



# Agni College of Technology



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## INNOVATION AND STARTUP POLICY 2022



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# **Agni College of Technology**

## **ACT INNOVATION and STARTUP Policy 2022 for Students and Faculty**

(in line with the National Innovation and Start-up Policy)

### **Preface**

The Innovation and Startup Policy 2022 for students and faculty of Agni College of Technology (ACT) will enable active engagement of students, faculties and staff in innovation and entrepreneurship related activities. This framework will support the efforts of Ministry of Education (MoE) to bring uniformity across HEIs in terms of Intellectual Property ownership management, technology licensing and institutional Startup policy, thus enabling creation of a robust innovation and Startup ecosystem across all HEIs. The committee members formulated the guidelines after careful thought processing and time-consuming deliberations for promoting innovation and start up culture at ACT and formulated the mechanism for identification, promotion, technology transfer and commercialization of innovative ideas. This will also set clear guidelines for new incubation facilities for students, to turn the existing research activities of various departments into their own entrepreneurship opportunities. In the next five years, ACT plans to start several interdisciplinary research programs and incubator facilities as per the implementation of the NISP-2022 mandate, in collaboration with reputed industries, academic and research organizations at the National & International level.

## Members

| S.No. | Name                     | Designation                                   |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Dr. Srinivasan Alavandar | Principal                                     |
| 2     | Dr. A. Kalaimurugan      | ACT IIC President and Professor & Head, EEE   |
| 3     | Dr. J. P. Josh Kumar     | NISP Coordinator and Associate Professor, ECE |
| 4     | Dr. T. Anand             | IPR Cell Incharge and Professor & Head, M&A   |
| 5     | Dr. Ishwarya. M. V       | EDC Incharge and Academic Coordinator, AIDS   |
| 6     | Mr. P. Purushothaman     | IIC Convener and AP, Mechanical               |
| 7     | Mr. Dhayabaran. D        | Industry Expert                               |
| 8     | Mr. Ariharan T           | Alumni & Industry Expert                      |
| 9     | Mr. Shyam Kumar          | Alumni & Industry Expert                      |

## Policy Drafting and Implementation Team

1. Dr. Srinivasan Alavandar, Principal
2. Dr. A. Kalaimurugan, ACT IIC President and Professor & Head, EEE
3. Dr. J. P. Josh Kumar, ACT NISP Coordinator and Associate Professor, ECE
4. Dr. T. Anand, IPR Cell Incharge and Professor & Head, M&A
5. Dr. Ishwarya. M. V, EDC Incharge and Academic Coordinator, AIDS

## **1. Strategies and Governance**

a. Entrepreneurship promotion and development to be one of the major dimensions of Agni College of Technology strategy. To facilitate development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the organization, specific objectives and associated performance indicators should be defined for assessment.

b. ACT encourages the implementation of entrepreneurial vision at the institute through mission statements rather than stringent control system. The entrepreneurial agenda responsibility should start from the top management of ACT & Principal and be the responsibility of all the Heads and senior faculty from each department and must be well understood by all stake holders.

c. Resource mobilisation plan should be worked out at the institute for supporting pre-incubation, incubation infrastructure and facilities. A sustainable financial strategy should be defined in order to reduce the organizational constraints to work on the entrepreneurial agenda.

i. Investment in the entrepreneurial activities should be a part of the institutional financial strategy. Minimum 1% fund of the total annual budget of the institution should be allocated for funding and supporting innovation and startups related activities.

ii. The strategy should also involve raising funds from diverse sources to reduce dependency on the public funding. Bringing in external funding through government (state and central) such as DST, DBT, MHRD, AICTE, TDB, TIFAC, DSIR, CSIR, BIRAC, NSTEDB, NRDC, Startup India, Invest India, MeitY, MSDE, MSME, etc. and non-government sources should be encouraged.

iii. To support technology incubators, ACT may approach private and corporate sectors to generate funds, under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as per Section 135 of the Company Act 2013.

iv. ACT may also raise funding through sponsorships and donations. ACT should actively engage alumni network for promoting Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E).

d. For expediting the decision making, hierarchical barriers should be minimized and individual autonomy and ownership of initiatives should be promoted.

e. Importance of innovation and entrepreneurial agenda should be known across the institute and should be promoted and highlighted at all programs such as conferences, convocations, workshops, etc.

f. Action plan needs to be formulated, with well-defined short-term and long-term goals. Micro action plan should also be developed to accomplish the policy objectives.

g. I & E strategy and policy should be developed and implemented across all departments in order to integrate the entrepreneurial activities without any silos.

h. Product to market strategy for startups should be developed on case-to-case basis.

i. Development of entrepreneurship culture should not be limited within the boundaries of the institution.

i. ACT should strive to be the driving force in developing entrepreneurship culture in its vicinity (regional, social and community level). This shall include giving opportunity for regional startups, provision to extend facilities for outsiders and active involvement of the institute in defining strategic direction for local development.

ii. Strategic international partnerships should be developed using bilateral and multilateral channels with international innovation clusters and other relevant organizations. Moreover, international exchange programs, internships, engaging the international faculties in teaching and research should also be promoted.

## **2. Startups Enabling Institutional Infrastructure**

Creation of pre-incubation and incubation facilities for nurturing innovations and startups in the institute should be undertaken. Incubation and Innovation need to be organically interlinked. Without innovation, new enterprises are unlikely to succeed. The goal of the effort should be to link INNOVATION to ENTREPRISES to FINANCIALSUCCESS.

a. Facilities to be created within the institute for supporting pre-incubation and Incubation/ acceleration by mobilizing resources from internal and external sources.

b. This Pre-Incubation / Incubation facility should be accessible 24x7 to students, staff and faculty of all disciplines and departments across the institution.

c. Pre-incubation facilities may or may not be a separately registered entity or Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), but it is recommended that 'Incubation cum Technology Commercialization Unit'(ITCU) should be a separate entity preferably registered under Section-8 of Company Act 2013 or 'Society' registered under Society Registration Act with independent governance structure. This will allow more freedom to Incubators in decision making with less administrative hassles for executing the programs related to innovation, IPR and Startups. Moreover, they will have better accountability towards investors supporting the incubation facility.

d. Institution may offer mentoring and other relevant services through Pre-incubation / Incubation units in-return for fees, equity sharing and (or) zero payment basis. The modalities

regarding Equity Sharing in Startups supported through these units will depend upon the nature of services offered by these units and are elaborately explained in Section 3.

### **3. Nurturing Innovations and Start ups**

a. Processes and mechanisms needs to established for easy creation and nurturing of Startups / enterprises by students (UG, PG, Ph.D.), staff (including temporary or project staff), faculty, alumni and potential start up applicants even from outside the institutions.

b. While defining their processes, institution need to ensure to achieve following:

i. Incubation support: Offer access to pre-incubation & Incubation facility to start ups by students, staff and faculty for mutually acceptable time-frame.

In case if some specific facility / infrastructure is not available in the institute, steps can be taken to reach out to nearest incubation facilities in other HEIs in order to facilitate access to our students, staff and faculty.

ii. Allow licensing of IPR from institute to start up: Ideally students and faculty members intending to initiate a startup based on the technology developed or co-developed by them or the technology owned by the institute, should be allowed to take a license on the said technology on easy term, either in terms of equity in the venture and / or license fees and / or royalty to obviate the early stage financial burden.

iii. Allow setting up a startup (including social startups) and working part-time for the start ups while studying / working. Institute may allow students / staff to work on their innovative projects and setting up startups (including Social Startups) or work as intern / part-time in startups (incubated in any recognized HEIs/Incubators) while studying / working.

c. Students who are under incubation, but are pursuing some entrepreneurial ventures while studying can be allowed to use their address in the institute to register their company with due permission from the institution.

d. Students entrepreneurs should be allowed to sit for the examination, even if their attendance is less and within the minimum permissible percentage prescribed by Anna University, with due permission from the Head of the institute.

e. Students can be allowed to take a semester/year break (or even more depending upon the decision of review committee constituted by the institute) to work on their start-ups and re-join academics to complete the course.

f. The institute should explore provision of accommodation to the entrepreneurs within the campus for some period of time.

g. Allow faculty and staff to take off for a semester / year (or even more depending upon the decision of review committee constituted by the institute) as sabbatical / unpaid leave/ casual leave/ earned leave for working on startups and come back. Institution should consider allowing use of its resource to faculty/students/staff wishing to establish start up as a fulltime effort. The seniority and other academic benefits during such period may be preserved for such staff or faculty.

h. Conduct frequent entrepreneurship development program.

i. Institute will facilitate the startup activities/ technology development by allowing students / faculty / staff to use institute infrastructure and facilities, as per the choice of the potential entrepreneur in the following manners:

i. Short-term / six-month / one-year part-time entrepreneurship training.

ii Mentorship support on regular basis.

iii. Facilitation in a variety of areas including technology development, ideation, creativity, design thinking, fund raising, financial management, cash-flow management, new venture planning, business development, product development, social entrepreneurship, product costing, marketing, brand-development, human resource management as well as law and regulations impacting a business.

iv. Institute may also link the startups to other seed-fund providers / angel funds / venture funds or itself may set up seed-fund once the incubation activities mature.

v. License institute IPR as discussed in section 4 below.

j. In return of the services and facilities, institute may take 2% to 9.5% equity / stake in the startup / company, based on brand used, faculty contribution, support provided and use of institute's IPR. The factors for consideration should be space, infrastructure, mentorship support, seed funds, support for accounts, legal, patents etc.

- For staff and faculty, institute can take no-more than 20% of shares that staff / faculty takes while drawing full salary from the institution; however, this share will be within the 9.5% cap of company shares, listed above.

- No restriction on shares that faculty / staff can take, as long as they do not spend more than 20% of office time on the startup in advisory or consultative role and do not compromise with their existing academic and administrative work / duties. In case the faculty / staff holds the executive or managerial position for more than three months in a startup, then they can go on sabbatical / leave without pay / earned leave.

- In case of compulsory equity model, Startup may be given a cooling period of 3 months to use incubation services on rental basis to take a final decision based on

satisfaction of services offered by the institute / incubator. In that case, during the cooling period, institute should not force startup to issue equity on the first day of granting incubation support.

k. The institute should also provide services based on mixture of equity, fee-based and / or zero payment model. So, a startup may choose to avail only the support, not seed funding, by the institute on rental basis.

l. Institute could extend this startup facility to alumni of the institute as well as outsiders.

m. Participation in startup related activities needs to be considered as a legitimate activity of faculty in addition to teaching, R&D projects, industrial consultancy and management duties and must be considered while evaluating the annual performance of the faculty. Every faculty may be encouraged to mentor at least one startup.

n. Product development and commercialization as well as participating and nurturing of startups would now be added to a bucket of faculty-duties and each faculty would choose a mix and match of these activities (in addition to minimum required teaching and guidance) and then respective faculty are evaluated accordingly for their performance and promotion.

o. Institutions might also need to update / change / revise performance evaluation policies for faculty and staff as stated above.

p. Institute should ensure that at no stage any liability accrue to it because of any activity of any startup.

q. Where a student / faculty startup policy is pre-existing in an institute, then the institute may consider modifying their policy in spirit of these guidelines.

#### **4. Product Ownership Rights for Technologies Developed at Institute**

a. When institute facilities / funds are used substantially or when IPR is developed as a part of curriculum/ academic activity, IPR is to be jointly owned by inventors and the institute.

i. Inventors and institute could together license the product / IPR to any commercial organisation, with inventors having the primary say. License fees could be either / or a mix of:

1. Upfront fees or one-time technology transfer fees
2. Royalty as a percentage of sale-price
3. Shares in the company licensing the product

ii. An institute may not be allowed to hold the equity as per the current statute, so SPV may be requested to hold equity on their behalf.

- iii. If one or more of the inventors wish to incubate a company and license the product to this company, the royalties would be no more than 4% of sale price, preferably 1 to 2%, unless it is pure software product. If it is shares in the company, shares will again be 1% to 4%. For a pure software product licensing, there may be a revenue sharing to be mutually decided between the institute and the incubated company.
- b. On the other hand, if product / IPR is developed by innovators not using any institute facilities, outside office hours (for staff and faculty) or not as a part of curriculum by student, then product / IPR will be entirely owned by inventors in proportion to the contributions made by them. In this case, inventors can decide to license the technology to third parties or use the technology the way they deem fit.
- c. If there is a dispute in ownership, a minimum five membered committee consisting of two faculty members (having developed sufficient IPR and translated to commercialisation), two of the institute's alumni / industry experts (having experience in technology commercialisation) and one legal advisor with experience in IPR, will examine the issue after meeting the inventors and help them settle this, hopefully to everybody's satisfaction. Institute can also use alumni / faculty of other institutes as members, if they cannot find sufficiently experienced alumni / faculty of their own.
- d. Institute IPR cell or incubation centre will only be a coordinator and facilitator for providing services to faculty, staff and students. They will have no say on how the invention is carried out, how it is patented or how it is to be licensed. If institute is to pay for patent filing, they can have a committee which can examine whether the IPR is worth patenting. The committee should consist of faculty who have experience and excelled in technology translation. If inventors are using their own funds or non-institute funds, then they alone should have a say in patenting.
- e. All institute's decision-making body with respect to incubation / IPR / technology-licensing will consist of faculty and experts who have excelled in technology translation. Other faculty in the department / institute will have no say, including department heads & head of the institute.
- f. Interdisciplinary research and publication on startup and entrepreneurship should be promoted by the institution.

## **5. Organizational Capacity, Human Resources and Incentives**

- a. Institute should recruit staff that have a strong innovation and entrepreneurial / industrial experience, behaviour and attitude. This will help in fostering the I&E culture.

- i. Some of the relevant faculty members with prior exposure and interest should be deputed for training to promote I&E.
  - ii. To achieve better engagement of staff in entrepreneurial activities, institutional policy on career development of staff should be developed with constant upskilling.
- b. Faculty and departments of the institutes have to work in coherence and cross-departmental linkages should be strengthened through shared faculty, cross-faculty teaching and research in order to gain maximum utilization of internal resources and knowledge.
- c. Periodically some external subject matter experts such as guest lecturers or alumni can be engaged for strategic advice and bringing in skills which are not available internally.
- d. Faculty and staff should be encouraged to do courses on innovation, entrepreneurship management and venture development.
- e. In order to attract and retain right people, institute should develop academic and non-academic incentives and reward mechanisms for all staff and stakeholders that actively contribute and support entrepreneurship agenda and activities.
  - i. The reward system for the staff may include sabbaticals, office and lab space for entrepreneurial activities, reduced teaching loads, awards, trainings, etc.
  - ii. The recognition of the stakeholders may include offering use of facilities and services, strategy for shared risk, as guest teachers, fellowships, associateships, etc.
  - iii. A performance matrix should be developed and used for evaluation of annual performance.

## **6. Creating Innovation Pipeline and Pathways for Entrepreneurs at Institute Level**

- a. To ensure exposure of maximum students to innovation and pre incubation activities at their early stage and to support the pathway from ideation to innovation to market, mechanisms should be devised at institution level.
  - i. Spreading awareness among students, faculty and staff about the value of entrepreneurship and its role in career development or employability should be a part of the institutional entrepreneurial agenda.
  - ii. Students / staff should be taught that innovation (technology, process or business innovation) is a mechanism to solve the problems of the society and consumers. Entrepreneurs should innovate with focus on the market niche.
  - iii. Students should be encouraged to develop entrepreneurial mindset through experiential learning by exposing them to training in cognitive skills (e.g. design thinking, critical thinking, etc.), by inviting first generation local entrepreneurs or

experts to address young minds. Initiatives like idea and innovation competitions, hackathons, workshops, bootcamps, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, mentoring by academic and industry personnel, throwing real life challenges, awards and recognition should be routinely organized.

iv. To prepare the students for creating the startup through the education, integration of education activities with enterprise-related activities should be done.

b. The institute should link their startups and companies with wider entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing support to students who show potential, in pre-startup phase. Connecting student entrepreneurs with real life entrepreneurs will help the students in understanding real challenges which may be faced by them while going through the innovation funnel and will increase the probability of success.

c. The institute should establish Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) as per the guidelines of MHRD's Innovation Cell and allocate appropriate budget for its activities. IICs guidance / mentorship should be well utilized in conducting various activities related to innovation, startup and entrepreneurship development. Collective and concentrated efforts should be undertaken to identify, scout, acknowledge, support and reward proven student ideas and innovations and to further facilitate their entrepreneurial journey.

d. For strengthening the innovation funnel of the institute, access to financing must be opened for the potential entrepreneurs.

i. Networking events must be organized to create a platform for the budding entrepreneurs to meet investors and pitch their ideas.

ii. Provide business incubation facilities: premises at subsidised cost. Laboratories, research facilities, IT services, training, mentoring, etc. should be accessible to the new startups.

iii. A culture needs to be promoted to understand that money is not FREE and the risk is capital. The entrepreneur must utilize these funds and return. While funding is taking risk on the entrepreneur, it is an obligation of the entrepreneur to make every effort possible to prove that the funding agency did right in funding him / her.

e. Institute must develop a ready reckoner of Innovation Tool Kit, which must be kept on the homepage on institute's website to answer the doubts and queries of the innovators and enlisting the facilities available at the institute.

## **7. Norms for Faculty Startups**

a. For better coordination of the entrepreneurial activities, norms for faculty to do startups should be created by the institute. Only those technologies should be taken for faculty startups which originate from within the same institute.

i. Role of faculty may vary from being an owner / direct promoter, mentor, consultant or as on-board member of the startup.

ii. Institutes should work on developing a policy on 'conflict of interests' to ensure that the regular duties of the faculty don't suffer owing to his / her involvement in the startup activities.

iii. Faculty startup may consist of faculty members alone or with students or with faculty of other institutes or with alumni or with other entrepreneurs.

b. In case the faculty / staff holds the executive or managerial position for more than three months in a startup, they will go on sabbatical / leave without pay / utilize existing leave.

c. Faculty must clearly separate and distinguish on-going research at the institute from the work conducted at the startup / company.

d. In case of selection of a faculty start up by an outside national or international accelerator, a maximum leave (as sabbatical / existing leave / unpaid leave / casual leave / earned leave) of one semester r/ year (or even more depending upon the decision of review committee constituted by the institute) may be permitted to the faculty.

e. Faculty must not accept gifts from the startup.

f. Faculty must not involve research staff or other staff of institute in activities at the startup and vice-versa.

g. Human subject related research in startup should get clearance from ethics committee of the institution.

## **8. Pedagogy and Learning Interventions for Entrepreneurship Development**

a. Diversified approach should be adopted to produce desirable learning outcomes, which should include cross disciplinary learning using mentors, labs, case studies, games, etc. in place of traditional lecture-based delivery.

i. Student clubs / bodies / departments must be created for organizing competitions, bootcamps, workshops, awards, etc. These bodies should be involved in institutional strategy planning to ensure enhancement of the student's thinking and responding ability.

- ii. Institute should start annual 'INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD' to recognize outstanding ideas, successful enterprises and contributors for promoting innovation and enterprises ecosystem within the institute.
  - iii. For creating awareness among the students, the teaching methods should include case studies on business failure and real-life experience reports by startups.
  - iv. Tolerating and encouraging failures needs to be developed as part of institute's philosophy and culture, this can be done by elaborately discussing failure and debating to imbibe that failure as part of life, thus helping in reducing the social stigma associated with it.
  - v. Innovation champions should be nominated from within the students / faculty/ staff for each department / stream of study.
- b. Entrepreneurship education should be imparted to students at curricular / co-curricular/ extra-curricular level through elective / short term or long-term courses on innovation, entrepreneurship and venture development. Validated learning outcomes should be made available to the students.
- i. Integration of expertise of the external stakeholders should be done in the entrepreneurship education to evolve a culture of collaboration and engagement with external environment.
  - ii. In the beginning of every academic session, institute should conduct an induction program about the importance of I&E so that freshly inducted students are made aware about the entrepreneurial agenda of the institute and available support systems. Curriculum for the entrepreneurship education should be continuously updated based on entrepreneurship research outcomes. This should also include case studies on failures.
  - iii. Industry linkages should be leveraged for conducting research and survey on trends in technology, research, innovation, and market intelligence.
  - iv. Sensitization of students should be done for their understanding on expected learning outcomes.
  - v. Student innovators, startups, experts must be engaged in the dialogue process while developing the strategy so that it becomes need based.
  - vi. Customized teaching and training materials should be developed for startups.
  - vii. It must be noted that not everyone can become an entrepreneur. The entrepreneur is a leader, who would convert an innovation successfully into a product, others may join the leader and work for the startup. It is important to understand that

entrepreneurship is about risk taking. One must carefully evaluate whether a student is capable and willing to take risk.

c. Pedagogical changes need to be done to ensure that maximum number of student projects and innovations are based around real life challenges. Learning interventions developed by the institutes for inculcating entrepreneurial culture should be constantly reviewed and updated.

## **9. Collaboration, Co-creation, Business Relationships and Knowledge Exchange**

a. Stakeholder engagement should be given prime importance in the entrepreneurial agenda of the institute. Institute should find potential partners, resource organizations, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), social enterprises, schools, alumni, professional bodies and entrepreneurs to support entrepreneurship and co-design the programs.

i. To encourage co-creation, bi-directional flow / exchange of knowledge and people should be ensured between institutes such as incubators, science parks, etc.

ii. Institute should organize networking events for better engagement of collaborators and should open up the opportunities for staff, faculty and students to allow constant flow of ideas and knowledge through meetings, workshops, space for collaboration, lectures, etc.

iii. Mechanism should be developed by the institute to capitalize on the knowledge gained through these collaborations.

iv. Care must be taken to ensure that events DON'T BECOME an end goal. First focus of the incubator should be to create successful ventures.

b. The institute should develop policy and guidelines for forming and managing the relationships with external stakeholders including private industries.

c. Knowledge exchange through collaboration and partnership should be made a part of institutional policy and institutes must provide support mechanisms and guidance for creating, managing and coordinating these relationships.

i. Through formal and informal mechanisms such as internships, teaching and research exchange programmes, clubs, social gatherings, etc., faculty, staff and students of the institute should be given the opportunities to connect with their external environment.

ii. Connect of the institute with the external environment must be leveraged in form of absorbing information and experience from the external ecosystem into the institute's environment.

- iii. Single Point of Contact (SPOC) mechanism should be created in the institute for the students, faculty, collaborators, partners and other stakeholders to ensure access to information.
- iv. Mechanisms should be devised by the institutions to ensure maximum exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunities with industrial and commercial collaborators.
- v. Knowledge management should be done by the institute through development of innovation knowledge platform using inhouse Information & Communication Technology (ICT) capabilities.

## **10. Entrepreneurial Impact Assessment**

- a. Impact assessment of institute's entrepreneurial initiatives such as pre-incubation, incubation, entrepreneurship education should be performed regularly using well defined evaluation parameters.
  - i. Monitoring and evaluation of knowledge exchange initiatives, engagement of all departments and faculty in the entrepreneurial teaching and learning should be assessed.
  - ii. Number of startups created, support system provided at the institutional level and satisfaction of participants, new business relationships created by the institutes should be recorded and used for impact assessment.
  - iii. Impact should also be measured for the support system provided by the institute to the student entrepreneurs, faculty and staff for pre-incubation, incubation, IPR protection, industry linkages, exposure to entrepreneurial ecosystem, etc.
- b. Formulation of strategy and impact assessment should go hand in hand. The information on impact of the activities should be actively used while developing and reviewing the entrepreneurial strategy.
- c. Impact assessment for measuring the success should be in terms of sustainable social, financial and technological impact in the market. For innovations at pre-commercial stage, development of sustainable enterprise model is critical. COMMERCIAL success is the ONLY measure in long run.

| <b>Glossary</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accelerators                    | Startup Accelerators design programs in batches and transform promising business ideas into reality under the guidance of mentors and several other available resources.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Angel Fund                      | An angel investor is a wealthy individual who invests his or her personal capital and shares experiences, contacts, and mentors (as possible and required by the startup in exchange for equity in that startup). Angels are usually accredited investors. Since their funds are involved, they are equally desirous in making the startup successful. |
| Cash flow management            | Cash flow management is the process of tracking how much money is coming into and going out of your business.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Co-Creation                     | Co-creation is the act of creating together. When applied in business, it can be used as is an economic strategy to develop new business models, products and services with customers, clients, trading partner or other parts of the same enterprise or venture.                                                                                      |
| Compulsory Equity               | An equity share, commonly referred to as ordinary share also, represents the form of fractional or part ownership in which a shareholder, as a fractional owner, undertakes the maximum entrepreneurial risk associated with a business venture. The holders of such shares are members of the company and have voting rights.                         |
| Corporate Social Responsibility | Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a self-regulating business model that helps a company be socially accountable – to itself, its stakeholders, and the public.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Cross-disciplinary              | Cross-disciplinary practices refer to teaching, learning, and scholarship activities that cut across disciplinary boundaries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Entrepreneurial culture         | A culture/ society that enhance the exhibition of the attributes, values, beliefs and behaviours that are related to entrepreneurs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Entrepreneurial Individuals     | An Individual who has an entrepreneurial mindset and wants to make his / her idea successful.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Entrepreneurship Education      | Entrepreneurship education seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to encourage entrepreneurial success in a variety of settings.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Experiential learning           | Experiential learning is the process of learning through experience, and is more specifically defined as learning through reflection on doing.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Financial management            | Financial Management is the application of general principles of management to the financial possessions of an enterprise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Hackathon                       | A hackathon is a design sprint-like event in which computer programmers and others involved in software development, including                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                        | graphic designers, interface designers, project managers, and others, often including domain experts, collaborate intensively on software projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Host Institution                       | Host institutions refer to well-known technology, management and R&D institutions working for developing startups and contributing towards developing a favourable entrepreneurial ecosystem.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Incubation                             | Incubation is a unique and highly flexible combination of business development processes, infrastructure and people, designed to nurture and grow new and small businesses by supporting them through the early stages of development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Intellectual Property Rights Licensing | A licensing is a partnership between an intellectual property rights owner and another who is authorized to use such rights (licensee) in exchange for an agreed payment (fee or royalty).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Knowledge Exchange                     | Knowledge exchange is a process which brings together academic staff, users of research and wider groups and communities to exchange ideas, evidence and expertise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Pedagogy and Experiential Learning     | It refers to specific methods and teaching practices (as an academic subject or theoretical concept) which would be applied for students working on startups. The experiential learning method will be used for teaching 'startup related concepts and contents' to introduce a positive influence on the thought processes of students. Courses like 'business idea generation' and 'soft skills for startups' would demand experiential learning rather than traditional class room lecturing. Business cases and teaching cases will be used to discuss practical business situations that can help students to arrive at a decision while facing business dilemma(s). Field based interactions with prospective customers; support institutions will also form a part of the pedagogy which will orient the students as they acquire field knowledge. |
| Pre-incubation                         | It typically represents the process which works with entrepreneurs who are in the very early stages of setting up their company. Usually, entrepreneurs come into such programs with just an idea of early prototype of their product or service. Such companies can then graduate into full-fledged incubation programs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Prototype                              | A prototype is an early sample, model, or release of a product built to test a concept or process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Science parks                          | A science park, also known as a research park, technology park or innovation centre, is a purpose-built cluster of office spaces, labs,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               | workrooms and meeting areas designed to support research and development in science and technology.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Seed fund                     | Seed fund is a form of securities offering in which an investor invests capital in a startup company in exchange for an equity stake in the company.                                                                                                                                 |
| Special Purpose Vehicle       | Special purpose vehicle, also called a special purpose entity, is a subsidiary created by a parent company to isolate financial risk. Its legal status as a separate company makes its obligations secure even if the parent company goes bankrupt.                                  |
| Startup                       | An entity that develops a business model based on either product innovation or service innovation and makes it scalable, replicable and self-reliant and as defined in Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 127(E) dated February 19, 2019.                                               |
| Technology Business Incubator | Technology Business incubator (TBI) is an entity, which helps technology-based startup businesses with all the necessary resources/support that the startup needs to evolve and grow into a mature business.                                                                         |
| Technology commercialization  | Technology commercialization is the process of transitioning technologies from the research lab to the marketplace.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Technology licensing          | Agreement whereby an owner of a technological intellectual property (the licensor) allows another party (the licensee) to use, modify, and/or resell that property in exchange for a compensation.                                                                                   |
| Technology management         | Technology management is the integrated planning, design, optimization, operation and control of technological products, processes and services.                                                                                                                                     |
| Venture Capital               | It is the most well-known form of startup funding. Venture Capitalists (VCs) typically reserve additional capital for follow-up investment rounds. Another huge value that VCs provide is access to their networks for employees or clients for products or services of the startup. |

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