

Report on ICFAI Incubator's Programs for Startups

The IFHE Innovation & Entrepreneurship Council (IIEC), aka ICFAI Incubator, operating under the aegis of the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE) in Hyderabad, is dedicated to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculty. Established to cultivate a robust startup ecosystem, the incubator offers a comprehensive suite of services designed to support emerging entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey. (iiec.ifheindia.org)

Vision and Mission

The incubator's vision is to become a hub for innovative activities, enabling entrepreneurs and startups to contribute significantly to India's economic growth and transformation into a developed economy. Its mission focuses on creating an ecosystem that promotes innovation across all schools of IFHE through synergized efforts and resources from internal and external collaborators.

Key Programs Conducted by ICFAI Incubator

The IFHE Innovation & Entrepreneurship Council (IIEC) at the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education has launched and managed a diverse portfolio of programs to foster student innovation, startup growth, industry collaboration, and an entrepreneurial mindset. Below are highlights of major programs recently organized by the incubator:

1. CapitaFest 2.0

CapitaFest 2.0 is a startup funding and pitching festival designed to bridge the gap between student entrepreneurs and investors. The event includes startup expos, live pitching, angel investor connections, and financial literacy workshops. Startups benefit from real-time feedback, potential seed funding, and networking with industry leaders.



2. Navonmesh

Navonmesh is an engaging initiative aimed at igniting young minds and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. The platform brings together expert talks, panel discussions, and interactive sessions that expose students to real-world startup journeys, challenges, and opportunities. Designed to inspire curiosity and confidence, Navonmesh helps students explore innovation, creativity, and problem-solving beyond the classroom.



3. MOU Signing with T-HUB

ICFAI Incubator and T-Hub formalized a strategic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE) campus in Shankarpally. The MoU was exchanged between Prof. L. S. Ganesh (Vice Chancellor, IFHE) and Mr. Sujit Jagirdar (CIO, T-Hub), with Dr. M. Sainath (Executive Director, ICFAI Incubator) convening the session.

This collaboration aims to:

- Provide ICFAI Incubator startups with access to T-Hub's vast network, mentorship, industry connections, and growth opportunities.
- Open doors for T-Hub to leverage the ICFAI Group's experienced faculty in business, law, and technology, fostering deeper academic-industry engagement.
- Enable joint mentorship programs, enhanced incubation support, and increased market and investor access for early-stage startups.

By combining ICFAI's academic strengths with T-Hub's innovation ecosystem, the partnership is set to strengthen incubation outcomes and promote innovation-driven entrepreneurship.



4. Innovation Without Borders Panel Discussion

ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE) and T-Hub kicked off their new collaboration with a panel discussion titled “Innovation Without Borders: The Global Mindset for Indian Innovators,” hosted at T-Hub, Pinnacle. The event marked the inauguration of a series of joint programs made possible by a recent MoU between IFHE and T-Hub, aiming to foster knowledge exchange and opportunities for startups, academia, and government stakeholders.

Moderated by Dr. Srikanth Sundararajan (T-Hub & Ventureast), the distinguished panel included leaders from IFHE, IBS Hyderabad, T-Hub, and the Telangana government. The discussion centered on helping Indian innovators scale globally by promoting adaptability, collaboration, and a future-focused approach. The interactive Q&A allowed participants to connect directly with the experts, catalyzing fresh ideas and network-building.



5. Idea Hub

Idea Hub is a monthly on-campus kiosk by the ICFAI Incubator, offering a friendly, approachable space for students to share ideas, ask questions, and receive informal guidance. Open to all disciplines, it serves as a listening post and early support system—helping students validate ideas, explore innovation pathways, and take their first steps toward entrepreneurship.



6. Pravega COWE

Pravega, in association with the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE), is an empowerment initiative focusing on supporting female founders and gender-diverse teams. The program includes specialized mentoring, networking sessions, and exposure to successful women entrepreneurs, furthering the goal of diversity in India's startup ecosystem. This is an ongoing program that is still open for applications.



Program Snapshot Table

Date	Program	Outcome
March 21st & 22nd	Capitafest 2.0 in collaboration with Lakhani Financial Services	Investor Connect program with 2-day demo day presentations by startups in front of a great panel of investors and VC's
March 24, 2025	NAVONMESHA EP 1: Igniting Entrepreneurial Minds	Inspired BBA students with startup stories, fireside chat, and student engagement to promote an entrepreneurial mindset
March 25, 2025	ICFAI Incubator & T-Hub MoU Signing	Strategic partnership for startup incubation, mentorship, market access, and academic-industry collaboration
April 28, 2025	Innovation Without Borders Panel Discussion	Kickoff of IFHE-T-Hub collaboration, global mindset for Indian innovators, foundation for joint programs
July 10 - August 10, 2025 (Application Window)	ICFAI Incubator x COWE Accelerator Program Launch	12-week hybrid accelerator for startups, mentoring, bootcamp, Demo Day for investor exposure

These programs complement ongoing efforts such as business model seminars, skill-building workshops, Industry 4.0 learning, and grant awareness sessions. Collectively, they demonstrate the ICFAI Incubator's commitment to nurturing a dynamic and inclusive startup ecosystem on campus and beyond

Expert talks and sessions:

As part of our continuous effort to foster innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, the ICFAI Incubator regularly organizes expert talks, panel discussions, and hands-on sessions under various themes. These sessions bring in industry leaders, startup founders, and domain experts to share real-world insights, startup journeys, and emerging trends. The aim is to inspire

students, build practical understanding, and spark meaningful conversations that extend beyond the classroom.

The table below summarizes the key sessions conducted so far:

Date	Topic	No. of Participants	Resource Person(s)
12/4/2024	Business Model Development	54	Ms. Shankunthala
16/8/2024	How to create a company brand	40	Mr.Raju Kandakatla
23/8/2024	Trends and opportunities in Industry 4.0 for MSMEs in India	36	Dr. Zahoorullah
19/10/2024	Mastering Generative AI: ChatGPT and Copilot	45	Mr.Abhilekh Verma
10/1/2025	government grants, schemes, and startup eligibility criteria	25	Ms. Anjali Bhatt Manda
25/1/2025	Insights on Problem-Solution Fit & Product-Market Fit	30	Dr. Manoj Kumar Bada GharWala
21/02/2025	Entrepreneurial Mindset, TRL Levels, and Innovation Development	25	Mr. V. T. Siva
07/03/2025	Design Thinking Workshop & Hackathon	45	Ms. Sakuntala K