

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2955
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026

Start-up oriented courses in higher educational institutions

2955 **Shri Sanjay Raut:**

Will the Minister of ***Education*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken to introduce industry and start-up-oriented courses in IITs, IIMs and other higher educational institutions to promote entrepreneurship and job creation;
- (b) the manner in which practical training on industry setup, investment, marketing, exports and Government schemes such as Startup India and MSME is being incorporated;
- (c) the existing provisions to facilitate participation of students and start-ups from these institutions in Central Government tenders, including infrastructure, IT and services; and
- (d) the measures taken to support student entrepreneurs in establishing startups and generating employment in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to transform and improve the quality of education in the country and to provide a standard of education that is inclusive, equitable, and of high quality, empowering learners for the future and contributing to national development. NEP 2020 also promotes research and innovations by Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) by setting up start-up incubation centres; technology development centres; centres in frontier areas of research; greater industry-academic linkages; and interdisciplinary research including humanities and social sciences research.

With an objective of Research & Development driven integration of academic, industry and enterprise creation, Research Parks have been set up in premier HEIs including eight IITs and IISc Bengaluru to establish research ecosystem around these institutions. These research parks facilitate funded research from Industry, promoting Industry-Academia collaborations and incubation of Startups.

To promote entrepreneurship and startup-oriented learning in HEIs, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has introduced MBA in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Venture Development (MBA-IEV) programme, which is offered in 27 institutes across the country. The programme aims to develop entrepreneurial competencies, startup creation, venture scaling and industry-driven innovation among students. The National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP)

for HEIs provides a guiding framework for institutions to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and startup activities among students and faculty.

To ensure availability of industry relevant knowledge to students, the AICTE has taken several steps including:

- Model Curriculum in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Space Technology, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence etc. Due representation of Industry stakeholders is ensured in the curriculum revision committees.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with leading industries and organisations have been signed to facilitate internship, skilling and upskilling of students and faculty members.
- Issued model internship guidelines for technical courses. Internship is mandatory component of Model Curriculum issued by AICTE for different courses. These guidelines provide internship in full-time or part-time.
- Industry Academia Mobility framework launched by AICTE to facilitate connect between theoretical knowledge and practical application, facilitating collaboration between academia and industry.
- In order to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, over 16,000 Institution Innovation Councils (IICs) have been established across the country, engaging more than 1 lakh faculty members and 1.5 lakh students in innovation and entrepreneurial activities. The IICs facilitate practical training on startup creation, marketing and investment.
- Initiatives such as Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamps and nation-wide events such as Smart India Hackathon promote a culture of innovation in HEIs.

Students who are finalists or winners of the Smart India Hackathon receive opportunities to further develop their solutions in collaboration with concerned Ministries or Departments. In some cases, they are offered internships or engagement opportunities also.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship related courses such as Design Thinking and Innovation and Introduction to Intellectual Property are also offered through the Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) online platform of the Ministry of Education.
