Govt declares Student Start-up & Innovation Policy

Sets up ₹200 cr fund to create support systems, aims for 500 start-ups in 5 years

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Ahmedabad: With the state education department coming out with a five-year Student Start-up and Innovation Policy, students at state universities will now get support for innovations and start-ups in a structured way. For this initiative, the government has created a Rs200 crore fund for students in government and non-government education institutes. The government claims that this is the first of its kind policy.

As a part of policy, resources will be utilised to build innovation support systems within universities across states to create a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at educational institutes. It will fill the gaps in existing ecosystem in terms of prototype support,

Key Targets

- 1% job creators from 1.4 million students
- 1,000 patent filings by students per year
- 500 student start-ups in five years
- Pre-incubation facilities in every university
- 200 pre-incubation facilities across the state

IP support, development of knowledge-based enterprises and platforms to showcase success stories. Pre-incubation is the most critical stage as the mortality of innovation and start-ups depends on this stage. The policy will also give awards and incentives to student start-ups.

"We want to tap innovation and start-up ideas at an early stage and nurture them by giving them necessary support. The policy will cater to the pre-incubation requirements of student start-ups,

> This is a culmination of about two years of efforts. We want the youth of Gujarat to be job creators rather than job seekers. The government will provide support to their innovation and start-up efforts."
> **-Bhupendrasinh Chudasama,** education minister, Gujarat

which can benefit from the state's existing Start-up Policy. Students of technology and even non-technology background will be covered under the policy," said Anju Sharma, principal secretary in the state education department.

Local universities like Gujarat Technological University (GTU) and Gujarat University (GU) have already come out with policies and initiatives to support student start-ups. The education department's policy will now cover all the universities of the state. According to sources in the know of things, universities across Gujarat are home to about 200 student start-ups even in absence of such a policy.