



GROW + RISE + EVOLVE

Our Logo: Symbolism and Significance

STEM TO STARTUP is an integral part of GDC's ethos and captures the quintessence of GDC's mission. GDC's objective is to enable the transformation of science into startups that impact society at scale. The Lab to Market journey that GDC undertakes with STEM universities and laboratories is aptly embodied by the phrase **STEM TO STARTUP**.

Explore the pages ahead to learn more about our key initiatives and programs for the April–June quarter, exemplifying our dedication to transforming scientific knowledge into impactful ventures.

TiiC Accelerator Program 2024 Wrap-Up and Winners

Every innovation journey needs a catalyst—a spark that accelerates both progress and purpose. The TiiC Accelerator Program 2024, a collaboration between TDK Corporation and IIT Madras's GDC, served as that launchpad for health-tech entrepreneurs tackling healthcare's toughest challenges.

In Phase 2, five early-stage teams underwent an intensive 60-day mentorship, refining technologies, testing MVPs, sharpening business models, and planning for scale with expert guidance.

In April, these teams pitched to senior TDK leaders, showcasing months of dedication and growth. All five received cash grants, with Healyantra and Periwinkle Labs emerging as winners. These two teams will now receive direct support from TDK to further build impactful healthcare solutions.



Pic: Celebrating the successful conclusion of TiiC Accelerator Program Phase 2 with the incredible participants, TDK, and GDC teams!

This milestone marks not just a cohort's close, but the start of lasting collaboration and innovation. Discover the journeys of Healyantra and Periwinkle Labs as their founders share insights on success and GDC's role in shaping their path.

Team Healyantra

Some startups arrive with a spark—an idea so grounded in lived experience and technical clarity that it feels inevitable. But even the brightest ideas need shaping. They need guides who see not just the product, but the possibility. Team Healyantra was one such story.

When they entered the TiiC Accelerator, Healyantra had already built something remarkable: a smart dental handpiece called Elphie, designed to transform routine dental procedures through real-time, AI-powered imaging. It was a response to challenges most dentists never think about—restricted visibility, accidental damage to surrounding teeth, and the physical strain dentists silently endure. Their device had the potential to ease clinical pain points and prevent career-limiting injuries, all while improving outcomes for patients.

But potential isn't the same as momentum. Like many early-stage teams, Healyantra was navigating the gap between invention and impact. Their technology was strong, but the story around it—the market, the model, the customer—was still taking shape.

That's where the I-GNITE program, became a catalyst. The program instructors didn't try to impose a vision—they helped the team uncover their own. Together, they began to reframe Healyantra not just as a maker of devices, but as a player in the broader digital health ecosystem—one where visibility, ergonomics, and AI-driven precision are increasingly core to care.

Through weeks of guided iteration, the team sharpened their value proposition and began to speak in the language of users, buyers, and investors. They mapped their early adopter segment—experienced dental professionals in high-throughput urban clinics—and refined a pricing model that made sense not just in theory but on the ground. What emerged was more than a product strategy; it was a business roadmap, built on real-world validation and nuanced understanding.

By the time they pitched to TDK Corporation, Healyantra wasn't just showing off a prototype. They were presenting a venture with clear traction, regulatory foresight, and a go-to-market engine shaped by mentors who had walked the path before. They won—not simply because their technology was impressive, but because their story was coherent, their numbers were sound, and their purpose was clear.

Today, Healyantra is on the cusp of commercialization, equipped with patents, pilot deployments, and a vision that has earned the confidence of global stakeholders. But what lingers most is not just the win—it's the way their journey reflects what business mentorship, done right, can unlock



Team Periwinkle Labs Private Limited

Team Periwinkle entered the TiiC Accelerator Program with a bold vision: to redefine how women manage urinary incontinence, a condition that affects millions silently and disrupts lives quietly. Their idea—a wearable, adaptive electrical stimulation device embedded in a comfortable pair of shorts—was rooted in empathy and scientific rigor. Yet, as with many breakthrough ideas, moving from a brilliant concept to a viable business demanded more than just invention; it required clarity, strategy, and deep customer insight.

Through structured business mentorship as part of the TiiC Accelerator, the GDC instructors and mentors worked closely with Team Periwinkle to dig deep into their assumptions. They encouraged the team to segment their customer base rigorously distinguishing between different groups of women affected by urinary incontinence, understanding their lifestyles, pain points, and preferences. Was their device meant for all women equally? Or could they focus on young, busy women managing a demanding work-life balance? What about clinical partners who could recommend the device? These were the questions that shifted from vague ideas into precise insights.

The program helped them map the patient journey and clinician's role, revealing that urogynaecologists and physiotherapists could be the critical influencers in adoption. They also guided Periwinkle in refining their value proposition—from a general solution for incontinence to an adaptive, patient-centric device that adjusts in real-time to body posture, maximizing effectiveness and convenience. This focus sharpened their messaging and gave the team clarity on how to design clinical validation and regulatory pathways that aligned with user needs.

With this refined focus, Team Periwinkle pitched to TDK Corporation not just with a product, but with a validated business strategy. Their narrative showcased not only technological innovation but also a deep understanding of market segments, clinical partnerships, and a realistic go-to-market approach. The confidence they displayed reflected the transformative impact of the mentorship received through GDC's I-GNITE Program.

Winning the TiiC Accelerator Program and earning the support of TDK Corporation marked a defining milestone for Team Periwinkle. It wasn't just a recognition of their technology—it was a testament to their clarity of vision, strategic evolution, and the resilience of their entrepreneurial spirit. Their journey illustrates how thoughtful business mentorship, paired with innovation, is key to creating real-world impact and preserving the momentum that powers enduring startup success.



Empowering Deep-Tech Innovators: DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program

Startups often begin with bold ideas and passionate founders, but many stumble when innovation meets market reality. The DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program is designed to bridge this critical gap. By combining hands-on mentorship, real-world customer engagement, and a focus on mindset transformation, the program helps deep-tech researchers evolve into resilient entrepreneurs.

Over eight intense weeks, participants connect with over 100 stakeholders, test their assumptions, and refine their innovations to align with real-world needs. This journey goes beyond product development—it's about reshaping how innovators think, adapt, and lead.

With Cohort 4 underway, the program is already sparking a ripple effect across India's deep-tech ecosystem, empowering a new generation to build ventures that are not only viable but impactful.



pic: Moments from the in-person workshop of DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Cohort 04 at IIT Madras.

Read more about the program and watch videos of teams from previous cohorts to experience their transformative journey.

[Read Article](#)

Applications are now open for the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Cohorts 06

[Apply now](#)

Interested in getting a first-hand experience of what the DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program is all about?

Join us for a seminar on “ DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program: A Gamechanger for Deep-tech Startups,” scheduled for Monday, 28th July 2025, at TT Jagannathan Auditorium, IIT Madras .

This event offers a front-row seat to the journeys of deep-tech ventures born from cutting-edge academic research. Expect insightful talks, real startup stories, engaging panel discussions, and a showcase of innovations from Cohorts 1 to 4.

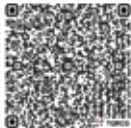
[Register Now](#)



DST-GDC I-NCUBATE Program

A Gamechanger for Deep-tech startups

[Register Now](#)





Idea to Impact:
Startup Exhibition



Insights on
innovation and
research-led
entrepreneurship



Perspectives on
India's deep-tech
and startup
landscape



Networking with
Deep-Tech
Stakeholders

Celebrate innovation. Connect with change-makers.



28th July, 2025



TT Jagannathan Auditorium,
IIT Madras

Event Agenda



www.gdciitm.org

Knowledge Partnership: CZC-GDC Entrepreneurial Impact Bootcamp

GDC is the Knowledge Partner for the fifth edition of the Carbon Zero Challenge—an All-India Eco Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition hosted at IIT Madras. This initiative accelerates the lab-to-market journey of eco-innovations by funding solutions from proof-of-concept to working prototypes.

As Knowledge Partner, GDC is mentoring 25 selected teams through a two-week Entrepreneurial Impact Bootcamp, part of its I-NITIATE Program. Beyond instruction, GDC focuses on developing entrepreneurial mindsets, refining business acumen, and helping teams craft clear, scalable paths for their innovations.

On June 30, the first cohort of 12 teams completed the bootcamp, sharing testimonials that highlight newfound clarity and a deeper understanding of customer needs and sustainable venture creation.

Through this partnership, GDC continues to bridge research and real-world impact—equipping innovators with both the tools and mindset to build what comes next.

Special thanks to the CZC Team led by Prof. Indumathi Nambi, IIT Madras, for their leadership and collaboration.



pic: Team snapshot from the CZC-GDC Entrepreneurial Impact Bootcamp

“It was a truly enriching experience. It has transformed how we approach project development and problem-solving.”

–Team Emitrix–

“Attending the bootcamp was a game-changer for me. It shifted my focus from just product development to truly understanding my customers & the interactive sessions especially with mentors like K.V. Anand, Arvind, Yadvendra & Shriram, made the experience unforgettable.”

–Team Aldrogen Energy–

[View more testimonials](#)

Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship: GDC at IIT(BHU)

As part of its I-NDUCT program, GDC partnered with the Ideation Innovation & Incubation Foundation (I3F) and the Joint Incubation Centre (JIC) at IIT (BHU), Varanasi, to conduct a focused two-day workshop titled “Startup Insight: Lab to Market Innovation” on April 10–11, 2025.

The workshop aimed to foster an innovation-driven academic culture by equipping researchers with practical tools to translate their work into real-world ventures. Sessions were led by Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian, Faculty In-Charge at GDC, along with GDC leadership—CEO Mr. Raghuttama Rao, CMO Mr. M. Subramanian, and Chief Innovation Officer Mr. Anand KV.

Tailored to the IIT (BHU) ecosystem, the workshop delivered actionable strategies and frameworks, marking a key step toward building a strong culture of academic entrepreneurship. GDC looks forward to deepening this collaboration in the coming months.



Pic: GDC Team at IIT BHU

Academia-Startup-Industry Collaboration Roundtable

GDC's Chief Marketing Officer, Mr. M. Subramanian, was recently invited to participate in an exclusive Industry-Academia Round Table organized by the NASSCOM Centre of Excellence in collaboration with Panasonic India. The closed-door session, held on June 6, 2025, at NASSCOM CoE's Bangalore office, focused on “Deep Tech & AI-Driven Innovation for Safer, Smarter, and Sustainable Living.”

Bringing together leaders from academia, startups, and Panasonic's innovation and strategy teams, the round table explored collaborative innovations in key areas such as air quality and wellness, intelligent home-based healthcare, GenAI applications, and sustainable energy management.

Mr. Subramanian's participation added insights to the discussions, helping shape pathways for impactful industry-academia collaboration in emerging technology sectors.



Pic: Mr. M. Subramanian, CMO, GDC (C) at the Industry-Academia Round Table organized by the NASSCOM Centre of Excellence in collaboration with Panasonic India

@GDC: Welcoming Minds & Collaborators

At GDC, we continue to engage with leaders from academia, industry, and policy who share our vision of advancing research-driven innovation. Over the past quarter, we've had the pleasure of hosting several notable visitors at our office:



We had the honour of hosting Ms. Devika Lal, First Secretary (E&C), High Commission of India, Sri Lanka (R). Her visit sparked engaging conversations on the innovation landscape at IIT Madras and GDC's mission to empower STEM faculty, students, and startups. We look forward to potential collaborations that bridge India and Sri Lanka through innovation and education



Prof. Gopalakrishnan Mohan, R. Srinivasan International Visiting Chair Professor at IIT Madras and Director at the School of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (West Valley Campus, ASU) (second from L), along with Dr. Kelitha Cherian (L) from the FedEx Smart Centre, visited GDC. Their discussions focused on strengthening joint efforts to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and startup growth.



Prof. Malla Reddy, Dean - Innovation, IIT Hyderabad (R), visited GDC to understand our initiatives and explore synergies in promoting academic entrepreneurship.



Dr. Mohit Dubey, Pro Vice Chancellor of MIT-ADT University (C) and his team, visited GDC to explore our programs and understand the innovation ecosystem at IIT Madras.



Mr. Amitava Ghosh, Chief Operating Officer – Strategic Initiatives(L), and Mr. Souvik Sarkar, Head – Career Planning, Placement & Marketing (second from R) from Dhirubhai Ambani University, visited GDC to explore our programs and gain insights into the vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem at IIT Madras.

Celebrating VayuJal Technologies' Impact: 500 Liters of Clean Drinking Water Daily at a Chennai School



We are pleased to celebrate the remarkable achievement of VayuJal Technologies Private Limited, an alumnus of Cohort 2 of the I-NCUBATE Program.! Their 'Water from Air' machine has been successfully installed at a deserving school in Chennai, where it now provides 500 litres of pure drinking water every day. This milestone stands as a powerful example of sustainable technology making a real difference in communities facing water scarcity.

This breakthrough, however, didn't happen overnight. VayuJal's journey began with a bold vision to address water scarcity across rural and urban landscapes. But it was through their time in the I-NCUBATE Program that their direction sharpened. By engaging directly with end-users and industry stakeholders, the team uncovered specific gaps in urban water reliability and industrial supply chains. These insights helped them narrow their focus to high-impact segments—urban households and sectors like biotech—where their Atmospheric Water Generators could offer the greatest value. With the guidance of mentors and real-world validation, VayuJal evolved from a broad concept to a targeted, high-efficiency solution.

To learn more about VayuJal's inspiring journey through the I-NCUBATE Program and watch their story unfold,

[Read More](#)

Tan90 Thermal Solutions Raises INR 20 Cr Series A Led by NABVENTURES



A big shoutout to Tan90 Thermal Solutions for their latest milestone—raising ₹20 crore in Series A funding led by NABVENTURES! With plans to scale across 10 new cities and expand into global markets, Tan90 is bringing smart, sustainable cooling where it's needed most.

From cold chains to data centres, their proprietary Phase Change Materials and Cooling-as-a-Service model are reimagining how industries manage thermal energy—efficiently and affordably.

But behind this success lies a story of strategic evolution. Through GDC's I-NCUBATE Program, Tan90 received vital early support that shaped their journey—from designing a customer segmentation grid to running mock interviews that uncovered real-world market needs. Initially targeting a broader cold chain space, they pivoted to focus on the dairy segment with their Zero DnT modular cold box, guided by mentor insights and deep customer exploration.

Want to dive deeper into their journey, including insights from their time in the I-NCUBATE Program?

[Read More](#)

Folium Sensing Wins 1st Place at Google Cloud FutureX Challenge



pic: Co-founder, Sanidhya Chaturvedi(L), represented Folium Sensing and IIT Madras at the event.

Congratulations to Folium Sensing, an IIT Madras startup and I-NCUBATE Cohort 28 alum, for securing 1st place at the Google Cloud FutureX Challenge by Campus Fund—India's largest competition for young entrepreneurs working in frontier technologies.

Folium Sensing began with a focus on infrastructure monitoring, but their participation in the GDC's I-NCUBATE Program was instrumental in helping them expand into industries such as transportation, energy, and telecommunications. Through guided customer discovery and mentor-driven market validation, they refined their value proposition and identified broader applications for their fiber optic sensing solutions.

Today, their technology addresses critical real-time monitoring needs with high precision, scalability, and resilience.

GDC congratulates the Folium Sensing team on this achievement and continues to support their progress.

Learn more about their I-NCUBATE journey here

[Read More](#)



Contact

If you have any queries, reach out to us at equiries@gdciitm.org

To stay updated about GDC's program and events, visit: www.gdciitm.org

Follow us on Social media: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/gdciitm/>