

Grant Writing Workshop (With a focus on Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG))

Introduction	This workshop is aimed at early-stage startups and young entrepreneurs with a startup idea, to learn the skill of grant writing. The workshop will empower the participants with the skill to write a strong grant proposal and will increase their chances of winning grant for funding their startup ideas. A poorly written proposal is one of the main reasons for its failure. The key to a successful proposal is to be able to convey your storyline in a precise and impactful manner.
Gains	- Understand how to convey your storyline in a precise and impactful manner - Get equipped with the skill to write a good grant proposal by understanding the key pointers
Organized and Hosted by	- Venture Center - Preincubation and Learning team @ Venture Center
Supported by	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)
For whom	- Early stage inventive enterprises and science-based startups - Budding/ aspiring entrepreneurs (Researchers, students, engineers, clinicians etc)
When	Saturday 15 Nov 2025 Time: 1000 – 1700
Where	- Workshop will be held in hybrid mode - Online via ZOOM platform - In-person Venue @ Venture Center: Lecture Theater, Level 2, Venture Center, 100 NCL Innovation Park, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune, Maharashtra 411008
Contact	Technical : Sneha Kulkarni sneha.kulkarni@venturecenter.co.in +91-9822761940 Registration: Niruta Killedar niruta.killedar@venturecenter.co.in +91-8275875956
Cost and Registration	Registration Fees: INR 2000/- <i>(Note: 50% discount in registration fees for Venture Center's member associated with Venture Center under Resident incubation, Associate Incubation, Kickstarter Program and Ignition Program)</i> Venture center Ignition membership information: www.venturecenter.co.in/incubation-support/pre-incubation - Step 1: Participants need to fill in the registration form at the following link. Register and reserve your Spot: https://forms.gle/tFhZ5251cr13TSZV8 - Step 2: Payment details will be shared with candidates who successfully complete the verification process. Attendance only on confirmation of payment of registration fees NOTE: - More details at: https://www.venturecenter.co.in Fees paid is not refundable and non-transferable under any circumstances - The organizers reserve the right to accept or refuse or delay registrations so as to optimize the composition of the group and hence maximize learning for all participants

Terms and Conditions for Participants

- Participants shall arrange their own devices (preferably Laptop/ Tablet) to work on the workshop assignments.
- Attendance is mandatory for all sessions once registration is confirmed.
- No sessions will be repeated if a participant is unable to attend due to any reasons

Program Includes

- Free membership in mailing list to follow-up on program and intimation of relevant events/ funding opportunities from Venture Center

Program Schedule

Time	Session	Faculty
1000 – 1010	Registration, Welcome and Introduction to the workshop	Niruta Killedar
1010 – 1020	Introduction to BIG	Siddhi Bodke
1020– 1145	Session 1: Tips and Pointers for successful grant writing	Smita Kale
1145– 1200	Networking Tea/Coffee @ Foyer Area, 900, NIP	
1200 – 1330	Session 2: Developing key components of your proposal Template 1: Need identification & problem statement Template 2: Proposed product Template 3: Defining the Project Template 4: Value Proposition & differentiations Template 5: Commercial pathways Template 6: Technology, novelty & IP strategy Template 7: Budget	Premnath V
1330 – 1430	Lunch Break	
1430 – 1500	Session 3: Pointers from successful BIG grantees	Madhur Motwani (Proxi Farma Private Limited) Jilma Peruvangat (Kozhnosys Private Limited)
1500 – 1630	Session 4: Work with Mentors on Important parts of proposal Templates	Smita K, Manish G, Akash D, Siddhi B, Sneha K, Archana J.
1630 - 1700	Networking Tea/Coffee @ Foyer Area, 900, NIP	
1700	End of the Workshop	

Speakers and Mentors	
	Premnath V Premnath is Scientist-Polymer Science & Engineering Division at NCL and Director-Venture Center. He is a technologist and commercialization expert having previously successfully commercialized two technologies. He has a keen interest in technology development for biomedical products. He holds a B.Tech from the IIT Bombay and a Ph.D. from the MIT, USA. He has also been a Chevening Technology Enterprise Fellow with the Centre for Scientific Enterprises, London Business School and Cambridge University, UK. He brings with him considerable experience in technology development and commercialization (two successfully commercialized families of products), working with start-up companies (in Cambridge-UK and India) and engaging with large corporations on research and consulting projects as project leader.
	Smita Kale Smita is Advisor for Bio-incubation at Venture Center. She is leading Bio-incubation activities, is responsible for the technical aspects at the Center for BioPharma Analysis and BIRAC's Regional Bioinnovation Center (BRBC) projects at Venture Center. She is actively involved in the mentoring incubates at Venture Center. She is Ph. D in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai and prior to joining Venture Center has had academic experience of 12 years which includes research experience of 3.6 years.
	Archana Joshi Archana is Associate Manager for TechEx services at Venture Center, where she is responsible for activities related to Intellectual Property, Patent drafting, IP Training programs and workshops. She is a registered Patent Agent at Indian Patent Office. Previously, she was Project Assistant-III at CSIR- URDIP. M.Sc. in Organic Chemistry from Pune University and has a P.G. Diploma in Patents Law from NALSAR University (Hyderabad).
	Manish Gore Manish is a part of the Bioincubation team where he mentors biotech and biomed startups, focusing on technological and business aspects. He brings over 8 years of combined academic and industrial research experience, with expertise in cell biology, bioengineering, and pharmaceutical biotechnology. In his previous role in the biotech industry, Manish spearheaded the establishment of a cutting-edge 3D cell culture and bio-printing facility as well as led the techno-commercial domain, R&D projects, and regulatory compliance in the cultivated meat sector. Manish holds a PhD degree in Bioprocess Technology from the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai. His research interest includes application of cutting-edge 3D cell culture and organ-on-chip technologies to develop alternative-to-animal models for preclinical drug testing.

	Akash Dhade Akash works for the Regulatory Information Facilitation Center (RIFC) at Venture Center and has assisted multiple organizations in choosing regulatory pathways, creating technical documentation, and submitting documentation to the notified bodies for the European market. He was involved in creating 510(K) summary documents for different device classes. He has experience in communicating and resolving queries from the US FDA regulatory authorities. Akash has obtained the lead auditor certification for ISO 13485 QMS from the BSI Academy.
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Organizing team	
	Sneha Kulkarni Sneha has a doctorate in Physical and Material Chemistry from CSIR-NCL. With over 17 years of experience in advanced materials, renewable energy technologies, and materials science, she has a proven track record of research and leadership at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Energy Research Institute at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and CSIR- NCL. She has led pioneering work on perovskite solar cells, LEDs, and gel-based electrolytes, contributing to over 40 peer-reviewed publications, patents, and presentations at global forums. She has hands-on expertise in spectroscopy, advanced microscopy, and materials characterization, along with a strong ability to lead teams, mentor emerging researchers, and manage end-to-end R&D programs.
	Niruta Killedar Niruta is Assistant Manager – Pre-incubation and Learning is primarily responsible for assisting in the implementation of all the pre-incubation initiatives at Venture Center. She also assists in driving the Social Innovations portfolio at Venture Center and coordinates events and related mentoring activities. She is a Microbiologist by training and has more than 7 years of experience in interdisciplinary areas of science. She has been passionately working in border areas for the last 15 years as a volunteer through the NGO Aseem Foundation, which adds value to the Social Innovations portfolio at Venture Center.
	Siddhi Bodke Siddhi Bodke is a Senior Associate for Grant Programs at Venture Center. She supports early-stage biotech startups in navigating their funding journey through initiatives such as the Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) and NIDHI PRAYAS. A Bioanalyst by training, Siddhi is passionate about enabling innovation at the grassroots and enjoys working closely with startups, helping them shape ideas into impactful projects and secure the right grants to get started.

Organized and Hosted by	
	Entrepreneurship Development Center (Venture Center) – a CSIR initiative – is a Section 25 company hosted by the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. Venture Center strives to nucleate and nurture technology and knowledge-based enterprises by leveraging the scientific and engineering competencies of the institutions in the Pune region in India. The Venture Center is a technology business incubator supported by the Department of Science & Technology's National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (DST-NSTEDB). Venture Center focuses on technology enterprises offering products and services exploiting scientific expertise in the areas of materials, chemicals and biological sciences & engineering. For more information, visit: http://www.venturecenter.co.in/
	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a not-for-profit company set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as a nodal agency to build and strengthen the industrial research and innovation ecosystem in the country. Since its inception in 2012, BIRAC has launched several initiatives to support industrial research and innovation in the country including a continuum of grant funding and seed investment programs, awareness/ training/ facilitation initiatives, a network of bio-incubators, scientific facilities for supporting translation, regional technology transfer offices and national events to showcase startups and industry. For more information, visit: https://birac.nic.in/big.php