NCUBATE Program, where they pivoted from a direct-to-consumer strategy to a collaborative B2B model, unlocking impactful partnerships with healthcare providers and public agencies.

GDC's mentorship proved instrumental in transforming bioLOCKEY's vision into a scalable, market-ready solution—poised to save countless lives.

**Learn more about their journey here**

[Read More](#)

#### Enrission India Capital Invests in Modulus Housing to Revolutionize the Future of Modular Construction



[Image Link](#)

Founded by IIT Madras alumni, Modulus Housing is making waves in modular construction and healthcare infrastructure. What's the secret behind their incredible success? Their game-changing journey was supercharged by GDC's I-NCUBATE Program!

With mentorship and strategic insights, Modulus refined its approach, aligned with market needs, and unlocked unprecedented opportunities. The results? Major partnerships with industry leaders like L&T and Selco, a ₹65-70 crore contract to construct hospitals across Bihar, and a strategic investment from Enrission India Capital in 2024 to take their impact global!

As Modulus Housing continues to redefine modular solutions, their inspiring story underscores the transformative power of GDC's support in turning bold visions into reality.

Want to dive deeper into Modulus Housing's exciting journey with GDC's I-NCUBATE Program?

**Learn more about the Journey here**

[Read More](#)

### Contact Us

If you have any queries, reach out to us at [enquiries@gdcitm.org](mailto:enquiries@gdcitm.org)

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