St. PETER'S INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

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INSTITUTE INNOVATION
AND
STARTUP POLICY 2025

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1. Preamble

As India aspires to become a 5 trillion-dollar economy in the near future, there is need for high quality technical human resource, capable of doing cutting edge research and innovation, and high-tech entrepreneurship. The MHRD's (now MoE) Innovation Cell and AICTE have brought out the 'National Innovation and Startup Policy 2022' for students and faculty. It provides broad guidelines to encourage faculty, staff and students to actively pursue the path of innovation and entrepreneurship.

St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research, a deemed to be university, was established in 2008 with the approval of UGC and MHRD. The institution aims to impart high quality education and research to students through undergraduate, post graduate and research programmes to mould them for serving the society with integrity, commitment and involvement. It provides a robust innovation eco system with necessary platforms to develop innovation and entrepreneurship skills among students and faculty.

This policy document aims to outline the efforts that can be taken by the institute to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among the students and faculty. It has been prepared in line with the National Innovation and Startup Policy 2019.

2. Vision of the Policy

To encourage Innovative and Entrepreneurial ideas among students and faculty by creating a vibrant and conducive Startup culture and Innovation eco system in and around the institute through well-conceived policy interventions and strategic investments, in order to create multiple economic hubs and contribute for self-reliant India.

3. Innovation Eco System

Innovation Eco System of St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research (SPIHER) acts as the driver of innovation. The main objective of the system is to promote creativity and innovation among students and faculty, and facilitate development of innovative systems, processes, products, technologies and services for the benefit of the society. It serves to connect all the stakeholders of innovation including UG and PG students, researchers, faculties, entrepreneurs, business developers and other technical service providers, providers of skills training and professional development, and IPR support. The institute has established the following facilities as a part of the Innovation Eco System.
- Centre for Innovation – promotes innovation policies and overall guidance.
- Institution Innovation Council (approved by MHRD IC) – promotional activities through various programmes including industry leaders.
- Technology Business Incubator (approved by DST) – Incubation of innovative ideas

- SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator (approved by Min. of MSME) - Incubation of innovative ideas for technology development for commercialization, and promotion of startups.
- Entrepreneurship Development Cell – Established by the Institute, it works in close association to inculcate entrepreneurial skills among students.
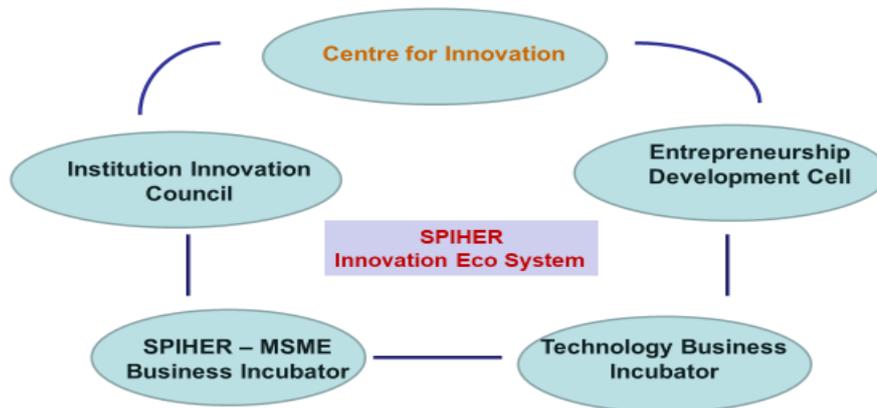

Fig.1 Innovation Eco System of SPIHER

The ecosystem enables stakeholders interact effectively to maximise the economic impact and potential in research and innovation. It is dynamic and flexible, allowing new entrants to become part of the ecosystem with minimal entry barriers. The innovation eco system has contributed potentially for innovation performance of the institute.

3.1 Institution Innovation Council (approved by MHRD IC)

The Institution Innovation Council was started in 2018 at the initiative of the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), Government of India. The Council includes members from students, teachers, industry and Patent expert. A number of activities are conducted through this Council to motivate and promote creativity and innovation among students and teachers as given below.
- Webinars by Industry Leaders
- Workshops on IPR
- Workshops on entrepreneurship and innovation
- Hackathons for students
- Innovation challenge and business plan competition
- Field visit to incubation centre

The Council has been awarded maximum grading of 5 stars by MHRD IC for its performance during 2019-20. Four faculty have been trained as ambassadors in product

design, product development, IPR and entrepreneurship. All these have helped in continuing to promote innovation and ideas towards technology development for commercialisation.

3.2 Technology Business Incubator (approved by DST)

Technology Business Incubator was started in 2009 with the approval of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, with a grant of Rs. 2.00 crores. Besides incubation activities, the incubator conducts several technical programmes like awareness camps, technology-based entrepreneurship development programmes and Faculty development programmes every year with funding by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India.

3.3 SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator (approved by Min. of Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs)

SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator was started in 2009 with the approval of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India. The incubator promotes emerging technological and knowledge-based innovative ventures. The scheme was enlarged with provision for seed capital towards startups and the incubator has been approved under the new scheme in 2019. The activities of the incubator include
- Guidance for grant-in-aid for technology development.
- Guidance for seed capital for startup.
- Mentoring support.
- Technical guidance through mentor.
- R&D support, testing where required.
- Linking with other R&D labs, industry where required.
- Guidance for IPR.
- Guidance for technology transfer.
- Training programmes and skill development.

The incubator promotes ideas in the following technology domains.
- Manufacturing industry, Electronics & Communication, IoT
- Energy and Environment
- Construction
- Health care

Ten technologies have so far been developed with suitable grant for commercialisation through SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator. Four patents have been filed.

3.4 Entrepreneurship Development Cell

Entrepreneurship Development Cell is responsible for inculcating entrepreneurship skills among students. Awareness programmes and faculty development programmes on entrepreneurship development are conducted for students and faculty. Events like e-bazaars are conducted in which students exhibit the innovative and business talents. The innovation eco system of the institute is also explained to the students and faculty. The Cell also provides mentoring in entrepreneurship including developing business plans and conducting market survey.

4 Innovation and Startup Policy

4.1 Strategies and Governance

i)   A senior faculty has been nominated as Nodal Officer to coordinate with various stake holders for implementing the Policy.

ii) There should be a Resource mobilization plan of the institute for supporting pre-incubation, incubation infrastructure and facilities. This can be reviewed periodically.

iii) Investment in the entrepreneurial activities should be a part of the institutional financial strategy. A minimum 1% fund of the total annual budget of the institution may be allocated for funding and supporting innovation and startups related activities through creation of separate 'Innovation fund'. The strategy should also involve raising funds from diverse sources.

iv) For expediting the decision making, hierarchical barriers should be minimized.

v)   Importance of innovation and entrepreneurial agenda should be known across the institute and should be promoted and highlighted in institutional programs such as conferences, workshops, convocations, etc.

vi) Product to market strategy for startups should be developed by the institute on case to case basis.

vii) Institute should 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.

4.2 Startups Enabling Institutional Infrastructure

i)   The goal of the effort should be to link INNOVATION to ENTERPRISES to FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

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

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

iv)   A mentor board may be created which can meet twice in a year and review the implementation of the policy including product development.

v)   A Corporate Advisory Board can be constituted which can help both innovation and placement.

4.3 Nurturing Innovations and Start ups

i)   The institute should offer access to pre-incubation and Incubation facility to startups by students, staff and faculty for mutually acceptable time-frame.

ii)   The institute should allow licensing of IPR from institute to startup. 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)   Students entrepreneurs shall be allowed to sit for the examination, even if their attendance is less than the minimum permissible percentage, with due permission from the institute.

iv)   The institute shall allow the students to take a semester/year break (or even more depending upon the decision of review committee constituted by the institute) to work on their startups and re-join academics to complete the course. Student entrepreneurs may earn academic credits for their efforts while creating an enterprise.

v)   In return of the services and facilities, the 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 (a limit of 9.5% is suggested so that institute has no legal liability arising out of startup. The institute should normally take much lower equity share, unless its full-time faculty/ staff have substantial shares).

4.4 Product Ownership Rights for Technologies Developed at Institute

i)   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. 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

- Upfront fees or one-time technology transfer fees

- Royalty as a percentage of sale-price
- Shares in the company licensing the product

ii) The institute shall support financially to meet the charges for filing and processing of patents.

iii) Institute IPR cell or incubation center will be a coordinator and facilitator for providing services to faculty, staff and students. It will have no say on how the invention is carried out, how it is patented or how it is to be licensed.

iv) Any dispute should be amicably resolved through a committee.

v)   Courses shall be introduced on entrepreneurship and startups at UG and PG levels in all programmes.

vi) Interdisciplinary research and publication on startup and entrepreneurship should be promoted by the institute.

4.5 Organizational Capacity, Human Resources and Incentives

i)   Faculty should be periodically trained in entrepreneurship, skill development and startups. Some of the relevant faculty members with prior exposure and interest can be deputed for training to promote Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

ii) Periodically, 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.

iii) Suitable reward system for the faculty may be introduced for entrepreneurial activities in the form of reduced teaching loads, awards, trainings, etc.

4.6 Creating Innovation Pipeline and Pathways for Entrepreneurs at Institute Level

The following mechanisms may 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 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 can be routinely organized.

iii) Institute can have a data bank of alumni entrepreneurs who can be utilized for motivating and mentoring the students.

iv) Institute can start annual 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award' to recognize outstanding ideas, successful enterprises and contributors for promoting innovation and enterprises ecosystem within the institute.

The policy may be reviewed every year and suitable amendments may be made where required.

01.09.2025   **REGISTRAR**

Registrar
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