

Climate-Tech Launchpad

- An Initiative of Social Innovations and CoE for Clean Energy and Green Hydrogen Innovations @ Venture Center -

Gains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get an overview of entrepreneurial ecosystem, key issues/ challenges and emerging opportunities with specific reference to Energy domain. Explore potential industry-academia/research fraternity partnerships in technology development and advancement to address the issues prevalent in India Get on a common platform with innovators, enthusiasts and experts pan-India Explore opportunities to funding programs for ideation and prototyping, which are supported by Government and CSR funding agencies. 5 Lakhs of grant to 6 selected startups
Organized by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Innovations @ Venture Center CoE for Clean Energy and Green Hydrogen Innovations@ Venture Center
Supported by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Venture Center Thoughtworks Technologies Pvt Ltd
For whom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Startups developing novel technologies in Climate tech theme Eligibility: Graduates in Science, Engineering and Medicine
When	<p>Call for applications: 28 Nov to 15 Dec 2025</p> <p>For details: https://www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations/events/</p>
Where	<p>Sessions and interactions with experts will be held in hybrid mode.</p> <p>Templates and Recordings will be shared through restricted website</p>
Contact	<p>Technical queries: Mugdha Lele mugdha@venturecenter.co.in 7410045652</p> <p>Registration queries: Niruta Killedar niruta.killedar@venturecenter.co.in 8956226080</p>
Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit your application using this link: https://forms.gle/krKyFeft5L2oMt3S9 Maximum 30 seats. <u>Participation is subject to selection by committee.</u> Registration fees: ₹1050/- <p>More details at: https://www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations/events/</p>

Introduction

The Launchpad aims to hand-hold interested / budding entrepreneurs in the climatetech space, so as to help them initiate actual need-based useful startup Project in this domain. Sub-themes that could be explored via this program include:

- Clean energy generation: Solar power, wind energy, hydro power and tidal energy, geothermal energy, nuclear fusion
- Fuels: Hydrogen, biofuels
- Energy storage: Battery technology, grid storage
- Energy efficiency: Smart grids, efficient appliances, better building materials
- Sustainable mobility: Battery powered electric vehicles, hydrogen powered vehicles
- Waste reduction and circular economy: Recycling, compostable materials, sustainable packaging, waste to value, innovative business models using extended producer responsibility credits
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: Industrial decarbonization, process innovations for CO2 reduction including alternative process routes or raw materials, reduction of methane emissions, innovative business models using carbon credits, alternatives to animal-sourced proteins and nutrients
- Carbon capture, utilization and removal: Direct air capture, carbon utilization, carbon storage/sequestration
- Water purification and conservation: Desalination, water recycling, waste and water loss reduction
- Pollution reduction and control: Air pollution monitoring, reducing emissions of pollutants, innovations to reduce water pollution and treatment, innovations in reduction of contaminants
- Sustainable production: Biomanufacturing, climate resilient agriculture, environmentally safe farm inputs

Program Structure and Format

- Mini Accelerator training Program for all selected 30 Startups
- Diagnostic Session, Mentoring and Project Showcase
- Six Startups out of the Thirty will be given grants worth INR 05 Lakhs each.
- Free Ignition membership under Venture Center's Pre-incubation Program

Terms and Conditions for Mentees

- Mentees shall arrange their own devices(preferably Laptop/ Tablet) and ensure good internet connectivity during the online sessions.
- No sessions will be repeated if a mentee is unable to join due to poor internet connectivity or any other reasons.
- Mentees will have access to the facilities and services at Venture Center as per the service offerings related terms and conditions applicable to individual user

(details available here: http://www.venturecenter.co.in/service_offerings.php)

Mentoring team (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”



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.






Sneha Kulkarni, PhD
Lead – Grants and Capability Development, Venture Center

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.



Mugdha Lele, 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. She has also been part of the Aritra Accelerator Program for Leadership in the Social Sector at IIM Bengaluru.

	<p>Premnath Venugopalan, PhD Director, Venture Center Head, NCL Innovations</p> <p>Dr Premnath is Head, NCL Innovations at CSIR-NCL and Founder Director, Venture Center (National award winning inventive enterprises and deep tech incubator). Dr 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.</p>
	<p>Shuchi Maitraya, PhD Senior Associate – Incubation, Venture Center</p> <p>Shuchi is a Physics graduate, followed by MBA in Operations Management and holds a Doctorate in Entrepreneurship Education. Earlier she worked in the Startup Support Program at IIT Indore. At Venture Center her role involves providing mentorship to startups and assisting them in advancing their fundraising endeavours. Particularly she is responsible for delivering seamlessly the Investor Readiness Program, understanding the unique needs and challenges of the startups in this program, fine tuning their pitch decks, and contribute in creating a powerful ecosystem of mentors, investors and partners.</p>
	<p>Gayathry S Assistant Manager-Incubation and Mentoring, Venture Center</p> <p>As part of the Incubation and Mentoring team at Venture Center Gayathry plays an active role in supporting startups throughout their growth journey by providing guidance, and facilitating their key requirements. Prior to this, she worked as a Market Research Analyst at Transparency Market Research in the Chemicals, Materials, and Energy domain. In this role, she delivered syndicated, client-specific, and customized reports for both domestic and international clients, and conducted extensive primary research to analyze various niche markets. She has also contributed to a research project at the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST, Dept. of Space). Gayathry holds an M.Tech in Nanotechnology and a B.Tech in Biotechnology and Biochemical Engineering.</p>

Organized by



Venture Center is committed to Social innovations and entrepreneurship. We actively nucleate and nurture enterprises that focus on solving socially important problems and build sustainable entities (for profit or not-for-profit) to deliver the solutions to society. Focus areas at Venture Center include affordable health and nutrition, empowering farmers, clean energy, sustainable resource utilization, environment and circular economy, water, sanitation, hygiene and any other social sectors that can leverage Venture Center's innovation ecosystem.

For more information, visit: <http://www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations>



The Center of Excellence (CoE) for Clean Energy and Green Hydrogen Innovations is a collaboration hosted at the Venture Center (CSIR-NCL) in Pune, dedicated to fostering innovation in clean energy and green hydrogen technologies. Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the CoE, supported by the Indian government, aims to drive research, develop scalable technologies, and promote collaboration to advance India's clean energy transition and achieve Net Zero goals

Supported 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'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: <http://www.venturecenter.co.in/>



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