

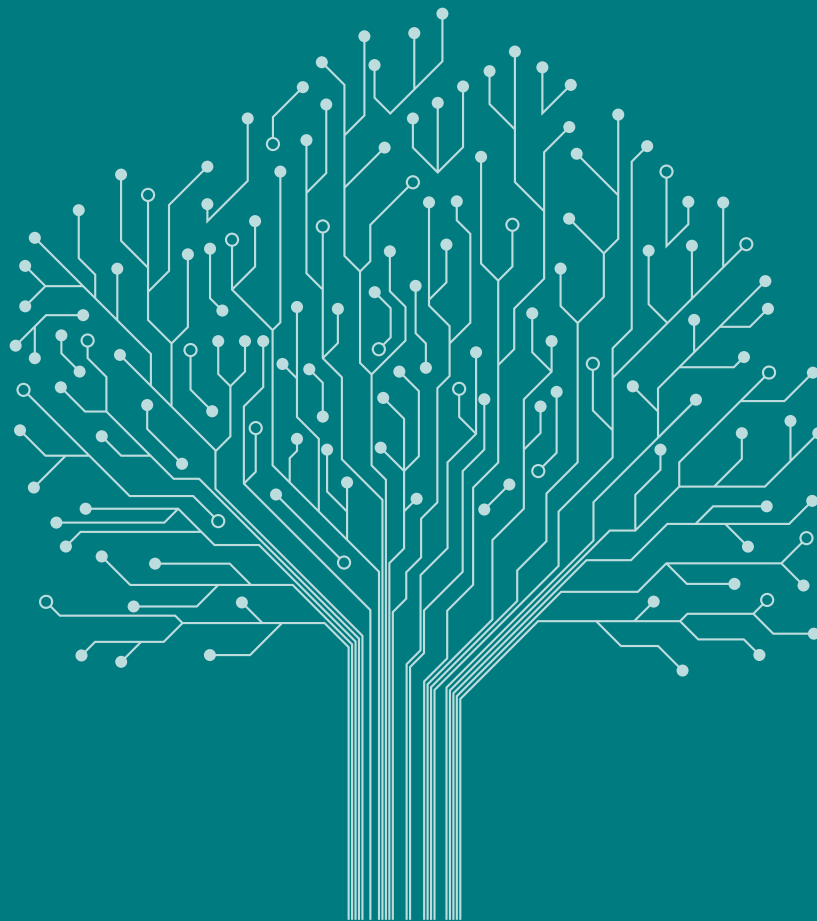
DST-GDC I-NCUBATE PROGRAM

A Gamechanger for Deep-Tech Startups

“Celebrating Entrepreneurship – From Lab to Market”

🕒 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM 📍 TTJ Auditorium, IC&SR, IIT Madras

📅 28th July 2025



Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship,
IIT Madras

The Changing Deep-tech Startup Ecosystem in India

India's Deep-Tech Revolution

India is witnessing a quiet yet powerful deep-tech revolution, driven by advances in AI, quantum technologies, robotics, semiconductors, advanced materials, and biotechnology. Unlike typical digital ventures, deep-tech startups tackle complex, real-world challenges with solutions born from years of R&D, interdisciplinary collaboration, and patient capital. These ventures are not just building apps; they are engineering atoms, algorithms, and machines that underpin breakthroughs in healthcare, climate tech, manufacturing, and national security.

A Convergence of Science, Policy and Entrepreneurship

With progressive policies, world-class institutions, and a surge in academia-based entrepreneurship, India is gaining momentum in deep technologies. The National Education Policy 2020 and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act 2023 emphasise R&D as central to India's growth. Innovation, science, and technology form one of the five pillars of Viksit Bharat 2047.

India's deep-tech startup ecosystem has grown by 50% over the past five years, and now has more than 3,000 ventures. Programs like iDEX, NIDHI-PRAYAS, and the upcoming National Deep Tech Startup Policy are laying a strong foundation. A new mindset is emerging, which is—focused on inventing India-first solutions in defence, space, genomics, and sustainability.

DST and GDC: Driving Innovation

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has played a prominent role in this transformation and revolution of deep-tech startups sweeping across India. The Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (GDC) at IIT Madras has collaborated with over 100 academic and research institutions across India to promote entrepreneurial thinking and have worked with nearly 500 startups. Together, DST and GDC have collaborated to launch the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE program, which aims to train STEM researchers aspiring to develop deep-tech startups.

Participants describe the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE experience as "hugely transformative". The program equips scientists and researchers with entrepreneurial skills and commercialisation pathways, which are essential for translating research into impact.

The Seminar: Ideas. Insights. Impact.

This half-day seminar convenes leaders from government, academia, industry, and investment to discuss how India can lead the next global technology wave.

Highlights include:

Insights from policymakers and venture leaders

A panel with startup pioneers and ecosystem enablers

A showcase of select startups from the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program

Demos and exhibits of deep-tech innovations

Join us to explore how deep-tech ventures are shaping India's future -from labs to markets, and from ideas to impact.

Program Agenda

09:30 AM - 10:00 AM Registration	10:00 AM - 10:05 AM Welcome address Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian, <i>Institute Professor,</i> <i>IIT Madras Dept. of Mechanical Engineering</i>
10:05 AM - 10:15 AM IIT Madras: Nurturing Innovation & Startups Prof. V. Kamakoti, <i>Director, IIT Madras</i>	
10:15 AM - 10:20 AM DST-GDC I-NCUBATE: Deep-Tech Game Changer Mr. KV Anand, <i>Chief Innovation Officer, GDC</i>	10:20 AM - 11:30 AM Transformative Journeys: Startup Spotlights <i>Presentations by graduates of the</i> DST-GDC I-NCUBATE PROGRAM
11:30 AM - 11:40 AM Inauguration of Idea to Impact: Startup Exhibition by the Chief Guest	
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM <i>Coffee & Networking</i>	
12:00 PM - 12:15 PM Address by the Guest of Honour Dr. Pramod Shankar, <i>Scientist-D</i> <i>Department of Science & Technology,</i> <i>Government of India</i>	12:15 PM - 12:45 PM Keynote Address by the Chief Guest Mr. Ramesh Mangaleswaran,, <i>(Hon.) Adjunct Professor of Practice,</i> <i>Desai Sethi School of Entrepreneurship, IIT Bombay &</i> <i>Emeritus Partner, McKinsey & Company</i>
12:45 PM - 01:30 PM Panel Discussion: Building the Deep-tech Nation: "Talent, Technology & Trust" Mr. Vishesh Rajaram, Mr. Kunal Upadhyay, Prof. Satyanarayanan R. Moderator: <i>CEO, Speciale Invest</i> <i>CEO, IIMA Ventures</i> Chakravarthy Dr. Raghuttama Rao, <i>Professor, Dept. of Aerospace Engg,</i> <i>CEO, GDC</i> <i>& Head – NCCRD, IIT Madras</i>	
01:30 PM - 01:35 PM Closing Comments Mr. M Subramanian, <i>CMO, GDC</i>	
01:35 PM - 02:30 PM <i>Lunch</i>	
02:30 PM Onwards Visit to the Startup Exhibition <i>Idea to Impact: Startup Exhibition (in IC & SR Foyer)</i>	

Speakers' Profiles

Leading Voices and Deep Perspectives

Meet the changemakers shaping India's deep-tech landscape. From entrepreneurial faculty and startup founders to investors, policymakers, and incubation leaders — our speakers represent the breadth and depth of India's innovation ecosystem



Prof. V. Kamakoti,
Director, IIT Madras

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Dr. Pramod Shankar,
*Scientist-D
Department of Science & Technology,
Government of India*

[Portfolio](#)



Mr. Ramesh Mangaleswaran,
*(Hon.) Adjunct Professor of Practice,
Desai Sethi School of Entrepreneurship,
IIT Bombay &
Emeritus Partner, McKinsey & Company*

[Portfolio](#)



**Prof. Satyanarayanan R.
Chakravarthy**
*Professor, Dept. of Aerospace Engg,
& Head – NCCRD, IIT Madras*

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Mr. Vishesh Rajaram,
CEO, Speciale Invest

[Portfolio](#)



Mr. Kunal Upadhyay,
CEO, IIMA Ventures

[Portfolio](#)



Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian,
*Institute Professor, IIT Madras Dept. of
Mechanical Engineering*

[Portfolio](#)



Dr. Raghuttama Rao,
CEO, GDC

[Portfolio](#)



Mr. KV Anand,
*Chief Innovation Officer,
GDC*

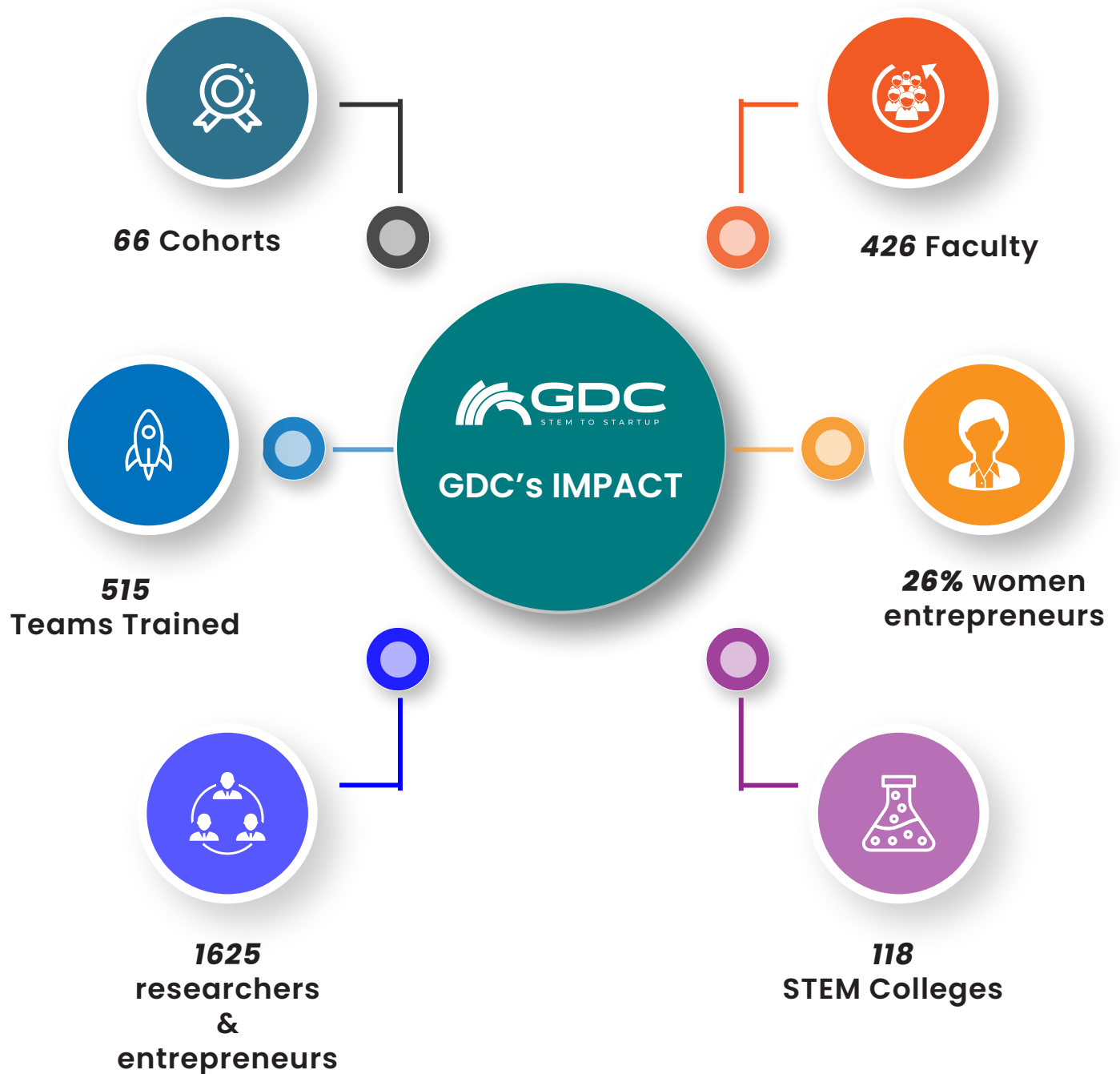
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Mr. M Subramanian,
CMO, GDC

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GDC's Impact*



* As of July 2025

Program Partners: DST & GDC



[The Department of Science & Technology \(DST\)](#), under the Ministry of Technology, Government of India, is entrusted with promoting new areas of Science & Technology and plays the role of a nodal department for organising, coordinating and promoting S&T activities in the country. As part of its Mission, DST leads in the creation of S&T infrastructure and manpower, supports basic science research along with S&T-led innovation and startups, technology development, and seeds futuristic areas of S&T by devising suitable programs, schemes and technology missions to address socio-economic challenges of the country.



[National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations \(NIDHI\)](#) is an umbrella programme conceived and developed by the Technology Translation and Innovation (TTI) Division, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.



[Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship \(GDC\)](#) 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 eight years, GDC has forged impactful collaborations with over 100 leading STEM institutions and incubators, fostering an ecosystem that has nurtured over 470 startups. Of these, more than 200 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.

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