ignou THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY

प्रगति पथ

विश्वविद्यालय समाचार

13 August 2026 / Headquarters & RCs

IG/PIU/DigiNews/Aug/2113

NCIDE

TWO-DAY PRE-INCUBATION TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR "STARTUP DEVELOPMENT"

BACKGROUND

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) under the aegis of the **Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)**, **Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC)** is actively engaged in fostering its students and alumni towards Atmanirbhar Bharat through promoting, supporting and nurturing the innovator students and alumni of IGNOU interested in setting up their own startups.

Furthermore, the Government of India's impetus on Startups fuels this motivation in the universities. Recognising this, a two-day Pre-incubation Programme on **"Startup Development"** was organised by the IIC 8.0, NCIDE, jointly with RC Delhi-1, RC Delhi-2, RC Delhi-3 and RC NOIDA during 11-12 August, 2026 in online mode. The objective of the Programme was to sensitize and motivate IGNOU students towards Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startups. In the Programme, the students were guided and mentored in the areas of prototype validation, value proposition fit and business fit, funding opportunities and more.

The academic mentors and industry experts included Prof. Sanjiv Mittal, Professor of Management and Former Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Assistant Professor, Hindu College, Dr. Arti Kumari, Assistant Professor, School of Sciences, IGNOU, Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Director, NCIDE, IGNOU and Innovation Ambassador, Dr. Moumita Das, Additional Director, NCIDE, IGNOU and Innovation Ambassador and Dr. Sujata Santosh, Assistant Director, NCIDE and Innovation Ambassador, NCIDE, IGNOU.

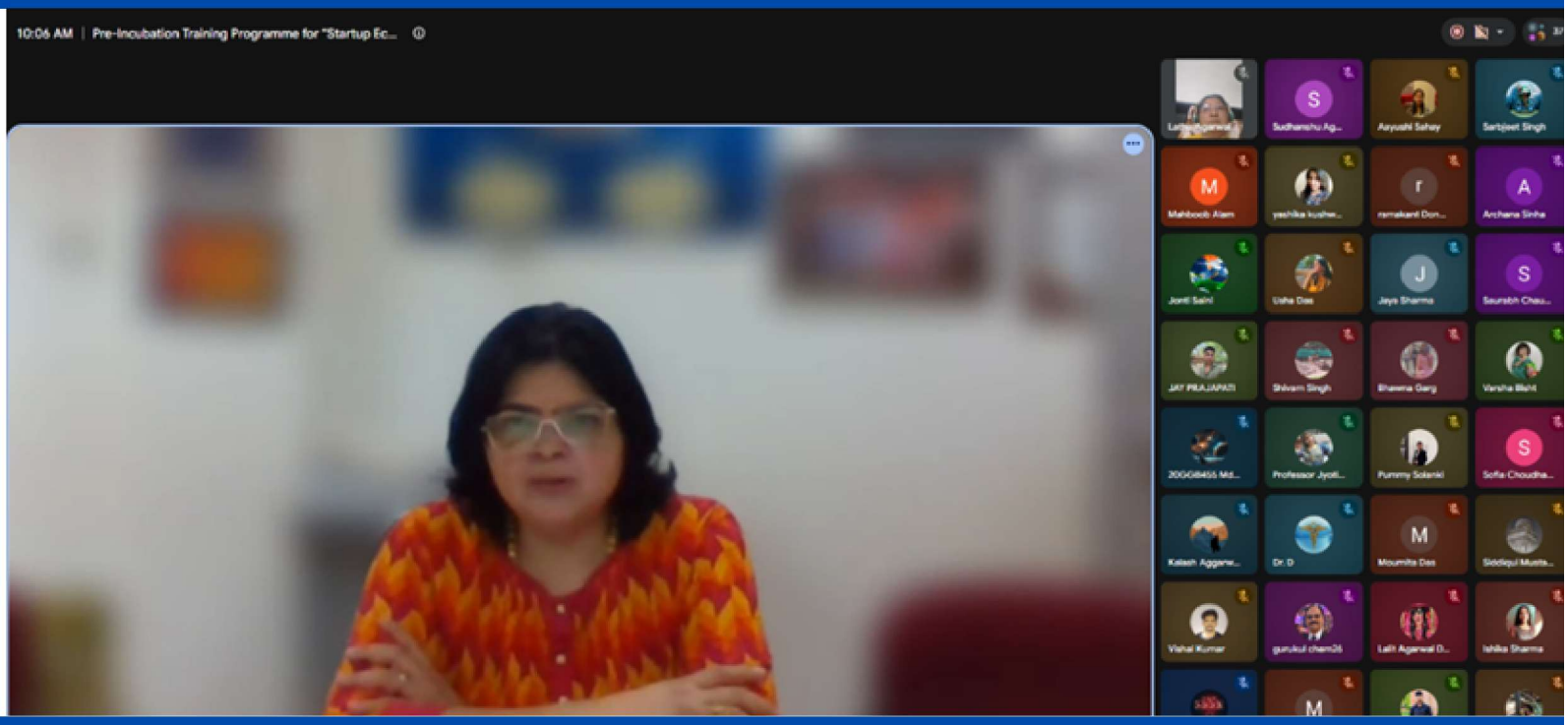
Inaugural Session



INAUGURAL SESSION

On 11 August, 2026 the **Pre-incubation Training Programme** was flagged off with an Inaugural Session in which the participants included the registered students of the programme, the faculty members of NCIDE at the

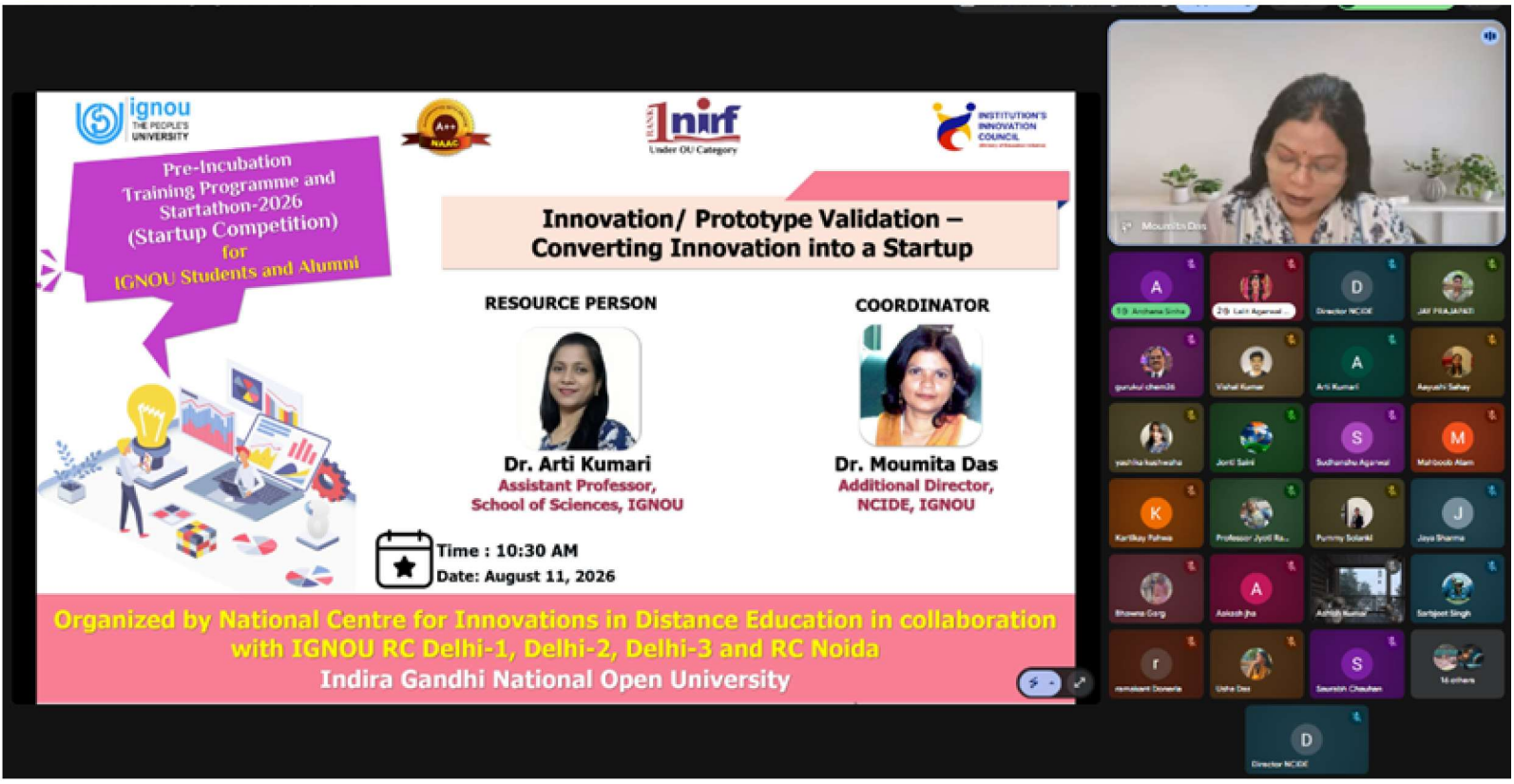
Dr. Moumita Das, Additional Director, NCIDE and Convener IIC 8.0 welcomed all and provided the background of the training programme highlighting its importance. She explained the structure of the training programme and said that it was designed to include the elemental aspects of how to set up a startup.



Speaking on this occasion, **Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit, Director, NCIDE** and President IIC 8.0 urged the students try to resolve the problems of the society through innovation. She motivated the participants to set up their startups through various examples. She expressed the view that the pre incubation training programme would be beneficial for the students and that they will be motivated to establish their own startups. She said that the University is committed to strengthening the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and mentoring the innovator students.



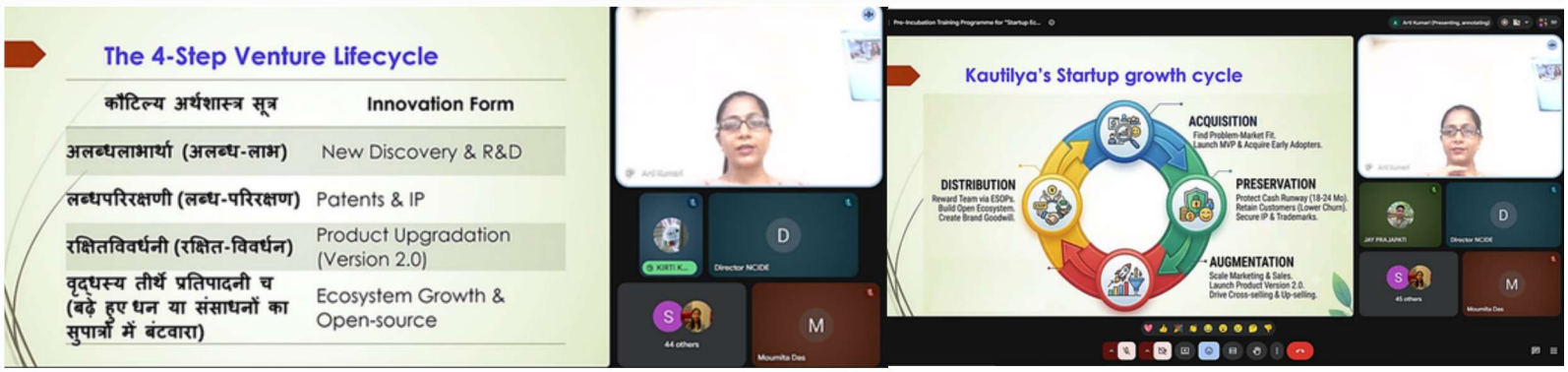
SESSION ON INNOVATION/PROTOTYPE VALIDATION – CONVERTING INNOVATION INTO A START-UP



A session on Product-Market Fit was held on 11 August, 2026. The expert was **Dr. Arti Kumari**, Assistant Professor, School of Sciences, IGNOU.

The basic objectives of the session were to:

1. Create awareness among the participating students about Prototype validation.
2. discuss the processes of converting innovation into startup.



Dr. Arti explained the concepts of innovations and startups. She said that 40 per cent of the startups fail because there is no market need, meaning a product nobody wanted. To understand the market need, she said that the Indian Knowledge System can be employed for prototype validation and startup venture life cycle. With appropriate case studies, she explained the method of correct identification of the problem, the validation of the demand and subsequent innovations designed

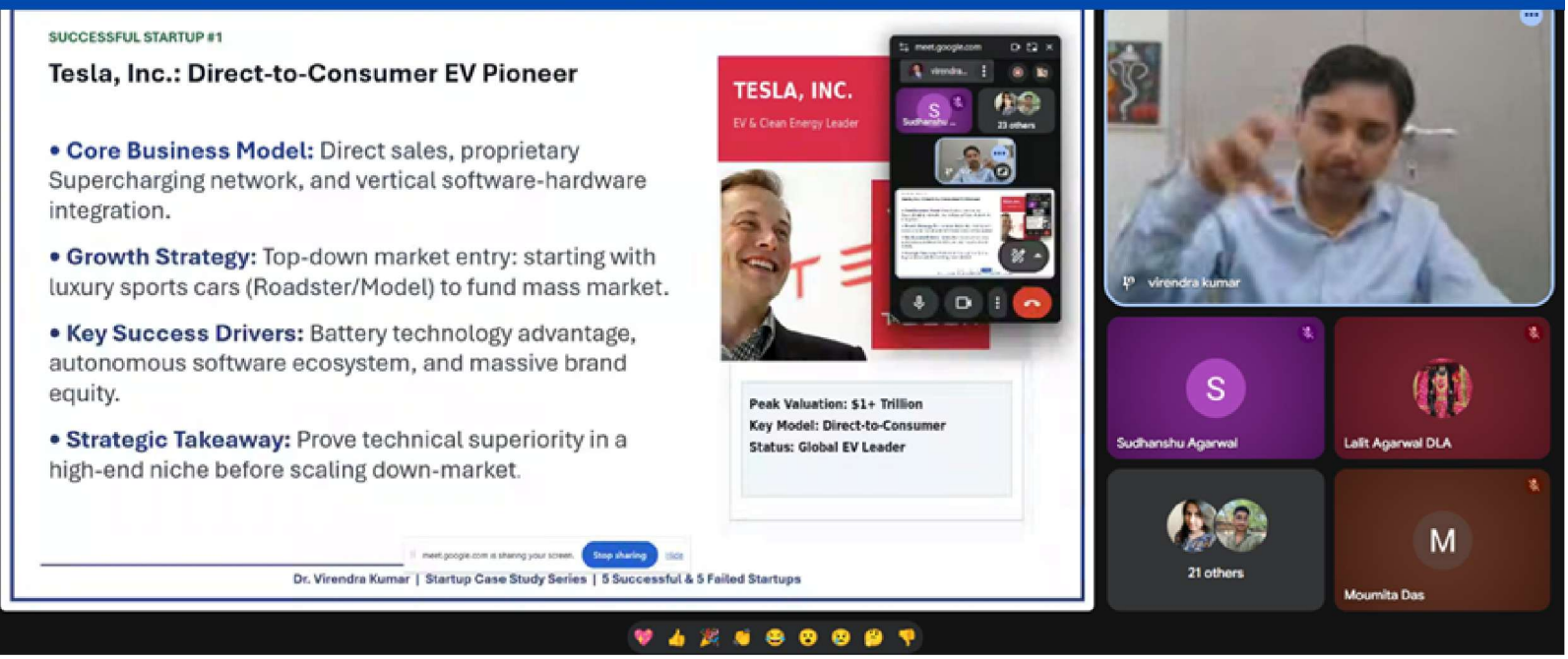
SESSION ON VALUE PROPOSITION FIT WITH STARTUP CASE STUDIES

A session on Value proposition fit with startup case studies was organised on 11th August, 2026. The expert was **Dr. Virendra Kumar**, Assistant Professor, Hindu College.



The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. explain the concept of Value Proposition fit
2. explain with case studies the details related to value proposition fit



Dr. Kumar highlighted the importance of a validated prototype for demonstrating functional feasibility and repeatable economic adoption. With real life case studies, he explained the core concepts and described why startups either fail or become

SESSION ON ANGEL INVESTMENT/VC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

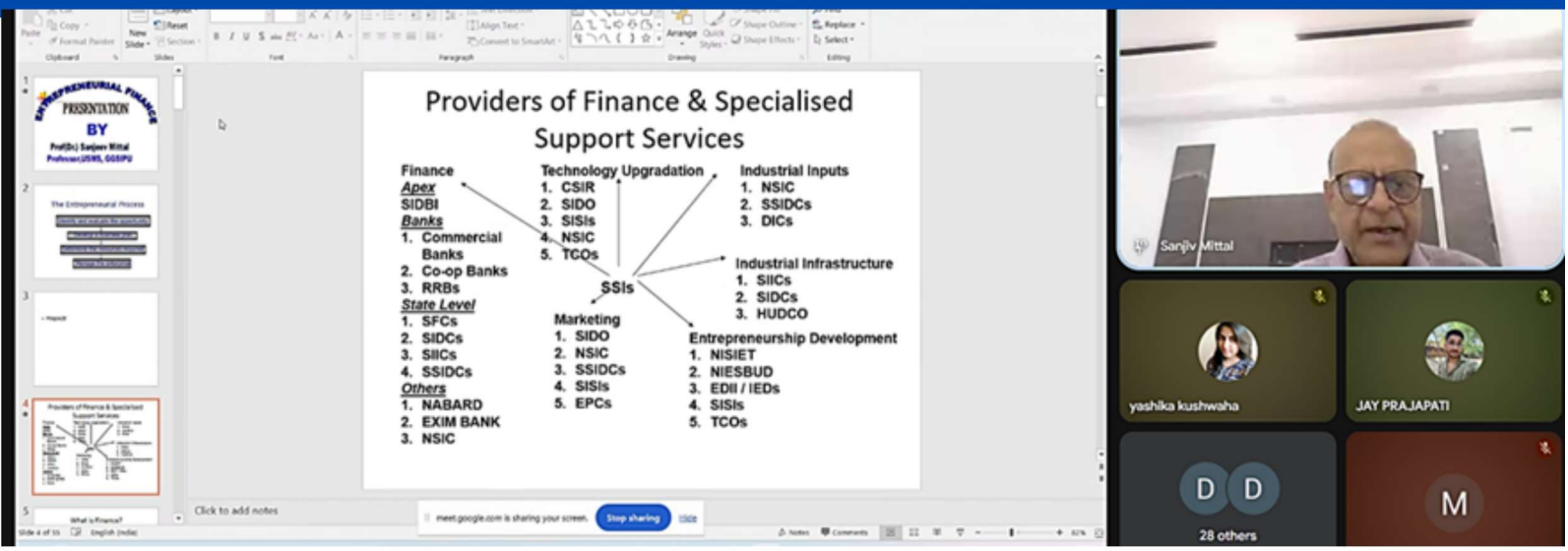
A session on the topic Angel Investment/VC Funding Opportunities was held on 12 August, 2026. The expert was **Mr. Sanjiv Mittal**, Professor of Management (Retd.), University School of Management Studies, GGSIPU.



The basic objectives of the session were to to make the student aware about:

1.the opportunities for angel investment/venture capitalist and government funding for early-stage entrepreneurs

2.the processes for obtaining angel investment/venture capitalist and government funding



Prof. Mittal explained about the different types of funding opportunities available to the Early-Stage startups. He said that broadly, there are three types of funding available to startups. These are personal funding, private funding and government funding. Prof. Mittal elaborated upon the various opportunities of funding through government schemes crowd funding, syndicate funding and private funding agencies.

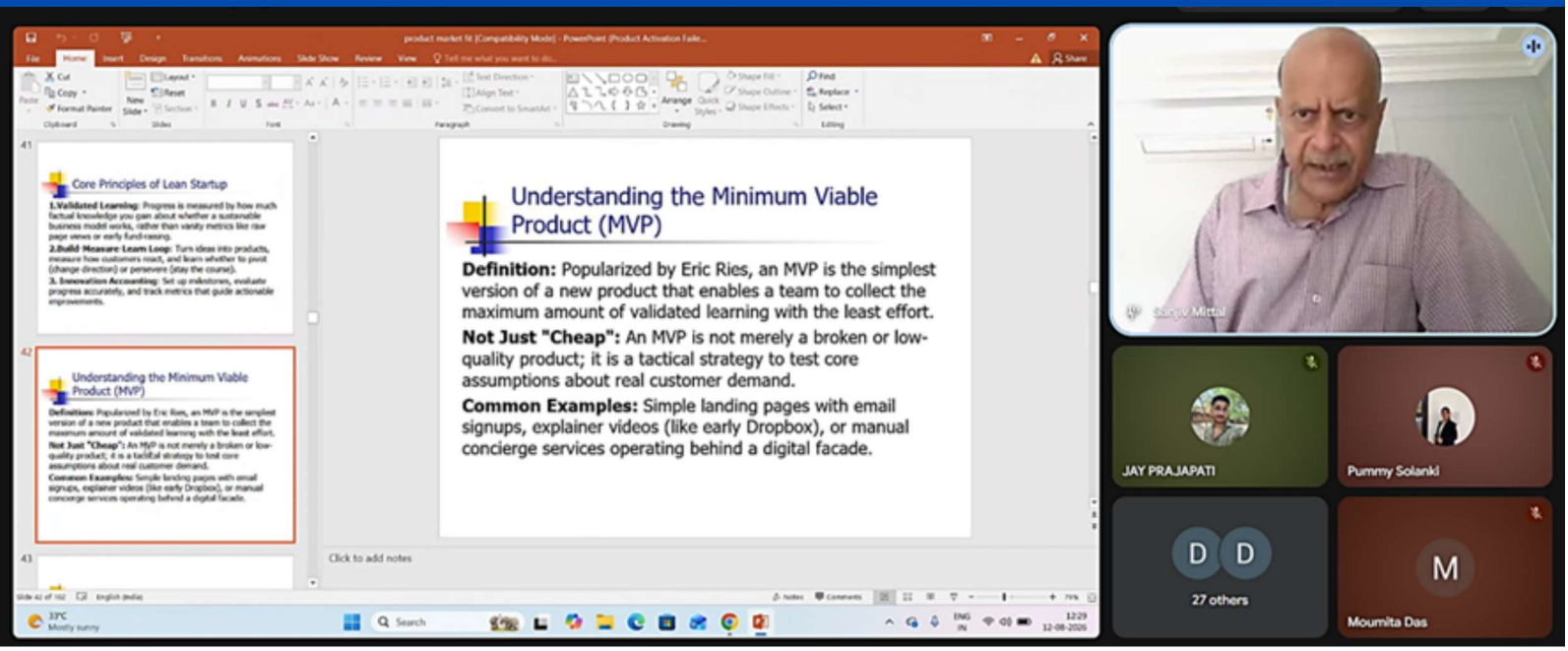
MENTORING ON "LEAN STARTUP & MVP"

A mentoring session on "Lean Startup & MVP" was organised on 12 August, 2026. The expert was **Prof. Sanjiv Mittal,** Professor of Management (Retd.), University School of Management Studies, GGSIPU.



The objectives of the session were to:

1. explain the concept of Lean Startup
2. describe the means for obtaining MVP



Prof. Mittal explained the concepts of entrepreneurs, enterprise, and entrepreneurship. He highlighted the core principles of lean startups. He elaborated the various aspects of establishing a lean startup, such as Minimum Viable Product, Product-Market Fit, etc., with appropriate examples.

SESSION ON ACCELERATORS/INCUBATION – OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS & FACULTIES - EARLY-STAGE ENTREPRENEURS

A session on Accelerators/Incubation – Opportunities for Students & Faculties - Early-Stage Entrepreneurs was organised on 12 August, 2026. The resource person was **Dr. Sujata Santosh**, Assistant Director, NCIDE.



The basic objectives of the session included the following:

1.Make students aware of the role and importance of incubators in the journey of startups,
2.Highlight the criteria and process of joining an incubator, or accelerator, and
3.Share some success stories of introduced startup.

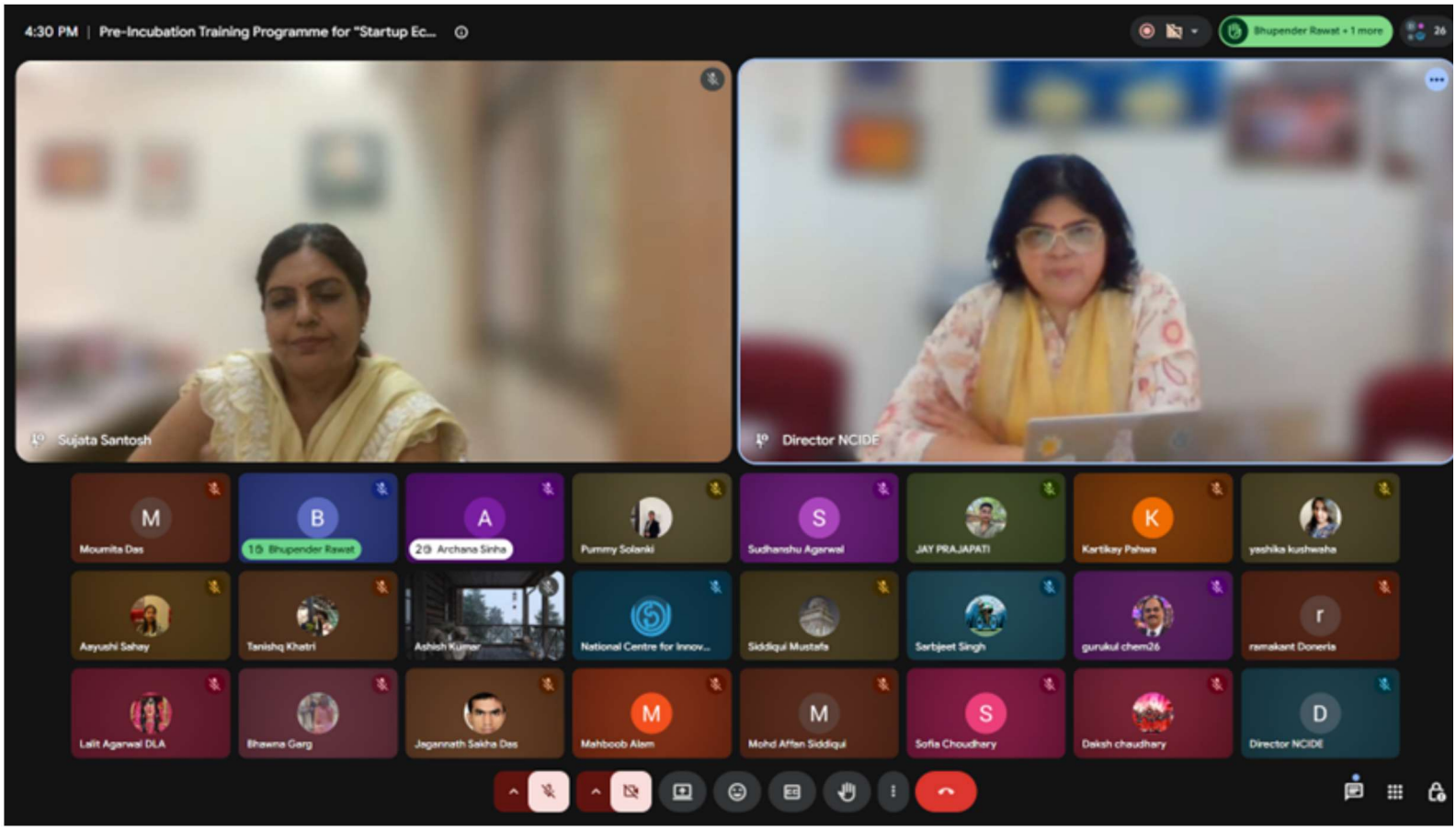


Dr. Sujata Santosh started with the history of business incubators and highlighted the basic objectives of business incubators, and mentioned about the stages of business incubation, including pre- incubation stage, incubator stage and accelerator stage. Thereafter, she explained the details of the facilities and supports provided by a business incubator which includes Infrastructure support, mentoring finance, networking, legal assistance, training and help in marketing, etc.

Further she mentioned about various types of incubators and gave serval examples from India. She explained in detail the process of joining an incubator, or accelerator. She also highlighted the criteria of choosing an incubator as per the requirements, and

VALEDICTORY SESSION AND FEEDBACK

The **two-day Pre-incubation Programme on "Startup Development"** came to an end on 12 August, 2026 with the valedictory programme. The participants expressed their satisfaction on the topics that were discussed and said that the training programme brought about a radical transformation in their thinking in many ways. They emphasized that they were upbeat and motivated to move forward in their journey of innovation and startup. Following this training programme the students will be invited to **Startahon-2026**, a Startup competition to be held in August-September, 2026.



CONCLUSION

The programme leveraged the eminent experts to conduct the sessions and activities in an accessible and inclusive environment. The programme ensured that participants gained both theoretical knowledge and practical experience on the various aspects of funding a startup in addition to learning about the core concepts of a lean startup lean startup. Thus, the programme acted as a springboard for their future incubation support. Furthermore, in alignment with the national goals, this programme encouraged innovation and self-employment, thereby supporting the Government of India's vision under ***Startup India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Viksit Bharat @2047 and Swadeshi.***

SSC

NATIONAL ONLINE MEETING ON EFFICIENT GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL



An online meeting of all IGNOU Regional Centres on the theme **"Efficient Grievance Redressal through all Portals and Online Platforms"** was held on 13 August, 2026, at 11:30 AM. The meeting was attended by Regional Directors and Grievance Redressal Officers from all Regional Centres across the country.

During the session, the comprehensive grievance redressal guidelines of the Government of India were shared with participants as a roadmap for ensuring efficient, transparent, and prompt grievance redressal at all levels within the University.
The Student Service Centre (SSC) appreciated the continued proactive and timely support extended by the Regional Services Division (RSD) and all Regional Centres in effectively addressing student grievances.

In addition to reviewing the current status of grievance redressal, the meeting also gathered inputs and feedback from all Regional Centres. These suggestions will enable the SSC and RSD to work in tandem towards developing a more proactive and

RC- VARANASI

AWARENESS PROGRAMME "IGNOU WELCOME & INTERACTION SESSION 2026"





A welcome, guidance and admission awareness programme was held at IGNOU LSC(R) 48065 Shibli National College, Azamgarh on 10 August 2026. **Dr. Upendra Nabh Tripathi** and **Dr. Dev Narayan Pathak** shared details about IGNOU courses, admissions, higher education, skill development, and employment-oriented options. **Dr. Mohammad Zahid** highlighted vocational courses, and Prof. Mohammad Tahir moderated the session. Students asked questions about admissions, course selection, study materials, and career opportunities, and received helpful guidance.





RC- PATNA

TIRANGA RALLY UNDER HAR GHAR TIRANGA INITIATIVE





As part of the week-long Independence Day celebrations and the **'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative,** IGNOU Regional Centre Patna organised a **Tiranga Rally** on 13 August 2026. The rally began at the Regional Centre office and proceeded to Maulana Azad University, Patna, with enthusiastic participation from learners, academic counsellors, officers, and staff members. Led by Senior Regional Director Dr. E. Krishna Rao, along with Regional Director **Dr. Asif Iqbal**, Assistant Regional Director Dr. Neelu Sharma, and Deputy Registrars Shri J. Prakash Ojha and Shri Rajesh Sharma, the participants marched with the National Flag and raised patriotic slogans. Dr. E. Krishna Rao highlighted the significance of independence and the Tricolour, while other officials emphasised patriotism and civic responsibility. The rally reinforced national pride, unity, and the spirit of **'Har Ghar Tiranga'**.



