STPI Outreach Program at ICFAI University Sikkim: Launch of OCP 1.0 in Healthcare and Agritech Innovations

Date: 5th May 2025

The ICFAI University, Sikkim, hosted an informative and engaging outreach program conducted by the **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) on campus. The session was organized under the initiative of STPI-Gangtok, with a primary focus on the launch of the Open Challenge Program (OCP) 1.0, targeting innovations in IT Applications in Healthcare and Agritech.**

The event was graced by Mr. Ajit Karki, Head of the Department, School of Information Technology, who, along with the esteemed faculty members and students from the IT department, welcomed the speaker *Mr. N.S. Siddaiah, Additional Director & Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of STPI-Gangtok.*

Mr. Siddaiah presented a detailed overview of STPI as an autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. He highlighted STPI's pivotal role in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and the growth of the IT/ITES sector in India.

A key highlight of the session was the announcement of Open Challenge Program (OCP) 1.0, a part of OctaNE—STPI's flagship platform designed to nurture technology-driven entrepreneurship. The program aims to empower start-ups, students, and professionals in the fields of Healthcare and Agritech through substantial support and resources, including:

- Direct funding support of up to 25 Lakhs
- Physical incubation facilities and domain-specific labs
- Three-month mentoring boot camp by IIM Kolkata
- IPR-related assistance
- Networking and marketing support
- Legal and compliance services

Mr. Siddaiah emphasized that such initiatives not only offer a platform for participants to present their innovative ideas but also encourage the development of solutions with significant social impact.

The outreach session served as an excellent opportunity for students to understand the application process, benefits, and long-term vision of OCP 1.0. ICFAI University is proud to support and collaborate with STPI-Gangtok in its mission to promote technological innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth of Sikkim.

The university looks forward to more such fruitful collaborations that empower students and contribute to the broader IT ecosystem of the region.