

## Jawaharlal Nehru University

### ATAL INCUBATION CENTRE-JNU FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

#### Press Release

17-04-2021

**Innovation Sprint** at JNU was launched today in partnership with Forge to catalyze innovations and start-ups in Atal Incubation Centre-Jawaharlal Nehru University Foundation for Innovation (AIC-JNUFI), New Delhi. The Forge, an enterprise of the Sakthi Group, Coimbatore, is hosting a two-phased Innovation Sprint for JNU students, researchers, alumni and start-ups.

In an online event held on the **17<sup>th</sup> April 2021**, **Innovation Sprint** was launched by **Prof M Jagadesh Kumar, Vice-chancellor of JNU** and **R. Ramanathan, Former Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI AAYOG**, in the presence of **Prof Rana Pratap Singh, President, Institutional Innovation Council, JNU** and **Mr Vish Sahasranamam, CEO, Forge** and other dignitaries. More than 100 participants witnessed the launch of the event, which was organized in an online mode.

The CEO of the AIC-JNUFI, Mr Kavindra Kumar introduced the concept of Innovation Sprint and also highlighted the role of AIC-JNUFI, a '*not for profit*' Company of JNU supported by Atal Innovation Mission and governed through the Board of Directors chaired by the Vice-Chancellor JNU and its operations are looked after by Dr Hemant R. Kushwaha, as Coordinator, Innovation and Incubation.

While addressing the participants, **Prof M. Jagadesh Kumar**, said, "Role of Universities such as JNU in building a healthy nexus between technology and society is that it should do everything possible to create an ecosystem for all the scholars be it ethicists, philosophers, economists, policy experts, scientists, sociologists, to work hand in hand with basic researchers and technologies to create innovation."

Former Mission Director **Ramanan Ramanathan** asserted the role of incubators and start-ups. He said, "It is important to look at the problems and see how one can use all tools and technologies available through the ecosystem to solve the problems."

President IIC-JNU, **Prof R P Singh** encouraged the students to participate in this Innovation Sprint irrespective of their domains. He also elaborated the concept of VUCA - Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity - and its relevance for the opportunity of innovations in today's world.

Mr **Vish Sahasranamam**, Founder of Forge Accelerator, spoke about the mission and accomplishments of Forge and its role in catalysing national scale industrial digital transformation. He elaborated that during the program, innovators shall attempt to solve real-world problems using the tools and techniques of innovation based on principles of Human-

Centric Design (Design Thinking) to develop innovative solutions that are efficient and cost-effective by using technology.

It was highlighted that the Innovation Sprint shall have 2 phases for the benefit of providing the participants with an opportunity to learn, practice and present their case to become part of the pre-incubation/incubation program at AIC-JNUFI. Phase I - Ideation Bootcamp - shall focus on awareness and ideation. Phase II - Innovation Bootcamp - will concentrate on refining and redefining the idea through individual mentor sessions and focused intervention on transforming them into ideas worth pursuing.



(Prof Rana P. Singh)

**President IIC, JNU**

**Rector**