IIIT-Delhi held second edition of Pitch cafe

- *Pitch cafe event gives an opportunity to budding entrepreneurs to present their ideas in front of investors, incubators and industrialists*
- *Students from IIT Delhi and BITS also came up with pitches, out of 21 pitches at the event 7 were from IIIT-Delhi*

New Delhi, September 28, 2019: The Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) held Pitch Cafe 2.0 today at its premises where Delhi deputy chief minister MrManish Sisodia was the chief guest. The event was held by IIITD Innovation and Incubation Center, which is a not-for-profit Company promoted by IIIT-Delhi to cultivate Innovation and Entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing Incubator and accelerator services. The event saw participation from 14 institutes/colleges from all over the country including IIT-Delhi and BITS Pilani.

Addressing the students MrSisodiaemphasized on the need to have a zeal to learn. He said, "today the major challenge for the educators is not to teach what is already discovered, but to teach which is still to be invented. We have to teach our students to think new, think innovated every time. There are three types of start-ups today, one who think in the box, one who thinks out of the box and one who does not care where the box if. So decide where you are and work accordingly". He also added, "all the budding entrepreneurs face challenges and failures, but it is up to them whether they want to keep the failure as a burden on their head or convert them into learnings and step upon them. Courage to float against the odds is what is required for the entrepreneurship".

Director, IIIT-Delhi, Prof. Ranjan Bose also addressed the teams and said that "entrepreneurship is not a skill; it doesn't have a switch off and switch on button, it is a lifestyle". He also added that "it is not easy to live this lifestyle, but all of you have done so. It is not easy to do a startup. You have to get everything together, and you have to do everything yourself. In the end, you may have the best idea in the world, and it may turn out not to fly. And then you just have to say 'sorry, it didn't work, I will try again".

Pitch Cafe 2.0 was organisedwith the aim to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst young innovators, budding start-ups and bring them closer to fulfilling their dreams.It provided an excellent platform for potential ideas and early-stage start-ups to be recognized by the industry. Top 7 teams presented their product to a panel consisting of incubators, industrialists, startup owners and mentors.

Apart from the seven teams of IIIT-Delhi, IIT Delhi; BITS Pilani (Pilani); IIM Ahmedabad; Vellore Institute of Technology (Chennai); Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women; National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (Sonipat); and many other institutes from NCR and other parts of the country came with their idea.

Pitch Café 2.0, also gave a chance to school students to showcase their idea of start-up, two teams from School of Excellence, Kalkaji; and one team from RajkiyaPratibhaVikasVidyalaya (RPVV), Lajpat Nagar presented their startups.

The innovation and incubation centre of IIIT-Delhiis supported by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India, and Department of Training & Technical Education, Govt of NCT of Delhi. Initially, the Center was instrumental in promoting entrepreneurship among the students, alumni & faculty of IIIT-Delhi and now several startups from different technology domains are also housed in the incubation center.

Over the years, the silo free environment of Incubation Center was successful in cross pollination of ideas. It has startups such as Real Vol (realtime medical visualization in virtual reality), Zailet (online entertainment blog), GoBikes (bike rental service), iNICU (Complete child healthcare solution), mywanderlust.in (a travel community), etc.

About IIIT-Delhi

It was created as a State University by an act of Delhi Government (The IIIT Delhi Act, 2007) empowering it to do research and development, and grant degrees. In a relatively short time, it has earned an excellent reputation in India and abroad for being a center of quality education and research in IT and interdisciplinary areas. Established in 2008, the Institute has grown to be recognized as one of the most promising young institutions for education and research in India. The Institute is accredited 'A' grade by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) and has been accorded 12-B status by the University Grants Commission (UGC). In recognition of its performance, QS University Ranking has ranked IIIT-Delhi 48 (in QS Ranking India) and 192 (in BRICS region) in 2019 ranking. NIRF also ranked IIIT-Delhi at number 55 this year.