

**MSME Incubator Inaugurated at CIED-IUST Foundation to Strengthen Regional
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem**

05-08-2026: In a significant boost to the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir, the MSME Incubator was inaugurated today at CIED-IUST Foundation, IUST Innovation Campus. The initiative marks a major milestone in fostering innovation-driven enterprises, technology-based startups and entrepreneurship among students, researchers and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs IUST, Sh. A. K. Tamaria, IEDS, Joint Director & Head of Office, MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO) Jammu, Sh. Saheel Alaqband, IEDS, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Branch Srinagar, Prof. Parvez A. Mir, CEO, CIED-IUST Foundation, Mr. Sameer Wazir, Finance Officer IUST, coordinators and members of the CIED-IUST Foundation, faculty members and a large gathering of students from Government Polytechnic College and IUST.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir emphasized the importance of nurturing an innovation-led culture within higher educational institutions. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to creating an enabling ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship, innovation and enterprise development among students and young innovators. He mentioned that skill is the buzzword and tangible outcomes are paramount.

Addressing the gathering, Sh. A. K. Tamaria highlighted the Ministry of MSME's sustained efforts to promote innovation-based enterprises through incubation support and urged aspiring entrepreneurs to take advantage of the wide range of opportunities and assistance available under various MSME schemes.

Sh. Saheel Alaqband underscored the significance of the MSME Incubator in converting innovative ideas into successful business ventures and assured continued support from the MSME Development and Facilitation Office to startups and entrepreneurs across the region.

Earlier, Prof. Parvez A. Mir welcomed the distinguished guests and outlined the Foundation's vision of building a vibrant innovation ecosystem through strategic partnerships, incubation

support and entrepreneurial capacity building. He noted that the establishment of the MSME Incubator represents another important milestone in the Foundation's mission to empower innovators, strengthen the startup ecosystem and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Shameem Iqbal, Manager CIED, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, participants and stakeholders for their valuable presence and support. Mr. Syed Abdul Basit, Assistant Manager CIED, coordinated the proceedings.