

CIED-IUST Foundation and NSRCEL IIM Bangalore Launches CIED Ignite Incubation Programme

October 21, 2026: IUST Kashmir's incubator, CIED – IUST Foundation, today launched CIED IGNITE, an incubation cohort programme for aspiring entrepreneurs, students and early-stage founders, in collaboration with the Nadathur S. Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL), IIM Bangalore. The launch was held at the IUST Innovation Campus under the theme "Igniting Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startup Opportunities".

Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, was the Chief Guest. He advised the participants to take maximum benefit from the program. Prof. Parvez A. Mir, CEO of the Foundation, delivered the welcome address and NSRCEL representatives Mr. Vaikunt and Ms. Neelakshi presented and formally launched the programme.

The programme runs for about five to six months. Phase I is a ten-week self-paced online course through the NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore Academy, in which participants develop and test their business ideas. In Phase II, selected participants receive one-on-one mentoring from NSRCEL on business models, market validation and go-to-market strategy. More than 100 aspiring entrepreneurs have registered for the program.

The collaboration is part of iCube, the Incubating Incubators Initiative, launched by NSRCEL and SBI Foundation in January 2025. iCube supports incubators in underserved regions and CIED – IUST Foundation belongs to its first cohort. The programme aims to give young entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir structured learning, expert mentorship and access to entrepreneurial networks.

Mr. Shameem Iqbal Nahvi presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, representatives of NSRCEL, participants and all those who contributed to the successful launch of the programme.