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Salem, 30 October 2026: Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University) (VMRF(DU)), Salem, and Intuitive Data Solutions Inc. (IDS), USA, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Centre of Excellence in Frontier Technologies at VMRF(DU). The initiative aims to strengthen industry-academia collaboration, promote technology-oriented learning and advance applied research in emerging technology domains.

The MoU, signed on 30 October 2026, establishes a framework for collaboration in key areas, including Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Blockchain, Web3, Cloud Computing and Information Security. Through structured training, hands-on learning and industry engagement, the initiative seeks to equip students with practical exposure to advanced technologies and skills aligned with evolving industry requirements.

The signing ceremony was held at the VMRF(DU) campus in Salem at 12.00 noon. The MoU was signed by Dr. A. Nagappan, Registrar, VMRF(DU), and Mr. Sunil Subrahmanyam, Vice-President, Intuitive Data Solutions Inc., in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) P. K. Sudhir, Vice-Chancellor, VMRF(DU). Mr. Sandeep Samala, Deputy Director – International Relations, VMRF(DU), was present at the ceremony, along with the university's Principals, Directors and senior officers.

The initiative was led by the Office of International Relations, VMRF(DU), which facilitated the engagement and coordination for this industry-academia collaboration. The partnership reflects the university's continued efforts to build meaningful industry connections and create opportunities for students to gain practical experience in emerging technology fields.

Mr. Sudharshan Reddy Minunula, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Intuitive Data Solutions Inc., conveyed his best wishes for the collaboration and expressed his support for the initiative, which seeks to create new learning and career-development opportunities for students in frontier technologies.

Key Areas of Collaboration

The MoU envisages collaboration in several important areas, including:

- Establishment and joint operation of a Centre of Excellence in Frontier Technologies at VMRF(DU).
- Training and skill development in Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain, Web3, Cloud Computing and Information Security.

- Implementation of an 80:20 practical-to-theory learning model, with emphasis on hands-on training and experiential learning.
- Organization of technical workshops, specialised training programmes and industry-oriented certification courses.
- Opportunities for students to undertake live projects, internships and industry-related assignments.
- Faculty development programmes and knowledge-sharing initiatives in emerging technology domains.
- Promotion of collaborative research and development activities, student projects and technical hackathons.
- Encouragement of innovation, startup mentorship and potential intellectual property generation.
- Exploration of industry engagement and career development opportunities through IDS and its professional network.

Expected Impact

The collaboration is expected to strengthen the connection between academic learning and industry requirements by providing students with opportunities to acquire practical knowledge and skills in emerging technology domains. The Centre of Excellence will serve as a platform for experiential learning, technical training and industry-oriented project work.

It is also expected to create opportunities for faculty members and students to engage in collaborative research, innovation and technology development. The initiative will contribute towards enhancing students' professional competencies, industry readiness and employability while strengthening VMRF(DU)'s engagement with the technology sector.

Intuitive Data Solutions Inc., which operates in the United States and India, has reported establishing 18 Centres of Excellence and providing emerging technology training to more than 20,000 students. The organisation has also reported patent filings, internship and job facilitation activities, and technical challenges and hackathons as part of its industry engagement initiatives.

The MoU will remain in force for a period of three years and marks a step towards developing a sustained partnership between VMRF(DU) and Intuitive Data Solutions Inc. in frontier technologies, industry-oriented education and collaborative innovation.