

### **CIED–IUST Foundation Hosts Skill Programme on Fruit Preservation**

09-03-2026: The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), inaugurated a week-long Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (AESDP) on “Innovative Approaches to Fruit Preservation and its Value Addition.” The programme is being conducted from March 09–13, 2026.

The workshop is being organized in collaboration with the Department of Food Technology, IUST and aims to equip participants with practical skills and entrepreneurial insights in the food processing sector.

Dr. Rakesh Mehra, Director, Innovation Himgiri, New Delhi, attended the inaugural session as the Chief Guest. Experts from MSME Srinagar, IUST, and SKUAST, along with Mr. S. P. Qalander, Industry Consultant, and other industry partners, are serving as resource persons for the programme. They are interacting with trainees and sharing insights on modern techniques of fruit preservation, value addition, and emerging entrepreneurship opportunities in the food processing sector.

In his address, Dr. Rakesh Mehra appreciated IUST’s efforts in promoting innovation, skill development, and entrepreneurship among students and youth. He observed that India is poised to emerge as a global food factory and encouraged participants to capitalize on the immense opportunities available in the food processing industry by pursuing entrepreneurship as a viable career option.

Delivering the inaugural address, Prof. Parvez A. Mir, Director, CIED–IUST, emphasized that vocational education must form the foundation of both economic and social development in the country. He highlighted the significance of government initiatives aimed at skill development among youth and noted that IUST is continuously working to equip young people with entrepreneurial and technical competencies through structured programmes and training initiatives.

The programme is being coordinated by Dr. Basharat Nabi Dar, Coordinator, EDC/CPMSB, who also highlighted various government initiatives promoting youth entrepreneurship, including the YUVA Scheme. He encouraged participants to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in the food processing sector. The programme aims to provide hands-on exposure and expert guidance on innovative fruit preservation techniques and value addition, thereby fostering entrepreneurship and sustainable ventures in the agri-food sector.