

**MHRD's Innovation Cell at AICTE**  
For Fostering Innovation in the Higher Educational Institutions  
(Ministry of Human Resource Development)

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There are innumerable challenges being faced by the humanity in areas such as environment, education, economy, employment entrepreneurship, energy, water, food, security, transportation, materials, manufacturing etc. Innovation and innovation alone can solve these challenges. Our young bright students have brilliant out of the box innovative ideas. Hence to nurture young minds and solve problems of humanity Innovation Cell is being planned by Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India with the special mandate to promote activities involving education sector to foster the culture of appreciating, nurturing, supporting and handholding new ideas. The proposed cell needs to actively engage with institutions organizing different innovation initiative/events/programs to achieve the desired impact. The innovation cell is being set up in AICTE.

One of the key reasons for India's low GII ranking, is its poor performance on HRD related parameters. As the proposed Innovation Cell will be directly under MHRD, it will be able to positively influence the education sector in a much faster manner than any other agency in India. Moreover, Innovation cell will be able to effectively coordinate activities with various education agencies under state governments to ensure that desired goals are percolated to the base of the pyramid and every corner of our nation. This cell shall also identify and plug loopholes in current ecosystem, IPR policies, funding mechanism for long term success.

**Mandate and Terms of Reference for 'Innovation Cell' under Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India**

The proposed Innovation Cell under Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India set up in AICTE needs to undertake various initiatives required to foster '**Think In India**' culture and brand India as emerging '**Global Innovation Hub**'. The terms of reference are as follows

- 1) Focus on IPPP (Innovate, Patent, Production and Prosper) Approach as suggested by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
- 2) Innovation cell will coordinate with HEIs and the schools (NITI Aayog supported tinkering labs) in order to start **Innovation Clubs** in each institution. The orientation, guidance and engaging with the Innovation clubs so that there are innovation events year-long in each institution shall be the top-most agenda of the Innovation Clubs.
- 3) The Innovation Clubs needs to engage with various national and international agencies, government departments, private organization and NGOs to ensure that different Innovation initiatives conducted across India are appropriately coordinated and precise data are collected related to success, outcome and impact of these initiatives. Moreover, failures, if any, need to be elaborately documented to avoid such failures in future.
- 4) One of the major reasons for India's lower ranking in GII could be unavailability of data or correct data collated and supplied to ranking agencies. Innovation cell needs to engage with a different government, private and non-profit organizations and enable/guide them to systematically collect all the data required for submission to various ranking agencies.

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- 5) Engage with international ranking agencies to ensure that parameters considered for ranking are relevant for India and India's point-of-view is accommodated. Thus safeguarding India's national interests.
- 6) Engage with national ranking agencies which rank universities, colleges and schools to ensure enough emphasis is given on innovation related parameters while ranking.
- 7) Coordinate with different governmental and non-governmental organizations to organize international, national, state-level and local-level innovation initiatives like Hackathons, Tech-fests, Shodh-Yatras, Grand Challenges, mini-challenges, idea and innovation competitions, innovation discovery trips, study tours, institute awards, science-maths competitions, idea exhibitions, product exhibitions, idea/business pitching session for fund raising, newspaper articles, social media connect, TV programs and reality shows for promoting innovations and success stories of innovators.
- 8) Create guidelines for '**India Innovation Index**' for ranking Indian education institutions and private companies.
- 9) Design policy of "**Rewards and Recognition**" for researchers in research institutions and Professors/Associate Professors/Assistant Professor in education institutions scoring high on **India Innovation Index** or have proven ability to innovate.
- 10) Pursue various central ministries/department and state governments to earmark specific funding to boost support for identifying ideas, incubate them and spur start-ups.
- 11) Establish '**Innovation Fund**' to support innovative projects/start-ups from school and college students and youngsters.
- 12) Enable universities/researcher institutions/schools to partner with foreign firms and collaborate with India's own emerging start-up ecosystem to test new ideas, scale up, and reap the dividends of innovation.
- 13) Engage with different agencies under central HRD ministry and state HRD ministry to ensure that material related to innovation and creativity is included in school and college curriculum e.g. chapters on success stories of innovations and innovators in school and college text books/ reference books. Also help tweak the evaluation/examination systems which will enable evaluation of student's ability to innovate and think-out-of-the-box.
- 14) Engage with different governmental and non-governmental funding agencies, investors, Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) and private incubators to coordinate various activities related to innovation, so that a strong and sustainable "Start-up" and "Entrepreneurial" ecosystem is developed.
- 15) India would benefit from a sustainable innovation ecosystem backed by a strong IP rights framework that incentivises domestic innovation, attracts foreign investors, boosts collaboration, and improves access to innovation. Innovation cell needs to play active role in creating this framework.

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- 16) Help evolve student's start-up policy enabling students from schools, colleges and universities create start-ups and raise funding on the lines of AICTE's Start-up policy launched by President of India on November 16, 2016.
- 17) With the National IPR Policy, India is moving in the right direction. The policy's education and awareness programmes constitute a bottom-up approach, shattering the myth of elitism attached to IP as a tool for innovation. Innovation cell shall coordinate with Indian IPR agency to further evolve evidence-based policy-making for IP framework
- 18) Pricing policies for innovative products should reflect the return of fair value for innovation. Pricing policies that do not properly value innovation have the impact of undermining and devaluing IP and access to innovation. Innovation cell needs to work on defining broad contours of pricing policies.
- 19) Start newsletter, publication, online-video channels for highlighting success stories of innovators, out-of-the-box thinkers, successful innovative business leaders and personalities who have contributed to the development of humanity in innovative manner.
- 20) Represent India in various national and international forums/meetings/conference/symposiums/seminars/events for highlighting India's ability to innovate and capabilities of our ecosystem for fostering innovation.
- 21) Engage with PR agencies to organize out-reach programs and PR initiative to promote **'Think in India'** philosophy and brand India as emerging **'Global Innovation Hub'**.
- 22) Commission reports and studies related to innovation, science and research to examine the status of current innovation ecosystems and identify loopholes which need to be plugged to ensure better impact.

### **Location of the proposed Innovation Cell in Delhi with sub-centres across India**

The Innovation Cell shall be an independent entity directly under Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India located and supported by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. It will work through its regional offices and various innovation cells set up in the educational institutions and will ensure seamless coordination between various central govt. departments, state governments and incubators.