

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY 2026



The poster features a central illustration of a rocket launching from a cloud, surrounded by various technology icons like a globe, gears, and a code editor. The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle circuit pattern.

ICFAI UNIVERSITY SIKKIM | **INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL** | **STPI**

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY 2026

LAUNCH OF OPEN CHALLENGE PROGRAM (OCP) 9.0

BY SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARKS OF INDIA (STPI)

STPI OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
SHRI N S SIDDAIAH
Scientist 'F' and Officer Incharge STPI-Gangtok

Tuesday, May 05, 2026

TIME:
2:30 PM
TO
3:30 PM

FACULTY COORDINATORS

- **DR. ROHIT RATHI** - President
- **MS. SANDHAYA RANI PANT** - Vice President & NIRF Coordinator
- **DR. VIVEK PATHAK** - R & D Cell Coordinator

STUDENT COORDINATORS

- **SARTHAK SHARMA** - Student Convenor, IPR Coordinator
- **MANISH KUMAR BAITHA** - Innovation Coordinator
- **KARISHMA KUMARI PRASAD** - Start-up Coordinator
- **NANDINI JAISWAL** - Internship Coordinator
- **ANU KUMARI SHAH** - Social media Coordinator

Event Name: Launch of Open Challenge Program (OCP) 9.0 on National Technology Day 2026

Date: 5th May 2026

Institution: The ICFAI University, Sikkim (Institution's Innovation Council - IIC)

Event Description

The Launch of Open Challenge Program (OCP) 9.0 was organized on the occasion of National Technology Day 2026 by the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) at The ICFAI University, Sikkim. The event aimed to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-driven solutions among students by introducing them to the opportunities provided under OCP 9.0.

The session was delivered by Shri N. S. Siddaiah, Scientist 'F' and Officer In-Charge, STPI Gangtok. He provided valuable insights into the Open Challenge Program, its objectives, and how students and startups can benefit from it. The speaker emphasized the importance of innovation in today's rapidly evolving technological landscape and encouraged students to actively participate in such programs to transform their ideas into impactful solutions.

About OCP 9.0

The Open Challenge Program (OCP) 9.0 is an initiative by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) to support startups and innovators by providing mentorship, infrastructure, and funding opportunities. It focuses on nurturing early-stage ideas and converting them into scalable business solutions.

Session Highlights from OCP 9.0 Presentation (Healthcare & Agritech Focus)

During the event, a detailed presentation on OCP 9.0 focusing on Healthcare and Agritech domains was delivered. The session highlighted the role of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in promoting IT/ITES industries, innovation, and startup ecosystems.

Special emphasis was given to the STPI Gangtok Centre, which operates under the OctaNE (North-East Centres of Entrepreneurship) initiative. This initiative aims to strengthen the startup ecosystem in the North-East region by providing infrastructure, mentorship, funding, and networking opportunities to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The presentation explained that STPI supports emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain, Robotics, Data Science, and more, enabling startups to build innovative and scalable solutions.

Key benefits of OCP 9.0 discussed during the session include:

- Funding support up to ₹15 lakh for prototype and product development
- Incubation facilities with plug-and-play workspace and high-speed connectivity
- Access to advanced labs such as AI, IoT, AR/VR, Data Analytics, and Agritech labs
- Mentorship from industry experts, entrepreneurs, and technical professionals
- Networking opportunities with investors, startup communities, and industry leaders

The program structure was explained in three stages: Formation Stage, Validation Stage, and Test Marketing Stage, guiding startups from idea development to market readiness.

The session also highlighted additional support such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) assistance, legal and compliance support, business strategy mentoring, and opportunities for funding through angel investors and venture capitalists.

Students were informed about the eligibility criteria, selection process, and application timeline, encouraging them to actively participate and take advantage of the program.

Objectives of the Event

- To celebrate National Technology Day by promoting innovation and technology
- To create awareness about the Open Challenge Program (OCP) 9.0
- To encourage students to explore startup opportunities
- To connect students with industry experts and innovation ecosystems
- To motivate participants to develop technology-based solutions for real-world problems

Key Highlights of the Event

- Informative session on OCP 9.0 and its benefits
- Guidance on startup development and incubation support
- Insights into funding opportunities and mentorship
- Interaction with an industry expert from STPI
- Encouragement for students to participate in innovation challenges

Learning Outcomes

- Students gained knowledge about startup ecosystems and incubation programs
- Enhanced understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship
- Awareness of government initiatives supporting startups
- Improved motivation to pursue technology-driven ideas
- Exposure to real-world applications of innovation

Organizing Committee IIC

Faculty Coordinators:

- **Dr. Rohit Rathi** – President
- **Ms. Sandhya Rani Pant** – Vice President & NIRF Coordinator
- **Dr. Vivek Pathak** – R & D Cell Coordinator

Student Coordinators:

- **Sarthak Sharma** – Student Convener, IPR Coordinator
- **Manish Kumar Baitha** – Innovation Coordinator
- **Anu Kumari Shah** – Social Media Coordinator
- **Karishma Kumari Prasad** – Start-up Coordinator
- **Nandini Jaiswal** – Internship Coordinator

Moments from the Event:



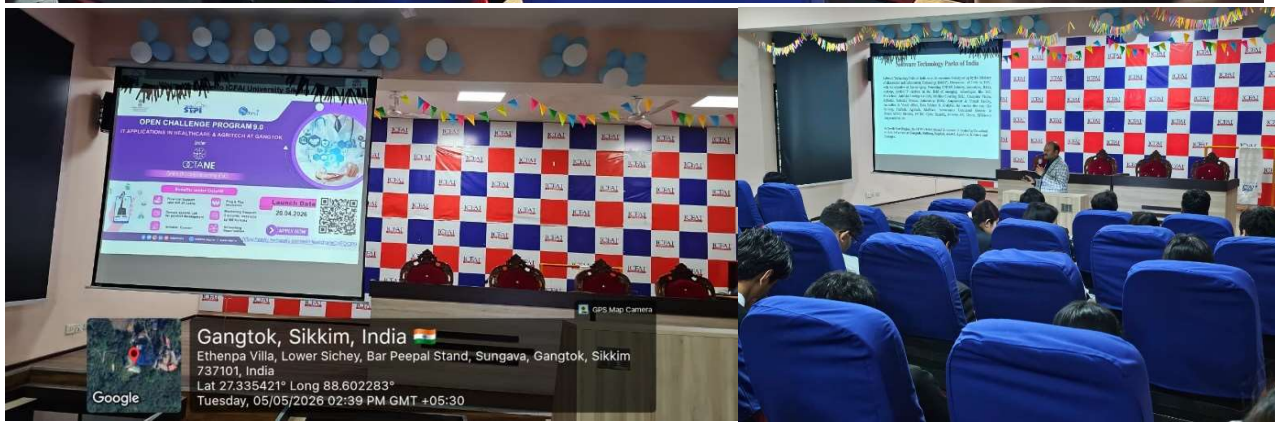
Google

Gangtok, Sikkim, India 🇮🇳
Ethenpa Villa, Lower Sichey, Bar Peepal Stand, Sungava, Gangtok, Sikkim
737101, India
Lat 27.335397° Long 88.602279°
Tuesday, 05/05/2026 02:37 PM GMT +05:30



Google

Gangtok, Sikkim, India 🇮🇳
Ethenpa Villa, Lower Sichey, Bar Peepal Stand, Sungava, Gangtok, Sikkim
737101, India
Lat 27.335403° Long 88.602297°
Tuesday, 05/05/2026 02:55 PM GMT +05:30



Google

Gangtok, Sikkim, India 🇮🇳
Ethenpa Villa, Lower Sichey, Bar Peepal Stand, Sungava, Gangtok, Sikkim
737101, India
Lat 27.335421° Long 88.602283°
Tuesday, 05/05/2026 02:39 PM GMT +05:30



Conclusion

The launch of Open Challenge Program (OCP) 9.0 on National Technology Day 2026 served as an important initiative to inspire students towards innovation and entrepreneurship. The session provided valuable insights into startup support systems, funding opportunities, and the role of technology in solving real-world challenges.

The event successfully reinforced the university's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and empowering students to become future-ready entrepreneurs. It encouraged participants to take advantage of platforms like OCP 9.0 to transform their ideas into impactful and sustainable solutions.