INCUBATION PRACTICE SCHOOL

VENTURE CENTER

Immersion Program for Managers of Young Incubation Centers

Organized by Incubation Practice School @ Venture Center

Potential Gains	The Immersion program under Incubation Practice School is meant to help leadership of organizations and senior administrators/managers understand and learn about incubation related processes in sufficient detail to be able to make decisions.
Organizedby	• Incubation Practice School @ Venture Center • Entrepreneurship Development Center (Venture Center)
Course Coordinator	**Soma Chattopadhyay, Head of Incubation and Mentoring @ Venture Center**
Supported by	• DST – National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) • Maharashtra State Innovation Society (MSINS)
Forwhom	• Managers of upcoming and existing incubators. • Senior Administrators of upcoming and existing incubators
When	**11-12 June 2026 | Thursday- Friday| Time: 0900-1730**
Where	Lecture Theater, 900 NIP at Venture Center, Pune
Contact	**Technical queries:** • Kavita Parekh|kavita.parekh@venturecenter.co.in| +91- 8956457042 • Meetali Barhate|meetali.barhate@venturecenter.co.in | +91- 9156465146 **Logistical queries**: • Vineet Joshi|vineet.joshi@venturecenter.co.in
Registration	**Registration Process:** • Step 1: Interested participants need to fill in the registration form at the following link. **Register online at: https://tinyurl.com/ImmersionJune26Registration** • Step 2: Email invite with payment details will be sent to participants post screening of registration details. • Step 3: Registration process is complete once registration fees are paid. Attendance for the event only upon confirmation of payment of registration fees. **Limited seats!! Total number of seats: 15** **Registration fees:** Rs. 5000/- per participant NOTE: • **REGISTRATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT DEADLINE Registration closes once 15 seats are full or on 16 June 2026 (whichever comes sooner)** • ***Fees paid is not refundable and non-transferable under any circumstances*** • The organizers reserve the right to accept or refuse or delay registrations to optimize the composition of the group and hence maximize learning for all participants.

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Introduction

Venture Center is India's largest inventive enterprises and scientific business incubator. It is the winner of the National Award for TBI, 2015 and AABI's Incubator of the Year Award 2018. the Cummins Excellence Award (2022), and the National Intellectual Property Award for Nurturing IP (2023). In FY 2020-21, its bio-incubator was ranked No. 1 in the country by Biospectrum. Venture Center is home to the pioneering Lab2Mkt™ program that focuses on creating spinouts from publicly funded R&D organizations.Through the program, Venture Center is happy to share its learning relating to technology and business incubation and support the entrepreneurship promotion/awareness creation activities of an upcoming incubator

The comprehensive learning program will help managers of new incubation centers structure their programs into effective ecosystems that would play a critical role in long term sustenance and functioning of an incubator.

End point of this workshop: Go home with an understanding of the processes involved in running an incubator.

Workshop Outline

Workshop shall consist of: Theme focused talks, Group discussions, Q&A sessions, Brief assignments
Talk by Funding agency representative on funding opportunities for incubators.
Round table one-on-one discussions on current challenges faced by participating incubation centers.
Tour of Venture Center, Sightseeing of Pune's historical places

Terms and Conditions for Participants

In person attendance is mandatory for all sessions once registration is confirmed.

Participants to arrange for their travel and accommodation.

Venture Center shall be covering morning & afternoon tea, along with lunch for participants on both days. We shall also be covering cost of local travel from Venture Center campus to the different spots planned for Pune sightseeing tour.

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Workshop Outline			
Day 1: Thursday, 11 June 2026			
Time	**Duration**	**Session title**	**Lead**
09:00 – 09:15	15 min	**Registration & Tea**	
09:15 – 11:00	105 min	**Session 1:** ● Introduction to Venture Center ● Tour of Venture Center ● Introductions and Interactions	Soma C
11:00 – 11:30	30 min	Networking and Tea Break	
11:30 – 01:00	90 min	**Session 2 A:** ● Planning your incubator for achieving desired impact	Premnath V
01:00 – 02:00	60 min	Networking and Lunch	
02:00 – 02:30	30 min	**Session 2 B:** ● A primer on laws, rules & compliance for incubators Q&A	Priti R
02:30 – 03:30	30 min 30 min	**Session 3:** ● Talk: Overview of BIRAC's bioincubation Program ● Program Overview of Medical Colleges Incubation Centers	Dr. Chhaya C (BIRAC) Dr. Shweta Jindal (BFI)
03:30 – 03:40	10 min	**Closing of Day 1**	Kavita P
03:40 – 07:00		Sightseeing of Pune's Historical Places and informal networking amongst Incubation Managers	Meetali B

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Day 2: Friday, 12 June 2026			
Time	**Duration**	**Session title**	**Lead**
09:00 – 11:00	120 min	**Session 4:** ● Creating incubation pipeline and mentoring ● Service offerings ● Funding avenues for startups	Soma C.
11:00 – 11:30	30 min	Networking and Tea Break	
11:30 – 01:00	90 min	**Session 5:** ● Setting up & Managing Scientific/ Prototyping/ Specialized Facilities ● EHS Compliance and its significance for incubator operations	Sujaya I Smita K Prajakta C
01:00 – 02:00	60 min	Networking and Lunch	
02:00 – 03:15	75 min	**Session 6:** ● Planning for sustainability of the incubator ● The Financial Journey of Venture Center	Manisha P Neha J
03:15 – 04:00	45 min	Valedictory and Discussions - Close for DAY 2	Manisha P
04:00 – 04:30	30 min	Tea Break	
04:30 – 05:30	60 min	Round table discussions on topics suggested by participants including ● How to raise and manage CSR funds? ● Best Practices for managing seed funds. ● Others (Any relevant topic based on participant interest)	Soma C Shruti D Priti R Mugdha L Kavita P

Speakers and Panelists (in alphabetical order of last names)	
	Soma Chattopadhyay **Head, Incubation and Mentoring | Venture Center** Soma is currently the Head- Incubation & Mentoring at Venture Center. At Venture Center she is responsible for managing the overall incubation activities starting with identification of potential start-ups, providing in-depth technical & business mentoring, conceptualizing and implementing relevant incubation programs & building a conducive innovation ecosystem at the center. She is the recipient of the Chevening Gurukul Fellowship for Leadership and Excellence from DPIR, Oxford University. She has >9 years of industrial R&D experience from an MNC in the field of specialty materials post her Masters in Chemistry from Calcutta University. She serves as the nominee director on the boards of 3 startups; is a certified internal auditor for ISO standards and certified Six-Sigma Green Belt. She was also winner of DST & ISBA award "Star Gazing award for Incubation Managers 2016"
	Prajakta Chitnis **Asst. Manager - EHS | Venture Center** Prajakta has a Masters in Chemistry and has extensive experience of more than 25 years with industry and Laboratories as Occupational Health and Safety Specialists. Her expertise extends to supporting incubatees and entrepreneurs establishing safe environments for laboratories as well as she holds expertise in process safety as well as Safety training. She oversees the safety operations of the Venture Center. As a seasoned professional, Prajakta has extensive experience in safety management and support, handling internal and external OSHA, ISO, NABL, and MOEF audits. She is proficient in developing and maintaining executing, designing, planning and implementing Environment health and safety policies and procedures that ensure compliance to appropriate local, state, federal regulations and meet various industry standards. She has a sound understanding of QMS, GLP, GMP and regulatory guidelines. She is also part of the quality control department of the MedTech Clean room (ISO 7 and 8) at Venture Center.

	Shruti Devasthali, CA **Head – Funding and Investment | Venture Center** She is a Chartered Accountant and a certified Financial Risk Manager. She is currently operating seed fund activities for Venture Center and monitoring the investments in Venture Center's portfolio of 50+ companies. She is responsible for mentoring investee companies on fundraising, corporate governance and monitoring their progress in the capacity of Board observer. She is also responsible for monitoring the fund disbursements under various grant programs run by Venture Center. She is the Project Manager for the DST's NIDHI EIR program implemented by Venture Center though 40+ TBIs. During her previous work engagements Shruti has worked with CRISIL Limited and Dun and Bradstreet Information Services India Private Limited in the areas of credit rating and financial analysis.
	Sujaya Ingale **Head- Scientific Initiatives& Prototyping | Venture Center** Sujaya Ingale is working as Head – Scientific Initiatives& Prototyping at Venture Center. She leads and coordinates scientific initiatives activities which involve planning for scale up and expansion of scientific facilities and services, creating and managing service efficiency and quality matrices to ensure high standards in services. Sujaya has the total professional experience of 17 years. She also heads the quality control department of the MedTech Clean room (ISO 7 and 8) at Venture Center. She is also involved in handling Biotechnology research projects, developing new methods and services. Sujaya has done her Masters in Microbiology and has worked on a research project Microbial biodiversity and its application to identify novel industrially useful enzymes and bioactive metabolites; during her tenure at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. Sujaya was selected for the Aritra Leadership Accelerator Program by Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Phicus Solutions and Dr. Reddy's Foundation
	Smita Kale, PhD **Advisor - Bioincubation | Venture Center** Smita as part of Bioincubation team facilitates incubator operations by interacting with incubatees, infrastructure and facilities creation and development of the ecosystem. She is leading Bio-incubation activities, Center for Biopharma Analysis (CBA) and BIRAC's Regional Bioinnovation Center (BRBC) projects at Venture Center. She is actively involved in mentoring startups at Venture Center. She is PhD 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.
	Manisha Premnath, PhD **COO & Executive Director | Venture Center** Manisha holds a Ph.D in Biotechnology from University of Pune and Post-doctoral training from University of Cambridge, UK. She has been a Chevening Rolls Royce Science, Innovation, Policy and Leadership Programme (CRISP) Fellow at the Said Business School, University of Oxford, UK during 2015 where she had the opportunity to study technology innovation ecosystems. She has research experience in biotechnology, microbiology, fungal biotechnology, molecular biology and molecular virology. She has experience in planning and setting up of advanced scientific facilities and program management.

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	Priti Rathi, CA **General Manager-Finance & Compliance | Venture Center** Priti is a Chartered Accountant. She is responsible for finance and all statutory compliances, financial planning and management, budgets, reporting to stakeholders, contributor to strategic decisions, project and funds management. She has worked with Choksi& Choksi, Chartered Accountants as Manager-Audit & Assurance and has handled various assignments including statutory, internal, concurrent audits of banks, statutory audits of company's etc. and was also visiting faculty at Bharati Vidyapeeth University.
	PremnathVenugopalan, PhD **Director, Venture Center | Head, NCL Innovations** Premnath is Head, NCL Innovations at CSIR-NCL and Founder Director, Venture Center (National award-winning inventive enterprises and deep tech incubator). Premnath is a technology developer, innovation and incubation manager, startup mentor and a co-founder of 2 medical implant startups. One of his inventions -- a breakthrough material for hip and knee joint replacements — has been implanted in more than a million patients worldwide. Another technology for porous maxillo-facial implants has been implanted in thousands of patients in India and abroad. He has provided leadership for teams that have won National awards for technology development, intellectual property management and business incubation. He is chemical engineer and an alumnus of MIT in the US, IIT-Bombay (Distinguished Alumnus, 2022) and has been a Chevening Technology Enterprise Scholar in Cambridge, UK.

Organizers (in alphabetical order of last names)	
	Meetali Barhate **Associate – Outreach and Technology Connects | Venture Center** Meetali has M.Tech. Biotechnology from Institute of Bioinformatics and Biotechnology, Savitribai Phule Pune University. As part of the TechEx.in team at Venture Center, she is involved in technology scouting and lead generation activities, building industry academia relationships, technology showcases and matchmaking initiatives and various awareness events in the innovation management domain.
	Niruta Killedar **Assistant Manager–Preincubation& Learning| Venture Center** 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.

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	MugdhaLele, PhD **Head –Preincubation& Learning| Venture Center** Mugdha is Head – Preincubation& Learning at Venture Center. She is a Ph.D from School of Health Sciences, University of Pune and has teaching and research experience in a State Government medical university. At Venture Center, she is responsible for driving the Social Innovations and related activities and is responsible for providing technical mentoring for incubatees at Venture Center. Mugdha has been a Fellow of the Chevening Rolls Royce Science, Innovation, Policy and Leadership Programme (CRISP) at the Said Business School, University of Oxford, UK in 2016. In 2018 she has also been part of the Aritra Accelerator Program for Leadership in the Social Sector at IIM Bangalore.
	Kavita Parekh, PhD **Lead- Capacity Building & Academic Engagement | Venture Center** Kavita is currently Lead–Capacity Building & Academic Engagement at Venture Center. She holds a Ph.D in Health Sciences from School of Health Sciences, University of Pune. She comes with teaching and research experience of more than 11 yrs. She has industry experience of working with biomarkers for cancer. Her research interests are in molecular diagnostics and multi drug resistant organisms. At Venture Center she is single point of contact for academic partners and responsible for capacity building and engaging with academia.She is also responsible for technology marketing and lead generation activities.

Organized by	
	Venture Center operates **an Incubation Practice School™** to share its learning relating to technology and business incubation with other upcoming incubators. More on: http://practiceschool.venturecenter.co.in/
	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's 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 www.venturecenter.co.in

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महाराष्ट्र शासन Maharashtra State Innovation Society	**Maharashtra State Innovation Society, Government of Maharashtra (MSINS)** It is a nodal government agency in the state of Maharashtra, India, established under the Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.Its primary mission is to foster an innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem within the state.MSINS provides crucial support to new businesses through initiatives like funding programs, mentorship, and policy implementation For more information, visit https://msins.in/