



14th October 2024

**We Cordially Invite you all for the  
NITT's Premier Entrepreneurship Talk Series**

**Entrepreneurial Horizons:  
The Founder's Forum**

**Ignite Your Entrepreneurial Journey at CEDI**



**Ankit Mehta, IdeaForge**



**Ganapathy Subramaniam,  
Yali Capital**

**Faculty focused Group Session : 11.00 AM - 12.30 PM**

**Students Open House Session : 3.00 PM - 4.30 PM**

**CEDI Pre-Incubation Program & Investor Session**

**Free Registration**

<https://forms.gle/4XamMskHe4osU3sZ6>

**Email: [cedioffice@nitt.edu](mailto:cedioffice@nitt.edu)**



## EMINENT SPEAKERS' PROFILE



**Ankit Mehta** is the CEO and Co-founder of **ideaForge**, a pioneering and leading drone technology company in India, specializing in defense and civil applications. Ankit co-founded ideaForge shortly after earning his Dual Degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Bombay in 2005. Since registering ideaForge in 2007, Ankit and his team have positioned the company as a global leader in **dual-use drone manufacturing**.

Under Ankit's leadership, **ideaForge** achieved a remarkable distinction in 2023, ranking **5th among the world's top dual-use drone manufacturers**, according to Drone Industry Insights. That same year, ideaForge saw further growth when it was listed on both the **BSE** and **NSE**, attracting significant interest from institutional and retail investors. The company's **IPO** was oversubscribed by an impressive **106 times**, marking the highest over-subscription since December 2021 for IPOs over ₹500 crore on the mainboard. The stock experienced a **94% gain** on its listing, reflecting the company's strong market position and investor confidence.

Ankit and ideaForge have received widespread recognition for their achievements. They have been honored with prestigious awards from the **Marico Innovation Foundation**, **CNBC-TV18**, **Dun and Bradstreet**, **ET 40 under Forty**, and the **Government of India** for their contributions to Intellectual Property and Indigenous Technology Products. Additionally, Ankit, along with the other IITB co-founders of ideaForge, received the **Young Alumni Achiever Award** from **IIT Bombay**. Beyond his business successes, Ankit has played an influential role in shaping **UAV regulations and policies** in India. As **Co-Chair of the FICCI Committee on Drones**, he has been instrumental in providing neutral and constructive policy suggestions, positively contributing to the growth of the drone industry.

At his core, Ankit remains a technologist. He is a **co-inventor of several patents** at ideaForge, highlighting his deep passion for innovation and technological advancement.

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**Ganapathy Subramaniam (Gani)** is the Founding Managing Partner of **Yali Capital** and an advisor to **Celesta Capital**. With over **30 years of experience** in the deep tech industry, Gani has held leadership positions across several renowned organizations. He currently serves on the boards of **Tonbo Imaging** (Singapore), **Kyulux** (Japan), **Cirel Systems** (India), **ideaForge** (India), and **GalaxEye** (India). Previously, he was a partner at **Celesta Capital** for eight years, where he contributed to the firm's growth and success.

In his personal capacity, Gani has made strategic investments in cutting-edge deep tech companies, including **Haystack Genomics**, **Ethereal Machines**, **Nano Semi** (USA), and **Atonarp** (Japan).

Gani co-founded **Cosmic Circuits** in 2005 and served as its CEO until its exit. Under his leadership, Cosmic Circuits became a prominent player in **Analog and Mixed Signal IP**. The company was twice awarded the **TSMC IP Partner Award**, with over **100 million ICs** shipped annually using Cosmic Circuits' technology. In 2013, **Cadence** acquired Cosmic Circuits, further cementing its success. Gani also served as Chairman of **Cirel Systems**, which was acquired by **Micron** in 2023. Before founding Cosmic Circuits, Gani held senior management positions at **Texas Instruments**, where he served as **Director of the Mixed Signal Technology Center** and **Director of WLAN Engineering**.

Gani holds a **Bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering** from the **National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy**, where he was recognized as the **Best Outgoing Student**. He has been actively involved in industry leadership, serving as an executive council member of the **Indian Semiconductor Association** from 2011-2013. Gani has received numerous accolades, including the **Silicon India Youngest Entrepreneur Award** in 2012 and the **EDN ASIA Innovator Award** in 2000. In 2016, he was honored as a **Distinguished Alumni** of NIT Trichy.

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