

Student Start-up and Innovation  
Policy 2.0 (2022-27) under National  
Education Policy (NEP 2020) for the  
State of Gujarat

Government of Gujarat  
Education Department  
Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar  
Resolution No. PRC/102021/SSIP2.0/934/S  
Dated 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Preamble

The Start-up culture in India has been an ever-growing phenomenon which has been gaining wide recognition as an engine of growth and employability. Through innovations and scalable technologies, Start-ups have the potential to generate impactful solutions and thereby act as vehicles of socio-economic developments thus transforming human lives. However, to inculcate a Start-up culture and a conducive environment for economic growth it is imperative to drive and nurture innovation ethos across the nation, permeating through all layers of society. In fact, from its early days, India has recognized the significance of innovation and reformation. The Constitution of India, under its fundamental duties in Article 51 A (h) states *to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform; and (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement.*

As a Nation, India has been recognized as one of the fastest growing Start-up ecosystems in the world and emerging as the third largest Start-up hub across the globe. The Government of India has spent the past decade, in unleashing the creative potential of every citizen and inculcating the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in every stratum of society. The Government of India started a host of initiatives such as Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Start-up India, Stand-up India, amongst others directed towards empowering the youth and educational institutions of the country. To further strengthen this goal, the Government of India, has now shifted its primary focus on institutionalizing the Start-up ecosystem across the country by developing a systematic linkage amongst innovation, strategy, execution and market scaling. In this direction, the Government of India, has launched the National Innovation and Start-up Policy 2019 (NISP) that aims at empowering students with suitable toolkits which are necessary to establish a bridge from ideation to business development/ market entry strategy. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has given an ample thrust to harness the creative potential of youth across academia through innovation and entrepreneurship. The main objective of such initiatives is to cultivate and promote innovation mindset and entrepreneurial culture across the Nation.

The State has been receiving specific recognition in the innovation and Start-up sector while becoming one of the pioneers in the country. The State launched a unique policy for students known as Student Start-up and Innovation Policy (2017-2021) for a large pool of students across Universities

and Institutes to develop and nurture their potential for innovation and entrepreneurship. This Policy was built on a student-centric perspective to support student innovators and involve different stakeholders.

The Student Start-up and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0) aims to promote innovations and Start-ups in the traditional and new age technology along with the sunrise sectors. The innovations in clean and green energy, climate change towards achieving India's pledge of net zero emissions by 2070 will be encouraged. Thrust areas like semi-conductors, robotics, electric vehicles, waste management, artificial intelligence, machine learning, Internet of Things, Blockchain will also be in focus. However, the Policy aims to support sector agnostic innovations and Start-ups.

The State is further strengthening the Policy and broadening its outreach such that a resilient end-to-end ecosystem is developed. The Policy establishes progressive linkages amongst innovation, execution, business development and market entry. The Policy will institutionalize support mechanism that progressively facilitates students through each stage of their entrepreneurial journey. The Policy emphasizes horizontal inclusion of all streams across the academia and vertical extension in Schools, Institutes and Universities.

## 1. Student Start-up and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0)

### 1.1 Vision

Empowering the young population of the State to unlock their creative potential through Start-up and Innovation so as to enable them to contribute for sustainable development and inclusive growth towards the realization of Aatmanirbhar Gujarat.

### 1.2 Mission

- Create a student-centric innovation and incubation ecosystem across the academia.
- Establish an Innovation and Start-up Ecosystem at all levels of education: Schools, Institutes and Universities.
- Develop functional incubators at all universities in the State.
- Scout and nurture innovation and Start-up across academia and enable them for maximum value creation for the industry, society and the State at large.
- Build internal capacity of educational institutions and strengthen mentoring processes.
- Promote Intellectual Property related awareness programmes and develop mechanism for filing and approvals of IP.
- Set up a common robust digital platform that would allow seamless support to stakeholders.
- Develop an integrated mechanism of performance analysis by fixing predetermined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Encourage students, innovators and Start-ups in sunrise sectors, traditional and disruptive technologies.
- Formulate and implement various interventions and mandates based on learnings from best practices and past efforts to facilitate the journey of Mind-to-market.

- Nurture the evolution of Gujarat Start-up ecosystem across its various phases like emergence, activation, integration and maturity.

### **1.3 Goals and Objectives**

- 1) Outreach and sensitize 5 million students for innovation and entrepreneurship, covering at least 1000 Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and 10,000 Schools of the State.
- 2) Support to 10,000 student-led Proof-of-Concepts (PoCs/Prototype).
- 3) Assistance to 5000 IP filings.
- 4) Build capacity for at least 500 educational institutions and universities in the State to have a robust preincubation support system for beneficiaries.
- 5) Nurture 1000 school student led innovations.
- 6) Groom 1500 student Start-ups and upscale existing Start-ups.
- 7) Incubate 500 Start-up (physical and virtual).
- 8) Support to 500 Start-up under Start-up Srujan Seed Support (Up to INR 10 Lac).

### **1.4 Strategy**

- Developing an ecosystem that would endow students to convert challenges into potential opportunities while utilizing State's demographic dividends.
- Involving all levels of eligible beneficiaries from school, higher and technical education.
- Enabling the educational institutes to actively engage students, faculty members, and staff members in innovation and entrepreneurship related activities.
- Providing end-to-end support mechanism in all activities related to innovation such as pre-incubation, mentoring, knowledge resource pool, cohort support, industry expertise, procurement, and IPRs.
- Creating an ecosystem for Collaboration, Co-creation, Knowledge Exchange, Social Innovation and Industry Relations.
- Encouraging grantees for collaborations through networking and infrastructure sharing for greater engagement.
- Establishing Hub and Spoke Innovation and Start-up ecosystem development for wider outreach and sustainable impact.
- Motivating innovators and Start-ups supported through the Policy to contribute towards sustainable development goals and long-term inclusive development of the State.
- Implementing an incentive-based system for innovation and Start-up for Grantees and Beneficiaries.

### **1.5 Policy Period**

The period of the Policy will be from January 11, 2022 to March 31, 2027.

### **1.6 Eligibility Criteria for Educational Institutions**

To be eligible to take benefit of the Policy, a university shall be

- i. based in Gujarat;
- ii. a Public University/Private University (as per the Gujarat Private University Act, 2009 and as amended from time to time); and



- iii. on record to have demonstrated concrete efforts related to innovation and entrepreneurship in the past few years or having strong commitment to participate towards the goals of the Policy.

To be eligible to take benefit of the Policy, an institute shall be

- i. based in Gujarat;
- ii. a Government/Grant-in-Aid institute/Private institute affiliated to recognized university; and
- iii. on record to have demonstrated concrete efforts related to innovation and entrepreneurship in the past few years or having strong commitment to participate towards the goals of the Policy.

To be eligible to take benefit of the Policy, a school shall be

- i. based in Gujarat; and
- ii. a Government/Grant-in-Aid/Private school

The Policy Implementation Committee (PIC) shall evaluate each application based on the criteria / merit and the suitable ones shall be selected as grantee under the Policy. The criteria / merit shall include parameters like active student participation (ASP), research and innovation related activities carried out in past few years, action plan and budget plan and other as decided by the PIC.

## 1.7 Eligibility Criteria for Individual Beneficiaries

Any person up to the age of 35 years, who is,

- A school student of Foundational / Preparatory / Middle / Secondary level (Up to Class 12)
- A Diploma / Vocational / Undergraduate / Postgraduate / Doctoral student or an alumna / alumnus
- Any dropout from school / institute / university

The innovation of the beneficiary should contribute towards either development or improvement of any product or process or service in existing or new fields; or should be a scalable business model with a potential to generate employment or wealth creation.

## 2. Institutional Mechanism and Implementation of the Policy

A State-level Apex Committee (SLAC) will be responsible for providing guidance to steer the overall implementation and coordination of the Policy. The SLAC shall comprise of the following members:

1	Hon'ble Minister of Education	Chairperson
2	Hon'ble Minister of State - Higher and Technical Education	Co-Chair
3	Hon'ble Minister of State - Primary, Secondary and Adult Education	Co-Chair
4	ACS/PS/Secretary, Higher and Technical Education	Vice-Chair
5	ACS/PS/Secretary, Industries and Mines	Member

6	Secretary, Finance (Expenditure)	Member
7	ACS/PS/Secretary, Science & Technology	Member
8	ACS/PS/Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education	Member
9	Commissioner/Director, Technical Education	Member Secretary
10	Commissioner/Director, Higher Education	Member
11	Commissioner of Schools	Member
12	Two Vice-Chancellors from State Universities and Two Vice-Chancellors from Private Universities	Invitee Members
13	Chairman, AICTE	Member
14	Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission	Member
15	Three Start-up Ecosystem Representatives	Invitee Members

The Policy Implementation Committee (PIC) will be responsible for implementation of the Policy and shall comprise of the following members:

1	ACS/PS/Secretary, Higher and Technical Education	Chairperson
2	ACS/PS/Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education	Member
3	ACS/PS/Secretary, Science and Technology or Representative	Member
4	Secretary, Finance (Expenditure) or Representative	Member
5	Commissioner/Director, Technical Education	Member Secretary
6	Commissioner/Director, Higher Education	Member
7	Commissioner of Schools	Member
8	Two Vice-Chancellors or their Representatives (One each from State and Private university)	Invitee Members
9	Three Start-up Ecosystem Representatives	Invitee Members

Gujarat Knowledge Society (GKS) will be the nodal agency and state PMU for the Policy. The SLAC and the PIC shall direct the state PMU and other PMUs for realization of Goals and Objectives of the Policy.

### 3. Interventions and Roles

Under the Policy, there will be key interventions at the various stakeholder levels to ensure further strengthening and nurturing of the comprehensive innovation ecosystem.

### **3.1 Interventions**

#### **3.1.1 State-level**

- State level committees, state PMU will solely be dedicated to drive and implement policy at grassroot level.
- Establishment of PMUs for implementing the Policy goals.
- Operational guidelines to implement the Policy will be issued as per the approval from the PIC.
- The concerned and corresponding PMU will ink an MoU with the Grantee for the period of the Policy.
- Systematic mechanism for IP and patent support.
- State level events, outreach and awareness activities and large-scale capacity building of stakeholders.
- Creation of programmes, avenues, and platforms for exposure.
- Development of knowledge resource pool and cohort community.
- Formulation of mentorship programmes with Academic and Industry, mentors or sector experts.
- Incentivization for faculty and domain mentors.
- Market Access, facilitation of public procurement for Start-up.
- Infrastructure, Co-creation, and collaboration support.
- Management of Student Innovation Fund (SIF) and Grantee Matching Fund (GMF).
- Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) for release of fund to Grantee.
- Potential innovators and Start-up from non-grantee institutions and schools will be mapped to nearby SSIP grantee university, through which they will be able to avail policy benefits.
- Beneficiaries selected through Innovation clubs may be able to apply for PoC/Prototype and / or IP support through the mapped Grantees.
- A state-level digital interface / UDAYAM COGENT Platform to:
  - Provide unique identifier to all grantees and beneficiaries under the Policy.
  - Integrate and streamline efforts across all stakeholders.
  - Register student ideas and innovations as well as facilitating innovators.
  - Measure processes and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in real time.
  - Provide single-point knowledge resource pool of industry experts and cohort for innovators.
  - Provide linkages and access to other existing central and state level schemes.

#### **3.1.2 Educational Institutions**

- Utilization of fund allocated to develop pre-incubation facilities and assist students in IP filing, developing PoCs, prototypes and other innovation related activities.
- Formation of committees to scrutinize and evaluate PoC/Prototype and IPR proposals.
- Systematic mechanism for creating awareness, outreach, and development of infrastructure.
- Selection of proposals for PoCs/Prototype and IPR.
- Ensure grant disbursements within 45-60 days.
- Ensure the entire PoC/Prototype/IPR grant be disbursed in maximum 2-3 installments based on the progress.

- Implement and operate digital interface to create face-less and paperless mechanism for disbursement of grants.
- Strengthen mentorship programme with industrial expertise.
- Leverage other schemes and programmes at state and central level designed for Innovation and Start-up.
- Exposure and participation for flagship programmes at national and international level.
- Promote innovation and Start-ups by women, specially-abled, marginalized community and those innovators trying to address persistent challenges of the State and the Nation.
- Any dropout from school / institute / university can avail the PoC/Prototype/IPR support by registering as the Policy beneficiary at educational institution level.
- Ensure the active participation of student beneficiaries in the PoC/Prototype/IPR for which the grant has been sanctioned.

### 3.2 Roles

#### 3.2.1 Project Management Units

- Large scale state level initiatives like Hackathons, innovation boot camps, state and regional innovation & Start-up festivals, state level innovation and Start-up awards and similar interventions will be conducted by PMUs.
- All the support systems across universities, incubators, innovation centers will be connected at the State level and state PMU will curate collaboration and co-creation involving them. Any innovator/Start-up who wishes to avail the above facilities can access them with ease and agility.
- The PMU at higher education will look after initiatives like innovation clubs, capacity building of stakeholders, flagship programs aimed at harnessing innovation potential of Arts, Commerce & Science stream students, benchmarking of Innovation and Start-up efforts across Universities and Institutes under higher education, and handholding and assisting grantees under higher education in institutionalizing their innovation and Start-up endeavors.
- The PMU under School education may create a roadmap and execute it to harness the creative potential of School students in the State. Schools may incentivize to inspire innovators by creating facilities to tinker innovation through laboratory, process, and pedagogy.
- The PMU under School education should ensure mindset change, awareness, and training through large scale capacity building of school-teachers in areas like innovation, IP and entrepreneurship. Soft and hard infrastructure to enable innovation to happen along with structured mentoring/nurturing of young innovators will be introduced.
- Awards and recognition to stakeholders like teachers, schools and others for their outstanding contribution to inculcate an innovative mindset among school students may be introduced by the PMU under School education. Collaborative endeavours involving schools and innovation ecosystem enablers and drivers will be promoted.
- PMUs would ensure systemized access to other schemes, Research & Development establishments, testing labs and programmes at the State level

- i-Hub will act as a PMU which will be responsible for the implementation of flagship programs such as Start-up Sathi (mentorship), Start-up Saksham (capacity building), Start-up Clinic, Start-up Square (Industry Start-up Co-creation), Start-up Mart (marketplace), Start-up Engage, Start-up Samajh, Start-up Grow (incubation), WEstart (women Start-ups) and allied programs.
- i-Hub will act as the hub for hosting various sectoral incubation and acceleration programs to support Innovators/Start-ups post PoC/Prototype stage.
- The State level Fab lab/ Maker's lab to assist in product development to innovators and Start-up will be housed at i-Hub.
- Various Open Innovation Programmes involving industry, public enterprises, civil society organizations, organizations involved in promoting innovation and Start-ups will be conceived and executed at i-Hub.
- Start-up Srujan Seed Support-S4 (INR 2.5-10 Lacs) will be a flagship intervention which will assist deserving innovators and Start-ups to avail grant to further their innovation and will be executed by i-Hub. Screening committee comprising of government officials, angel investors, industry persons, domain experts and successful Start-ups will periodically evaluate proposals for the same.
- Innovators selected through Innovation Club and other relevant programs may be recommended to PMU for Idea/PoC/Prototype support.
- Each PMU will implement and monitor the goals assigned to respective Grantee.

### **3.2.2 Individual Beneficiaries**

- Procurement of raw material, necessary services, components through competitive offers for developing PoC/Prototype/product/Start-up.
- Periodic progress report sharing with Grantee and PMU.
- Make best possible efforts to translate the idea into a successful innovation or enterprise.
- Adhere to the guidelines and protocols issued to avail the Policy benefits.
- Acknowledge the receipt of the Policy support in their success journey.

## **4. Financial Support Structure**

The Student Start-up and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0) has provisions for creation of a Student Innovation Fund (SIF) and Grantee Matching Fund (GMF) of Rs. 500 Crore for the period of the Policy. Rs. 300 Crore (SIF) shall be provisioned through state budget for the Policy period, whereas the remainder of Rs. 200 Crore (GMF) shall be mobilized via existing resources such as internal budgets of Universities/Institutes, private and CSR funds and others.

The yearly outlay of Rs 60 Crore would be received by the Gujarat Knowledge Society (GKS) under the Directorate of Technical Education. This fund will be disbursed amongst the Grantees/PMUs/Beneficiaries as per the provisions of the Policy. The table below shows the distribution of the SIF for the period of the Policy amongst the PMUs. The SIF provisions are distributed as Grant to Grantees, PMU Operating Expenditure, State Level Programme, Start-up Srujan Seed Support, Open Innovation Programmes, Incubation, Acceleration & Flagship Initiatives.

## Budgetary Provisions for PMUs (INR in Crore)

<b>Head</b>	<b>Technical Education</b>	<b>Higher Education</b>	<b>i-Hub</b>	<b>School Education</b>	<b>Total</b>
Grant to Grantees	130	42		33	205
PMU Operating Expenditure	10	3	5	2	20
State Level Programme	10	5		5	20
Start-up Srujan Seed Support			25		25
Open Innovation Programmes			15		15
Incubation, Acceleration & Flagship Initiatives			15		15
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>300</b>

### 4.1 Support to Educational Institutions

70 % of the fund allocated through the budgetary provisions of the Policy be utilized for PoCs/Prototypes and IP support. Remaining 30% of the fund may be utilized for programmes, pedagogical interventions, events, special endeavours, setting up pre-incubation/incubation centers, basic infrastructure, and others.

The provision for maximum financial support to Grantees for the Policy period shall be as per the Table below:

<b>Type of Grantee</b>	<b>Student Innovation Fund (SIF)</b>	<b>Grantee Matching Fund (GMF)</b>
Public University	INR 5.00 Crore	INR 2.50 Crore
Public Institute	INR 2.00 Crore	-
Private University	INR 1.00 Crore	INR 1.00 Crore
Private Institute	INR 1.00 Crore	INR 1.00 Crore

For Public Universities, the Policy grant will be sanctioned based on the number of enrolled students as per Table below:

<b>Number of Student Enrolment with Public University</b>	<b>Maximum SIF Grant (INR in Crore) for the Policy Period</b>
3 Lakhs and above	5.0
1 Lakh to 3 Lakhs	4.0
50,000 to 1 Lakh	3.0
Up to 50,000	2.0

## 4.2 Support to Individual Beneficiaries

The support and financial provisions for individual beneficiaries satisfying eligibility criteria, are as per the Table below:

<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Support</b>
All Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exposure to Tinkering Lab, Innovation Lab, Incubation Centers</li><li>• Large scale sensitization, events and programs for developing Scientific Mindset</li><li>• Collective/Community level support system and activities</li><li>• Capacity Building</li></ul>
Class 9 to Class 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maximum INR 20,000 per PoC/Prototype /Innovation</li></ul>
Higher and Technical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maximum INR 2.50 Lakh per PoC/Prototype /Innovation</li><li>• IP Support up to 100% of expenses</li></ul>

## 5. IPR Support

The Union Cabinet has approved the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy that shall lay the future roadmap for IPRs in India.

Under the Policy, IPR strategies for academia with a special focus, provide various incentives including financial grants to support innovators.

IPR supports provisioned under the Policy for all beneficiaries are listed in the Table below:

<b>Type of IPR</b>	<b>Support Provisioned (Up to)</b>
Patents	INR 75,000 for Domestic, INR 1.5 Lakh for other countries
Copyrights	INR 8,000
Trademarks	INR 12,500
International Registration of Marks	INR 50,000
Industrial Design	INR 9,000
Plant Variety Registry	INR 33,000
Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Registry (SICLDR)	INR 15,000

A State-level IP Facilitation Center (IPFC) will function at i-Hub, which will be responsible for assisting Grantees and Beneficiaries in IP related activities. i-Hub will maintain a robust IP support system for innovators and Start-ups. The necessary guidelines for IP support will be issued by the State PMU based on the recommendation of the PIC from time to time. The IP guideline of the



Education Department of the State will be effectively implemented across academia under this policy.

## 6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- The State PMU and the Operational PMU may review or / and scrutinize the fund utilized by the Grantees or Beneficiaries for the disbursed funds.
- The evaluation of performance of PMUs and Grantees would be done in agreement with implementation guidelines that will be released by the State PMU.
- A digital interface will seamlessly integrate all stakeholders to monitor each milestone in real time. Progress of key goals with respect to set KPIs will be publicly shared periodically.
- The Policy Implementation Committee (PIC) shall review overall policy objectives and its implementation.
- If a beneficiary is found unable to deliver the desired outcomes, further release of grant shall be reconsidered.
- The release of the grant after the first instalment and every subsequent instalment will be based on satisfactory implementation of the policy objectives.
- Expert Committee comprising of industry persons, ecosystem stakeholders, academicians, Start-up, nominated by the State PMU may visit Grantees periodically for ascertaining progress of work or resolving any difficulties if encountered for effective implementation of the Policy.
- A yearly impact report of the policy interventions will be published and shared with all stakeholders in public domain.

## 7. Interpretation and Ambiguity Resolution

In case of any ambiguity or difficulty or query concerning interpretation and/or implementation of the Policy, the decision of Policy Implementation Committee (PIC) with the approval of the State-level Apex Committee (SLAC) shall be final and binding for all.

The expenditure shall be booked from the date of commencement of the Policy under the following budget head :

Demand Number: 09

Main Head: 2203-Technical Education

Sub Head: 001- Administration and Directives

Sub-Sub Head:01-TED-1, Strengthening Technical Education administration

This issues with the concurrence of the Government in finance department vide note dated 03.01.2022 on this Department's even numbered file.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Gujarat.

  
(Maulika Shah)  
Deputy Secretary  
Education Department,  
Government of Gujarat

To,

- Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Governor, Raj Bhavan, Gandhinagar
- Chief Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister
- Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister
- Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister
- Personal Secretary to Hon'ble Ministers, Government of Gujarat
- Personal Secretary to the Leader of Opposition Party in Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Gandhinagar
- Deputy Secretary to Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat
- Registrar, Hon'ble Gujarat High Court, Ahmedabad
- Secretary, Gujarat Vigilance Commission, Gandhinagar
- Secretary, Gujarat Public Service Commission, Ahmedabad
- Secretary, Gujarat Legislative Secretariat, Gandhinagar
- Secretary, Gujarat Civil Service Tribunal, Gandhinagar
- All Vice Chancellors and Provost of State Universities
- All Administrative Department
- All Head of the Department
- All District Collectors, Gujarat State
- Account General (A&E) Gujarat, Post Box No.2201. Rajkot
- Account General (A&E) Gujarat, Ahmedabad Branch, Ahmedabad
- Account General (Audit 1) Gujarat, MS Building, Ahmedabad
- Director, Account & Treasuries, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar
- Pay & Account Offices, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar
- All District Treasury Offices
- Resident Audit Officer, Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar
- Select File

