



Maharashtra
State Innovation
Society



COEP's Bhau Institute of
Innovation, Entrepreneurship
and Leadership



Newsletter

**COEP's BHAU Institute of
Innovation, Entrepreneurship
and Leadership**



Maharashtra
State Innovation
Society



COEP's Bhau Institute of
Innovation, Entrepreneurship
and Leadership

Welcome to COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership, Pune

COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership is an emerging startup incubator in India, incorporated as a Section 8 not-for-profit company in 2017. It is supported by Host institute COEP Technological University, one of the nation's most respected institutions in technical education, established in 1854.

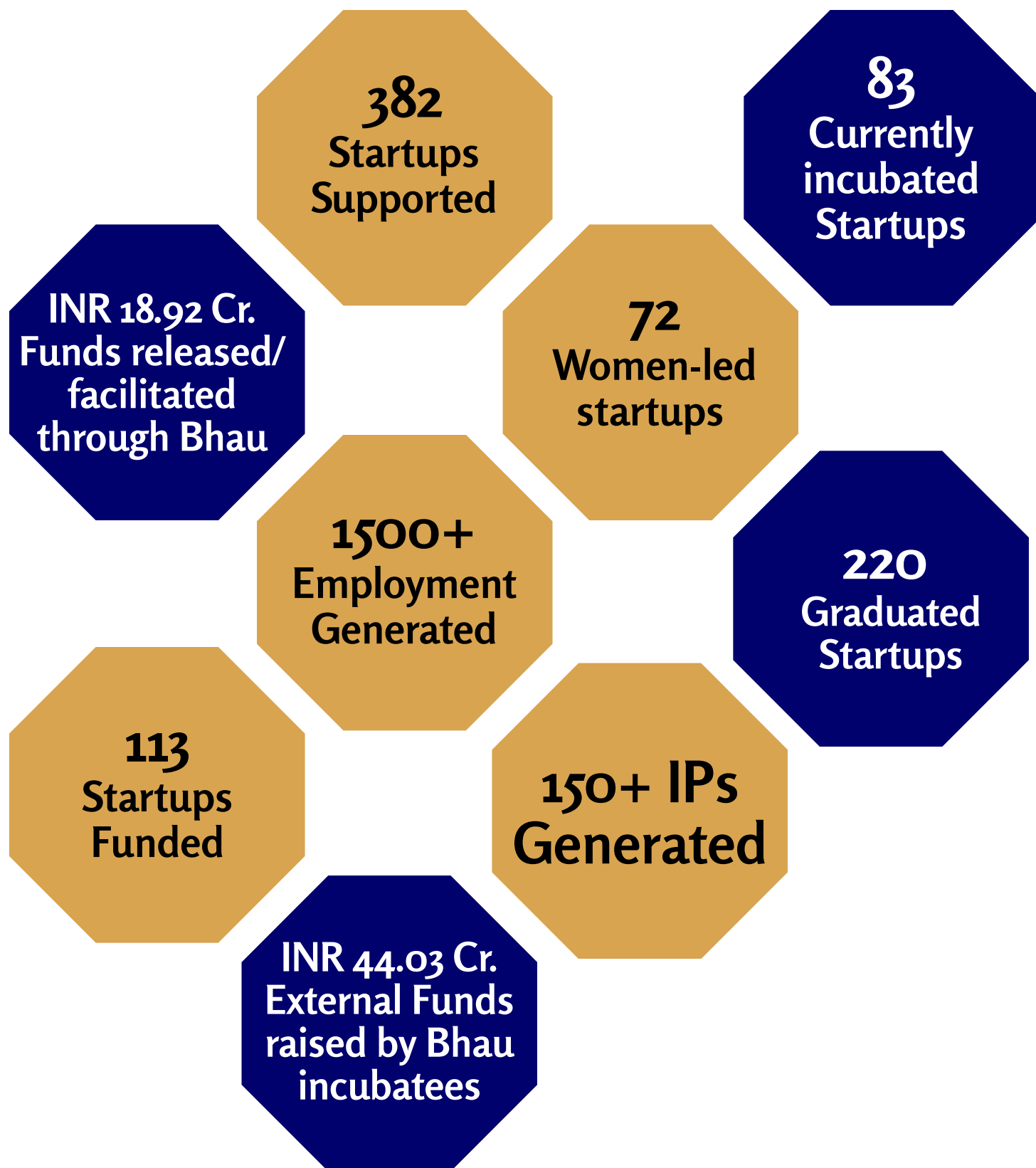
This is a Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and Maharashtra State Innovation Society, Government of Maharashtra-supported Technology Business Incubator (TBI).



Bhau's name symbolizes the spirit and philosophy of Bhau, an elder brother who provides support without being overbearing or expecting anything in return. Bhau Institute supports, encourages, and guides entrepreneurs to unleash their full potential. We desire our startup students to be entrepreneurs, finding their own place under the sun. Our Vision is to be “A successful institute model to change India for the better through young entrepreneurs who are the hope of tomorrow’s rural and urban india. We aim to promote entrepreneurship in a self-supported, sustainable, and scalable manner by creating a world-class institute. Bhau Institute is committed to promoting entrepreneurship and is working towards developing a role model entrepreneurship institute, which can be replicated across India

In this newsletter, we are excited to share the latest updates on our incubation programs, events, and updates about our Incubatees.

COEP Bhau Institute's Latest Dashboard





COEP's Bhau CEO, **Mr. Mandar Joshi**, has participated in a two-day Strategic Workshop and Review Meeting with the State Empowerment Committee organized by the Maharashtra State Innovation Society for its supported incubation centres.

The workshop brought together incubation leaders, academic institutions, and ecosystem stakeholders from across the state, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Hon. Minister for Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation, reiterated the Government's commitment to building a robust and inclusive startup ecosystem.

Smt. Manisha Verma, Hon. Additional Chief Secretary, emphasized the importance of strengthening institutional capacity to better support early-stage innovators.

Grateful to be part of such an engaging platform focused on shaping the future of innovation and entrepreneurship.

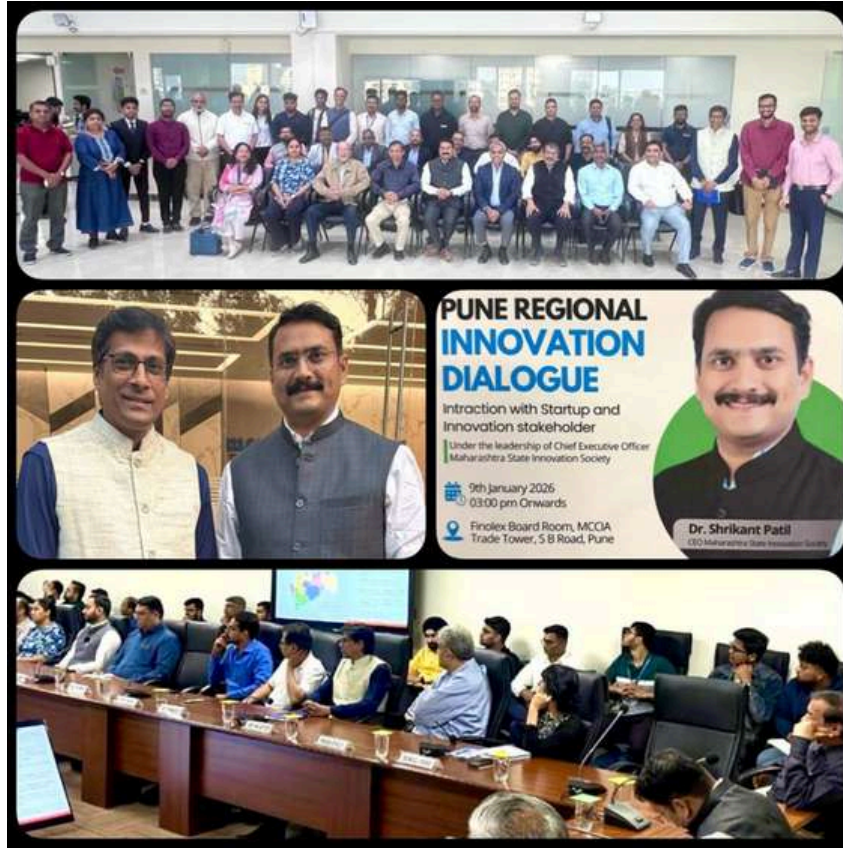


COEP Bhau Institute's Chairman, **Dr. Rajendra Hiremath**, was invited as a distinguished guest to the inauguration of Barnes Moulding Solutions India's new manufacturing facility at Chakan.

The inauguration was held in the presence of **Hon. MLA Mr. Mahesh Dada Landge**, **Mr. Thomas Hook**, CEO of Barnes, and other senior officials.

The state-of-the-art facility, spread across 160,000 sq. ft. at Varale, Chakan, marks a significant milestone for the company under the Make in India initiative, catering to the automotive industry with advanced runner and mould solutions.

Dr. Hiremath appreciated the company's decision to choose India—and particularly Maharashtra and Pune—as its base. He highlighted Pune's strong industrial ecosystem, world-class MIDC infrastructure, and availability of highly skilled talent, aligning perfectly with Barnes' philosophy of "Global Vision, Indian Excellence." He also emphasized India's rapidly growing economy and vast future opportunities, expressing confidence that Barnes' Indian unit would achieve outstanding performance among its global operations.



Our CEO, **Mr. Mandar Joshi**, participated in the Pune Regional Innovation Dialogue – Interaction with Incubators, Startups, and Innovation Stakeholders, held under the leadership of **Dr. Shrikant Patil**, CEO, Maharashtra State Innovation Society.

The dialogue focused on translating Startup & Innovation Policy initiatives into tangible, ground-level outcomes, with meaningful discussions around strengthening regional incubation capacity, enabling startup scale-up, and fostering stronger industry–academia–startup linkages. Such collaborative platforms play a crucial role in aligning policy vision with execution and accelerating Maharashtra’s innovation ecosystem.

Grateful for the insightful discussions and shared commitment towards building a robust and inclusive startup landscape.



It was a pleasure that our CEO, **Mr. Mandar Joshi**, was invited as one of the speakers at the GGA Founder & CXO Summit. During the session, he shared insights on the startup incubation ecosystem and presented an overview of COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership.

The summit was thoughtfully curated by **Anand Shiralkar & team**, a closed-door gathering that brought together founders and CXOs for candid conversations around leadership, scaling businesses, exits, and second-orbit growth. The emphasis on real experiences, peer learning, and meaningful dialogue made the interactions especially valuable.



The event also featured sessions by distinguished leaders who have successfully navigated this journey and shared practical perspectives from their own experiences:

Anand Deshpande, CMD, Persistent Systems

Narendra Kale, Founder Chairman – Kale Consultants (now Accelya Solutions), Co-founder Kale Logistics Solutions, Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership

Kiran Deshpande, Former CEO – Tech Mahindra, Co-founder Mojo Networks, Past TiE Global Trustee, and TiE Pune President.

The room was enriched by the presence of over 100 seasoned CXOs and founders who have built, scaled, exited, and led impactful M&A journeys. Engaging with such an accomplished group of leaders made the discussions both insightful and inspiring.

Industry Collaboration, Event and Visit



As part of this partnership, DITC's CSR support to Bhau Institute will focus on:

- Upfront grant support to startups and ideators shortlisted through hackathons, enabling innovation, product development, and go-to-market strategies
- Support for prototype development and the Entrepreneur-in-Residence program
- Conducting and executing a hackathon supported by DITC
- Broadly promoting activities that foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to nurturing early-stage innovators and building a strong ecosystem for technology-driven entrepreneurship.

We look forward to the impactful outcomes of this partnership.



COEP's Bhau Institute, as an Ecosystem Partner, was proud to host and organize a Roadshow for the FICCI – Mercedes-Benz India, Bharat Innovation Challenge for startups associated with DPIIT and recognized Incubation Centres.

We extend our sincere gratitude to **Smt. Vijayalakshmi S.**, Director – FICCI, and **Dr. Barada Prasad Panigrahy**, Director (Startups & Innovation) – FICCI, for sharing valuable insights into the Bharat Innovation Challenge and its immense opportunities for startups.

A special thanks to **Mr. Nikhil Desai**, Manager In-charge – External Affairs, Mercedes-Benz India, for his thought-provoking perspectives on innovation at Mercedes-Benz and the company's strong commitment to supporting the startup ecosystem.

We also thank **Ms. Shivani Kulkarni** from the Mercedes-Benz CSR team for guiding the startups and addressing their queries during the session.

Such collaborative initiatives truly strengthen the innovation ecosystem and empower startups to scale and succeed.

Industry Collaboration, Event and Visit



We are glad to share an exciting milestone to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, along with Vishwakarma University - VU.

This collaboration opens new doors for the students and aspiring entrepreneurs by providing:

- Startup mentorship and expert guidance
- Incubation support for early-stage ideas
- Access to strong industry networks and innovation programs
- Opportunities to build, validate, and scale impactful ventures

At Bhau Institute, we believe entrepreneurship is a powerful driver of change, and this partnership strengthens our commitment to nurturing future-ready innovators and founders. We look forward to seeing groundbreaking ideas take shape and thrive through this collaboration.

Events and Workshops



Celebrating National Startup Day 2026

**Session Topic : From Idea to Startup
Idea Generation & Validation**

Expert Speaker : Dr. Prajakta Joshi,
(Entrepreneurship Educator |
Founder – PWST & AWEC Foundation |
Professor of Practice – PIBM)



Celebrating National Startup Day 2026

COEP's Bhau Institute organised an engaging session on "From Idea to Startup: Idea Generation & Validation Workshop" as part of Innovation Week 2026 and the National Startup Day celebrations.

A huge thank you to **Dr. Prajakta M Joshi** (Entrepreneurship Educator, Founder – PWST & AWEC Foundation, Professor of Practice – PIBM) for sharing valuable insights. The session witnessed active participation from students, young innovators, and aspiring entrepreneurs, with thoughtful questions and high-energy discussions throughout the workshop.

Special thanks to Marathwada Mitra Mandal's Polytechnic, Pune for making this event possible, and to all participants for their enthusiastic response. Let's keep building and validating more ideas that can grow into impactful startups.



We successfully conducted an engaging Online session under the MSBTE–Bhau Program titled “How to Present Your Idea @ Idea Competition 2026.”

The session guided student ideators on how to effectively communicate their innovative ideas and prepare impactful presentations for the competition.

We were privileged to have **Mr. Rajiv Tulpule** as the expert speaker. With his extensive experience as a trainer, mentor, and educator, he shared valuable insights on:

- Structuring an impactful idea presentation
- Presenting innovation with confidence and clarity
- Clearly communicating the problem, solution, and value proposition

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from 1200+ students across various Hub Institutes of the MSBTE–Bhau Program.

Such initiatives play a significant role in nurturing innovation, entrepreneurial thinking, and problem-solving skills among students, encouraging them to transform ideas into impactful solutions and future startups.

We sincerely thank **Mr. Rajiv Tulpule** for delivering such an insightful and inspiring session.

We would also like to highlight that 500+ student ideas were received for the MSBTE–Bhau Program: Idea Competition 2026. This reflects the positive response to the efforts of COEP's Bhau Institute and MSBTE, along with the valuable support of 26 Hub Institutes, in making this idea registration drive a success.





It was a pleasure to host a startup delegation from LEINN Spain for an engaging and insightful interaction focused on the Startup Ecosystem in India and potential avenues for international collaboration with COEP's Bhau Institute.

The session began with an overview by our CEO, **Mr. Mandar Joshi**, who shared valuable insights into the startup ecosystem of India and Maharashtra, while also introducing the vision, mission, and impact of COEP's Bhau Institute to the delegates.

We were delighted to have Bhau Institute incubatees share their entrepreneurial journeys:

- **Ms. Sarika Kulkarni Pathak**, Founder, **Cresa GreenTech**
- **Mr. Siddhartha Gadre**, Founder, **Pvt Ltd**

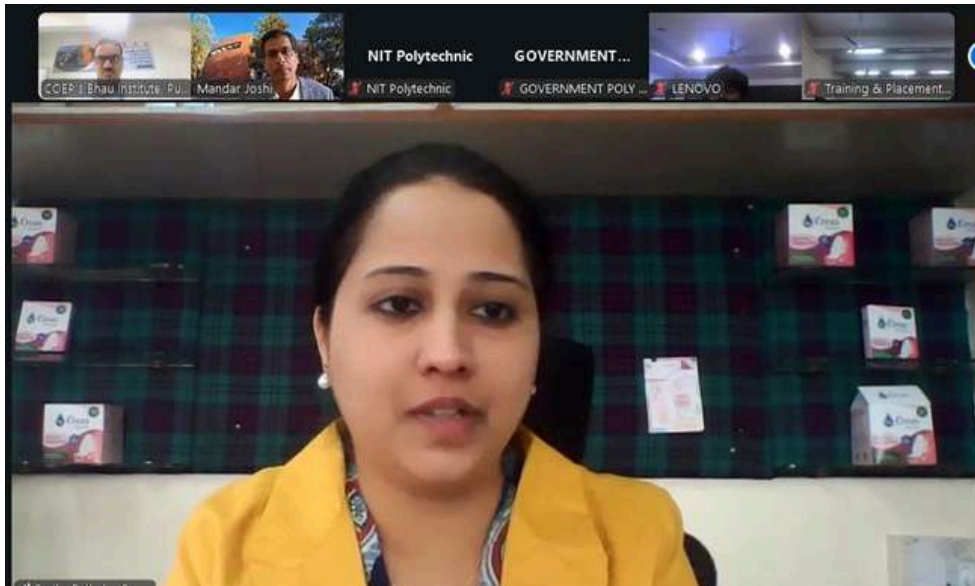
They spoke about their innovations and experiences, from idea conception to go-to-market, which led to a constructive dialogue and exchange of ideas.

Discussions also explored opportunities for entering European markets, with special emphasis on Spain, while startups from Spain shared their own innovative concepts and perspectives.

Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez Cal (TeamLabs) further enriched the session by briefing participants on the Entrepreneurship Exchange Program and highlighting the role of LEINN in fostering international collaboration for startups.

The event concluded with vibrant networking and meaningful takeaways, reinforcing the importance of cross-border partnerships, knowledge exchange, and a shared global vision for innovation and entrepreneurship.

We look forward to strengthening these connections and building impactful collaborations across



We had the privilege of hosting an inspiring Session with Startup Founder Sarika Kulkarni Pathak, Founder and CEO of Cresa Greentech, a sustainability-focused startup. She shared how she turned real environmental problems into an impact-driven venture, giving students a clear, practical view of what it takes to build meaningful startups.

Sarika guided students on how to generate and validate ideas from a founder's perspective and encouraged them to take advantage of mentoring support by MSBTE–Bhau programs to convert those ideas into viable business models.

Following her talk, **Mandar Joshi**, CEO, COEP's Bhau Institute, officially launched the Idea Competition 2026 under the MSBTE–Bhau Program.

He interacted with students during an engaging Q&A session and motivated students to actively participate in the Idea competition. It was exciting to see 2500+ students from 26 Hub Institutes across Maharashtra join the session.

Swapnil Mali, AGM, COEP Bhau Institute, explained the competition process and expressed heartfelt thanks to **Sarika Pathak**, faculty coordinators, and all participants from the 26 Diploma Hub Institutes for making the session energetic and interactive.

We look forward to seeing innovative, sustainable startup ideas emerge from this initiative and to a year filled with innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship in 2026!



COEP's Bhau Institute had the pleasure of hosting a new edition of The Interlude Sessions.

Together, along with our CEO, **Mandar Joshi**, and young entrepreneurs from Spain, **Ms. Judit Garcia & Ms. Maria Estrada Saravia**, we welcomed around 50 young ideators who came together to share their ideas and engage in conversations about what it truly means to be an entrepreneur in different contexts.

The session covered:

- The similarities and differences between the entrepreneurial ecosystems of **India** and **Spain**
- The barriers and challenges entrepreneurs face in each country
- The opportunities currently emerging in both ecosystems
- A diverse set of projects, learning from their strategies, approaches, and journeys

One of the most valuable aspects of the session was listening to different perspectives on entrepreneurship that sparked meaningful dialogue among participants.

The highlight was the #networking session at the end — a space to connect more informally, hear directly about participants' projects, and feel the enthusiasm.

We would like to thank **Judit Garcia** & Maria Estrada Saravia, and everyone who joined us with their active participation and thoughtful contributions.



COEP's Bhau Institute, as an Ecosystem Partner, was proud to host and organize a Roadshow for the FICCI – Mercedes-Benz, Bharat Innovation Challenge for startups associated with DPIIT and recognized Incubation Centres.

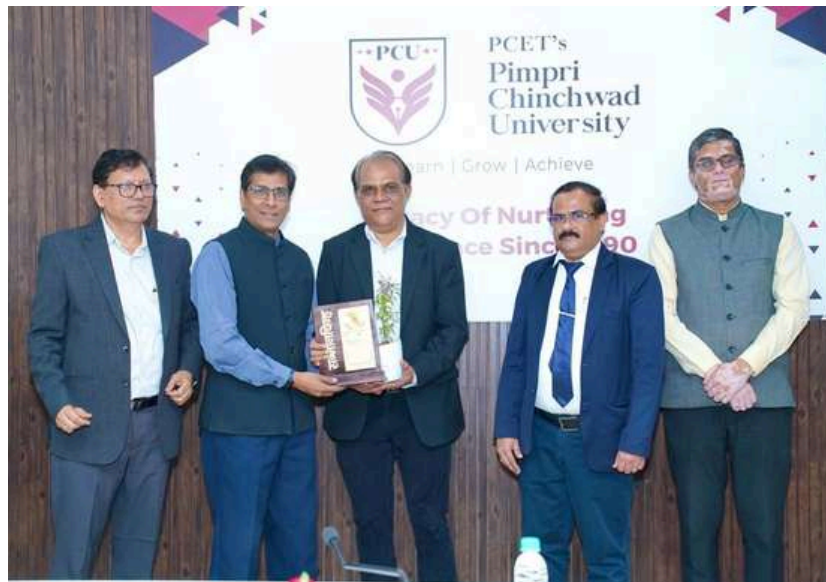
Our CEO, **Mandar Joshi**, had the privilege of welcoming the teams from FICCI and Mercedes-Benz and shared an overview of Bhau Institute and its role in nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship with the participants.

Smt. Vijayalakshmi S, Director FICCI, briefly introduced FICCI and its initiatives, followed by **Dr. Barada Prasad Panigrahy**, Director (Startups & Innovation), FICCI, who provided valuable insights into the Bharat Innovation Challenge. He elaborated on the opportunity for startups with developed solutions (minimum functional prototype) in select focus sectors and addressed queries from the startup founders.

Participants also gained thought-provoking perspectives from **Nikhil Desai**, Manager In-charge – External Affairs, Mercedes-Benz, who spoke about innovation at Mercedes-Benz and the company's commitment to supporting startups aligned with its core mission and technology roadmap.

A special thanks to **Ms. Shivani Kulkarni** from the Mercedes-Benz CSR team for guiding the startups and addressing their questions during the session.

The Bharat Innovation Challenge is an excellent opportunity for sector-focused startups to showcase their innovative products and services pan-India, collaborate closely with Mercedes-Benz, and take their innovations to the next level.



It was a pleasure for COEP's Bhau Institute that our CEO, **Mr. Mandar Joshi**, was invited to the Inaugural Ceremony of the Center of Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Pimpri Chinchwad University (PCU), Pune.

It was a valuable opportunity for strategic interaction with National Research Laboratories & Government Organizations to share perspectives on the strategic directions required for building a strong innovation ecosystem, highlighting key initiatives and institutional mechanisms essential for developing a robust innovation, incubation, and startup ecosystem.



The Ignited Innovators of India (izi) Valedictory Ceremony was conducted over two days, marking the culmination of an inspiring journey of innovation and entrepreneurship. On March 24, 2026, the event commenced with an engaging orientation session as part of the Project Evaluation phase, where the top 40 shortlisted projects were invited to COEP Technological University to present their ideas, representing a significant milestone in the competition. The program began with the National Anthem, followed by insightful addresses from esteemed dignitaries, including **Prof. Sanjay Inamdar** (Founder, izi and Co-Founder, COEP's Bhau Institute), **Dr. S. P. Mahajan** (Director, RIIL), and **Dr. Vidya More** (Faculty Advisor, izi). Their speeches emphasized the importance of lifelong learning, innovation, and nurturing entrepreneurial thinking among students. Subsequently, the top 40 projects, spanning six sectors, were presented before an evaluation committee comprising senior faculty members from COEP Technological University, mentors from Eaton, and external experts.



On March 25, 2026, the second day featured an exhibition of the top 40 projects, where participants showcased their innovative solutions to a wide audience of students, faculty members, and mentors. The exhibition witnessed enthusiastic engagement, with visitors interacting with participants and appreciating their impactful ideas addressing real-world challenges across Maharashtra. The Valedictory Ceremony was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including **Mr. Kailash Katkar** (Founder & Managing Director, Quick Heal Technologies – Chief Guest), **Mr. Sagar Chavan** (Engineering Manager, Eaton – Guest of Honour), **Dr. Rajendra Hiremath** (Chairman, Bhau Institute), **Prof. Sanjay Inamdar** (Founder & Chief Mentor, izi and Co-Founder, Bhau Institute), and **Prof. Sunil Bhirud** (Vice Chancellor, COEP Technological University), whose presence added immense value to the event.



Prizes were awarded to winners and runners-up across various sectors, recognizing their dedication, creativity, and innovation. The event served as a vibrant platform to showcase breakthrough ideas and witnessed wide participation, with over 1,000 student visitors from more than 30 colleges, celebrating the achievements of izi participants.

This event was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the student izi team, along with the strong support of key contributors, including **Mr. Mandar Joshi** (CEO, Bhau Institute), **Mr. Swapnil Mali** (AGM, Bhau Institute), **Dr. Vidya More** (Faculty Advisor), **Mr. Vikas Kamble** (Publicity Officer), **Mr. Aditya Kasod** (Secretary), and the entire izi team, whose collective commitment and hard work made the event a grand success.

Mentorship Clinic and Legal Help Desk



Grateful to CA Amruta Ingalgaonkar for conducting an insightful mentoring clinic on “Compliance & Financial Discipline for Growing Startups” for BHAU Startup community.

The session highlighted the importance of building strong financial systems, staying compliant with regulations, and maintaining financial discipline as startups scale. Her practical insights and real-world examples provided immense value to our founders and early-stage entrepreneurs.

Thank you, Amruta, for sharing your expertise and guiding startups on how to build sustainable and compliant businesses. Looking forward to more such impactful sessions.



We kick-started our mentor–mentee connect series with an insightful session led by **Mr. Neeraj Shah**, Director – SilverBright Industries.

The session focused on helping startups understand industry expectations, market realities, and effective customer penetration strategies.

Founders and innovators gained valuable perspectives on navigating real-world challenges, refining their approach to customer acquisition, and building stronger industry connections.

At COEP's Bhau Institute, we continue to bridge the gap between startups and industry by enabling meaningful conversations that lead to practical outcomes and scalable growth.

COEP's Bhau Institute Startup Achievements



Congratulations to STARKTECH Ventures, a startup incubated at **COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership**, on receiving the Entrepreneur Excellence Award (EEA) 2026 from the **deAsra Foundation**, under the #Dream100 category.

This recognition marks a significant milestone, celebrating their ₹1 Crore+ revenue achievement and their commitment to building a strong, innovation-driven agritech venture in the poultry sector.

Wishing the team continued success as they scale new heights in transforming India's poultry ecosystem.



Congratulations to **Dhananjay Abhang**, Founder & CEO of **Cleanergy Solutions Technology, Co., Ltd**, on being awarded the First-Generation Successful Entrepreneur Award by #MCCIA.

This prestigious recognition, instituted in memory of Late Kiran Natu, celebrates entrepreneurial excellence and leadership.

As a COEP Bhau Institute Incubatee, we are proud to celebrate this remarkable achievement and wish him continued success ahead.



Congratulations to **Ashutosh More** and **SUM INAgri** on being selected among India's Top 100 export-enabled agri-tech startups under APEDA's flagship BHARATI Program.

The BHARATI initiative aims to accelerate agri-food and agri-tech innovations for global markets, strengthening India's export ecosystem through technology-led solutions.

Proud to share that **Ashutosh More** is a NIDHI-EIR (2024-25) incubatee at COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership.

Our new Incubatees Onboarded (Jan -March 2026)



COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership is delighted to welcome **Mrs. Kanchan Patrudkar** and **Mr. Chinmay Kulkarni** as AMRUT-BHAU Fellows under the AMRUT-BHAU Incubation Program.

Kanchan is working on a startup called Smart beehive, where she is developing an innovative smart beehive product (apiary aggregator) aimed at transforming and scaling the apiary (beekeeping) business through the use of technology, automation, and embedded systems.

Chinmay is working on a vending machine that serves ready-to-eat and ready-to-serve products. He has already deployed a range of dehydrated food products through his solutions.

The selected beneficiaries will undergo a 12-month joint incubation program, during which they will receive a monthly fellowship of ₹25,000, along with dedicated mentorship for one year. This initiative is designed to encourage graduating students to pursue entrepreneurship by providing both financial support and expert guidance.

The program specifically supports beneficiaries from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the open category, including individuals from all categories who are not covered under any other government department, institution, corporation, or organization in the State of Maharashtra.

As part of the program, COEP's Bhau Institute will provide comprehensive incubation support to help the fellows develop, validate, and commercialize their ideas.

Our new Incubatees Onboarded

- 1 Savoury International Private Limited
- 2 The Collective Counsel
- 3 Tanmay Kangule
- 4 Smart Bee Hive
- 5 Funsports Entertainment LLP
- 6 Urban Courierwala Private Limited
- 7 RadSquad Teleradiology LLP

Upcoming Event and New Programs



COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership

AMRUT
ACADEMY OF MAHARASHTRA RESEARCH, UPLIFTMENT AND TRAINING
महाराष्ट्र संशोधन, उन्नती व प्रशिक्षण प्रयोगशाला (अमृत)

AMRUT-BHAU

INCUBATION PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

To encourage graduating student to take to entrepreneurship by providing support as a fellowship from the targeted groups of economically weaker section beneficiaries of the open category. It includes all the castes that do not get the benefit of schemes through any separate government department / institution / corporation / organization in the State of Maharashtra

FOCUS AREAS

Agritech

EV & Smart Mobility

Foodtech

Agriculture

IOT AIML

Technologies

Renewable Energy

For more information

📞 020 25507023
✉ manager.bhau@coeptech.ac.in
🌐 bhau.org

SCAN TO REGISTER



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH




PRESENTS





PANEL DISCUSSION ON





SAURABH MUKHERJEA
Founder & COO - Marcellus Investment Managers, Bestselling Author



DR. AJIT RANADE
Senior Fellow & Trustee - Pune International Center

SUPPORTED BY



BOOK SUMMARY BY



NANDITA RAJHANSA
Bestselling Author, Economist & Analyst - Marcellus

MODERATED BY



ADVAIT KURLEKAR
CEO - Upohan

Friday, 17 April | 5pm - 7pm | BHAU Institute, COEP Campus, Shivaji Nagar

Thank
you!

Contact Us:



www.bhau.org



020-25507023



manager.bhau@coeptech.ac.in



**COEP's Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship
and Leadership.**

COEP Technological University Pune, Wellesley Rd,
Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005, Maharashtra, India.