



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



VENTURE
CENTER



India-Upper Rhine Region Softlanding Programme 2026

PARTICIPANT PROFILES

28 Apr - 30 Apr 2026

India

A PROGRAMME OF



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German Academic Exchange Service

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India-Upper Rhine Region Softlanding 2026

28.04.-30.04.2026

Pune, India

The India-Upper Rhine Region Softlanding Programme connects selected Indian Life Science startups with the innovation, research and startup ecosystem of the Upper Rhine Region where Germany, France and Switzerland meet. The programme is designed for research-driven teams aiming to validate their technology and business model for the European market, build long-term international partnerships, and prepare for their expansion into Europe.

Participants gain structured access to Europe's innovation ecosystem, including leading research institutions, universities, and applied innovation infrastructure in the Upper Rhine region. The programme provides hands-on insights into European regulatory and market access pathways covering topics such as MDR requirements, reimbursement and insurance systems, carbon compliance, and data regulations.

Through sector-specific expert sessions, regulatory deep dives, and case studies of successful India-Europe expansion journeys, participants develop a clear understanding of how to enter and scale within European markets. Dedicated partner roundtables and focused matchmaking will enable concrete collaboration opportunities. In addition, participants gain practical insights into procurement processes, regional industry priorities, and funding and accelerator landscapes, resulting in a structured and actionable pathway toward sustainable market entry and long-term collaboration in Europe.



Intignus Biotech Pvt Ltd, Venture Center, Pune

is a healthcare startup focused on advancing innovative solutions in women's health by early detection of pregnancy complications. Through their product, PEscreen, a rapid biomarker-based screening test designed for early risk stratification of preeclampsia during pregnancy, they aim to enable timely intervention and improve maternal and fetal outcomes.



Dr. Vaishnavi Kulkarni
CEO and Founder

Vaishnavi is a pioneering leader in the biotech industry with over 15 years of experience. As the CEO and Founder of Intignus Biotech she leads strategic planning, research & development, fundraising, and business operations, driving the company toward impactful innovation and market success. Her expertise lies in platform technology development, microfluidics, and immunoassay development. She holds a Ph.D. in Nanotechnology and an Executive MBA.



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Pranjali Sahasrabuddhey
Executive Manager

Pranjali has 4 years of cross-functional experience spanning operations, finance, regulatory affairs, and research & development. She plays a key role in enabling organizational execution by bridging scientific innovation with business and regulatory processes. With a strong foundation in multidisciplinary collaboration, she contributes to advancing scalable and impactful healthcare solutions, particularly in women's health.



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Fontierz Pvt Ltd, Venture Center, Pune

develops advanced surgical power tools and motion control systems, including arthroscopic shavers, high-speed spine systems, endoscopic spine burrs, and atherectomy devices for robotic surgical applications. Built on deep expertise in embedded electronics and multi-axis robotics, Fontierz delivers precision-engineered solutions that empower surgeons with reliable, high-performance instruments, bridging cutting-edge motion control technology with real-world clinical needs.

Fontierz



Anil Alex
Founder

Anil is a Business Head and P&L Owner with 24+ years of experience in product management, sales, marketing, manufacturing, medical devices, engineering services, software product/services and consulting industry domains. With skills in conceptualizing, ideating, functionalizing an idea in terms of product development and garnering business revenues, image and brand equity in complex business situations, he has been successful in developing markets while capturing leading market position, positioning products, launching brands, and cross geographic campaign deployment.



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Kozhnosys Pvt Ltd, Venture Center, Pune

is a medtech company developing portable, non-invasive accurate breath analyzers for early disease detection. It delivers rapid breast cancer screening results without a doctor through its non-invasive product, Canscan, which detects volatile organic compounds in exhaled breath. Its portability and patient-friendly design make it easy to use, transforming how women approach preventive healthcare by enabling early detection and improving accessibility to breast cancer diagnostics.



Jilma Peruvangat

Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer



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Jilma has more than a decade of experience in medical device development and translational research. She combines technical expertise with a patient-centered vision to advance breath-based diagnostics. Under her leadership, Kozhnosys has focused on analyzing volatile organic compounds to create screening tools that prioritize accessibility, comfort, and safety while minimizing invasive procedures and radiation. Recognized as a Deep Tech Pioneer by Hello Tomorrow, Jilma advocates for evidence-driven innovation and equitable access to diagnostics. She holds advanced training in regulatory affairs and clinical study design and has a degree in Biomedical Engineering.

Ankita Somani

Consulting Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Ankita, a seasoned Chartered Accountant with over a decade of experience and the Consulting Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at Kozhnosys, helps the company in Financial Planning, Strategy, and Legal Compliance. Ankita has extensive experience working with businesses across industries, ranging from start-ups to large enterprises, helping them optimize financial performance and navigate complex regulatory landscapes. Her expertise spans in areas like Virtual CFO services, Strategy Formulations, Corporate Restructuring, M&A tax, making her a trusted advisor to Kozhnosys.



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Diagopreutic Pvt Ltd, Venture Center, Pune

offers 18 patented, CDSCO-approved antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) kits, clinically validated with 95% sensitivity and 98% specificity. Delivering accurate results at the point of care in under 6 hours, they help infectious disease physicians and microbiology labs identify the right antibiotic for the right patient so that clinicians can save lives before resistance wins.



Dr. rer. nat. Roshan Naik

Founder

Roshan is focused on development of rapid diagnostic kits for infectious diseases. He brings over a decade of academic experience across Germany, France, and Singapore, specializing in the molecular-genetic basis of disease mechanisms in animal models. His research has been published in eight peer-reviewed journals, two book chapters, and has led to 6 filed patents. His technical expertise spans molecular biology, cell biology, microbiology, and biochemistry. He has secured competitive grants such as the DST-Nidhi Prayas for rapid bacterial detection and innovation council prototyping support. Roshan holds a Ph.D. in Neurobiology from Ludwig Maximilian University.



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NanoTheraPx Innovations Pvt Ltd, Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay

is developing PsorisCare, a patented plant-based nanogel, delivering steroid-free, affordable psoriasis care. The formulation uses lipid nanoparticle technology to enhance skin penetration and provide sustained therapeutic action without steroids. It aims to offer a safe, affordable, and scalable alternative to current psoriasis therapies, improving patient adherence and long-term outcomes.



Dr. Roshan Keshari

Co-founder

Roshan is the scientific force behind NanoTheraPx, leading innovation strategy, product development, and translational research. The company's flagship product, Phytonanogel Shield, emerged from his doctoral research and a mission to make dermatological care safer, affordable, and accessible. Roshan brings expertise in nanomedicine, lipid-based drug delivery systems, and dermatological formulations, backed by multiple awards, including the Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Award and Gandhi Young Technology Innovation Award. His work has been published in high-impact journals and patented in India. He was also a fellow in the DAAD Surplance/Third Country Program and holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from IIT Bombay.



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Aditi Chaple

Research Intern, IIT Bombay

Aditi is a research-driven biotechnology professional focused on nanomedicine, drug delivery systems, and translational healthcare innovation. At Nanobios Lab, IIT Bombay and the SINE-incubated startup NanoTheraPx, she is actively involved in developing advanced, cost-effective therapeutic solutions centered on lipid- and polymer-based nano formulations, with particular emphasis on dermatological applications and novel herbal-based skincare technologies. Additionally, she is actively engaged in scientific writing, preparing investor pitches, clinical proposals, and market analysis documents, reflecting her multidisciplinary approach in bridging science, innovation, and commercialization.



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ForschMedX Pvt Ltd, Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute-Technology Business Incubator (VJTI-TBI), Mumbai

is a healthcare innovation company, building 'TrachEase', a smart airway hygiene system that automates suctioning and blockage detection for safer ventilation in ICU patients. By combining a redesigned airway interface, intelligent suction control, and sensing, TrachEase aims to reduce airway emergencies, lower complication risk, and ease the burden on ICU teams.



Abhishek Gaikar **Founder**



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Abhishek is a medtech entrepreneur and healthcare innovator focused on building practical, clinically relevant solutions for critical care. With a background in pharmaceutical sciences and a strong interest in applied medical technology, his work revolves around solving problems that directly affect patient outcomes and clinical workflows. At ForschMedX, he leads the development of TrachEase. Beyond product development, he is actively involved in early-stage strategy, validation, and ecosystem engagement for deep-tech healthcare solutions. He has received notable recognitions, including the BIRAC-SPARSH / SIIP Award of Excellence featured at Global Bio India 2023, and India's Best Design Project Award 2025 for TrachEase in association with ForschMedX and CurioEdge.



AeroDel Technology Innovations Pvt Ltd, Venture Center, Pune

focuses on improving patient experience for respiratory patients. Through innovations, such as 'AeroFlex', a patented companion device to enhance the efficiency of metered-dose inhaler; 'JetMist', a portable jet-powered nebulizer; and 'ActiveControl' a smart sensor-enabled pMDI add-on for technique correction, adherence monitoring, and early exacerbation warning, they are simplifying inhalation for Asthma and respiratory patients and reducing preventable deaths. AeroDel's flagship commercial partnership with Zydus Lifesciences anchors its go-to-market in India, with an expanding pipeline of pharma and research collaborations for global markets.



Zahir Jaffer Co-founder



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Zahir co-founded AeroDel driven by a personal connection to respiratory health, and to make clinically effective pulmonary care accessible and affordable. Zahir leads AeroDel's Product & Business, IPM, and Clinical Strategy. The company is supported with investments from Venture Center, Pune and Atal Incubation Centre – Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (AIC-CCMB) and is actively looking to build partnerships with European research institutions, pharma companies, and regulatory consultants as it prepares to validate its technology and business model for EU markets, including MDR compliance.



Pacify Medical Technologies Pvt Ltd, Venture Center, Pune

aims to make advanced trauma care accessible with the portable ‘Skin Spray Gun’, a device that atomizes the patient’s own skin into a fine mist for rapid grafting during wound treatment. Unlike traditional invasive surgery, this technology requires 10x less donor skin, reducing patient trauma and recovery time. Pacify Medical is revolutionizing wound care by bridging the gap between complex regenerative medicine and affordable hardware, making advanced trauma care accessible to rural hospitals.



Rayyan Ramrajkar

Technology Lead

Rayyan Ramrajkar is a mechanical engineer and product designer, integrating advanced manufacturing techniques to solve critical gaps in wound management. His work focuses on translating complex clinical needs into intuitive, high-performance surgical tools. Rayyan has been instrumental in the development of the ‘Skin Spray Gun’ and navigating its transition from a prototype to CDSCO approved medical device in India. Rayyan oversees the end-to-end design, testing, and production cycles at Pacify Medical. His contributions have earned Pacify Medical prestigious recognitions, including the 3DEXPERIENCE Lab by Dassault Systèmes. He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Mumbai University.



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Serigen Mediproducs Pvt. Ltd., Venture Center, Pune

focuses on innovative tissue regeneration products that serve diverse clinical needs. Its silk microparticle based osteoconductive bone void filler 'Serioss' fills cavities in bone caused by trauma, infection, cancer, etc. and provides the optimal environment for bone cells to thrive and function. Serioss addresses the unmet need for a synthetic bone void filler with the performance of an autograft.



Dr. Swati Shukla

Co-founder & COO

Swati has 25+ years of experience, including company operations, R&D and teaching. Besides exposure to clinical research and international collaborations, she brings in considerable understanding of various medical disease conditions and biological methods used to study them. She has successfully implemented and maintained high quality standards at Serigen since 2020. Currently, as the full-time COO of Serigen, she takes a lead on overall company operations, including manufacturing, quality, regulatory approvals, clinical trials and contributing to managing grant supported projects. She also engages closely with clinicians in initiating and executing clinical studies. Swati holds a PhD in Biochemistry from Pune University and is trained and certified in quality management systems for biomedical products.



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