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CIED-IUST Foundation launches CIED IGNITE Incubation Program in collaboration with IIM Bangalore

Awantipora, Oct 23: The CIED-IUST Foundation, the startup incubator of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), 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, on October 21. 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 and encouraged participants to make the most of the programme. Prof. Parvez A. Mir, CEO of CIED-IUST Foundation, delivered the welcome address, while NSRCEL representatives Mr. Vaikunt and Ms. Neelakshi presented and formally launched the programme.

The programme will run for approximately five to six months. Phase I comprises a 10-week, self-paced online course through NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore Academy, during which participants will develop and test their business ideas. In Phase II, selected participants will 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 programme.

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

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

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