

Project Competition and Pre-Incubation Selection Report

(Under Institution's Innovation Council - IIC Activities)

Organized by:

Date: 17-April-2025

Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune.

Convener: Prof. Pramod Kanjalkar

Co-Convener: Prof. (Dr.) Hrushikesh Joshi

Event Overview:

As part of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among students, a multi-level **Project Competition** was organized under the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC). The event was open to all students across different academic levels: **First Year (FY), Second Year (SY), Third Year (TY), and B.Tech.** The competition aimed to identify innovative project ideas, train students in pitching and presenting their projects, and finally select the best ideas for pre-incubation support.

The event was conducted in the following phases:

- **First Round:** Internal evaluation of all project groups.
 - **Workshops:** Training workshops were conducted on “Bootcamp on Idea Generation and Business Canvas” with resource persons from **Bhau Institute**.
 - **Second Round:** Shortlisted project groups competed again to refine and present their ideas.
 - **Workshops:** Training workshops were conducted on “How to Pitch an Idea” with resource persons from **Bhau Institute**.
 - **Final Pitch Competition:** The top 23 project groups competed in the final round assessed by external examiners from **Bhau Institute**. The best project ideas were selected for **pre-incubation**.
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Objectives:

- To foster innovation, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial thinking among students.
 - To identify promising student projects for pre-incubation support and further development.
 - To provide structured training on idea pitching, project presentation, and entrepreneurial skills.
 - To engage students in real-world startup and innovation practices.
 - To strengthen industry-academic collaboration through mentoring support under the Bhau Institute MoU.
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Highlights of the Final Competition Round:

- **Participants:** 23 shortlisted project groups from across different academic years.
 - **Assessment:** External examiners from **Bhau Institute** evaluated the projects based on innovation, feasibility, scalability, and business potential.
 - **Format:** Each group pitched their project idea in a structured format including problem identification, solution, target audience, business model, and scalability plan.
 - **Outcome:** Selected project ideas were recommended for **pre-incubation** under the Bhau Institute's entrepreneurship support ecosystem.
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Benefits to Students:

- **Practical Experience:** Students gained real-world exposure to pitching ideas to industry experts and evaluators.
 - **Skill Development:** Students enhanced their communication, critical thinking, entrepreneurship, and project management skills.
 - **Networking Opportunities:** Direct interaction with industry mentors and innovation experts from Bhau Institute.
 - **Pre-Incubation Support:** Selected teams are now eligible for mentorship, funding opportunities, and startup guidance under the pre-incubation program.
 - **Career Readiness:** Increased employability and entrepreneurial readiness through participation in a competitive, innovation-driven event.
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Benefits to Faculty:

- **Capacity Building:** Faculty were involved in mentoring student teams, enhancing their own understanding of innovation and startup ecosystems.
 - **Academic-Industry Collaboration:** Strengthened ties with the Bhau Institute through effective utilization of the MoU for student benefit.
 - **Research and Innovation Promotion:** Opportunities to co-develop projects with students leading to future research papers, patents, or product development.
 - **Skill Enhancement:** Exposure to contemporary innovation evaluation and idea pitching standards.
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Conclusion:

The **Project Competition and Final Pitch Round** organized by **VIT-IIC** achieved its key objectives of promoting innovation, training students, and establishing strong industry-academia linkages. The final round, conducted on **17-April-2025**, was a grand success, thanks to the dedicated efforts of entire IIC organizing team.

The selected project groups are now poised to advance their ideas through pre-incubation, marking a significant milestone in VIT's innovation journey.

Glimpses of Project Competition –



