MADHA ENGINEERING COLLEGE, KUNDRATHUR, CHENNAI – 600069
(Approved by UGC, New Delhi and Accredited by NAAC with B+ Grade)
Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

MADHA ENGINEERING COLLEGE (MEC)

INNOVATION AND START-UP POLICY – 2025

Comprehensive Guidelines for

Faculty, Staff, and Students

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1. Preamble

The Madha Engineering College Innovation and Start-up Policy (MEC-ISP 2025) is a foundational framework strategically designed to cultivate a vibrant culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within the institution. Formulated in alignment with the National Innovation and Start-up Policy (NISP 2019) instituted by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, this policy aims to systematically guide and support students, faculty, and staff in their entrepreneurial journeys. Its ultimate goal is to establish a self-sustaining innovation ecosystem that not only fulfills institutional aspirations but also contributes significantly to national development and economic growth.

2. Vision Statement

"To empower the aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs of Madha Engineering College to conceive, develop, and launch socially impactful, economically sustainable, and technologically advanced startups, thereby driving national economic progress and fostering inclusive community development."

3. Mission Statement

"To instill a pervasive, innovation-driven culture across the Madha Engineering College campus by promoting creative thinking, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and integrating entrepreneurial education, thereby effectively transforming pioneering ideas into viable and successful commercial enterprises."

4. Policy Statement and Objectives

This policy serves as a comprehensive blueprint for creating a robust institutional environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship. It outlines clear pathways for ideation, prototyping, incubation, and enterprise creation.

4.1. Short-Term Objectives (0-3 Years)

- To actively promote a mindset of ideation, creativity, and design thinking across all academic departments.

- To provide structured support for student and faculty teams to transform ideas into functional prototypes and minimum viable products (MVPs).

- To strengthen the operational capacity and outreach of the Madha Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (MCIED).

- To organize a regular calendar of workshops, expert seminars, bootcamps, and mentorship programs focused on innovation, business modeling, and startup management.

- To establish and strengthen strategic linkages with industry partners, alumni, and academic institutions to bolster incubation and mentorship activities.

4.2. Long-Term Objectives (3-5 Years)

- To forge sustainable collaborations with premier funding agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), AICTE, and the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

- To encourage and facilitate the process of patent filing, intellectual property commercialization, and deep industry-academia partnerships.

- To nurture student and faculty-led startups that achieve national and global recognition.

- To create new revenue streams for the institution through consultancy projects, technology licensing, and equity partnerships with successful startups.

- To champion awareness and understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and their strategic importance among all stakeholders.

5. Strategic Framework and Governance

Entrepreneurship and innovation are recognized as core strategic pillars of Madha Engineering College's long-term vision. To ensure the effective implementation of this policy, the institution commits to the following governance principles:

- A minimum of **20% of the annual institutional budget** shall be earmarked for innovation, pre-incubation, and startup-related activities.

- The institution will proactively seek supplementary funding through government grants, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, alumni contributions, and industry partnerships.

- The **Principal** shall serve as the **Convener** of the MEC-ISP Implementation Committee, providing high-level oversight and leadership.

- The governance model will emphasize operational flexibility, autonomy for innovators, and a supportive, failure-tolerant culture that encourages risk-taking and experimentation.

6. Institutional Infrastructure for Startups

MEC is committed to providing state-of-the-art infrastructure to support every stage of the entrepreneurial journey, from idea conception to venture launch. Key facilities include:

- **Madha Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (MCIED):** The central hub for all startup activities.

- **Madha Innovation Lab:** A dedicated space for collaborative ideation and brainstorming.

- **Madha Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre (MIPFC):** For IPR advisory and filing support.

- **Fabrication Lab:** Equipped with tools for hardware prototyping and product development.

- **Ideation Lab:** A creative zone for design thinking and initial concept validation.

Operating Hours: All innovation facilities will operate from **8:30 AM to 5:30 PM**. Work beyond 3:30 PM requires prior written permission from the Principal, routed through the respective Head of Department.

7. Nurturing the Innovation and Startup Ecosystem

MEC will provide a holistic support system for innovators, which includes:

- Access to seasoned mentors, seed funding for promising ventures, and comprehensive infrastructure support.

- Availability of co-working spaces, advanced prototyping facilities, and business development services.

- A curated annual events calendar featuring:

    - **1 Annual Hackathon**

    - **2 Workshops per Semester** on relevant topics.

- Active collaboration with industry experts, successful entrepreneurs, and external incubators to provide guidance, networking opportunities, and access to investment channels.

8. Guidelines for Faculty and Student-Led Startups

8.1. Provisions for Faculty:

- Faculty members are permitted to engage in startup ventures and hold equity, subject to prior approval from the college management based on the recommendation of the MEC-ISP Committee.

- A limited and defined amount of time outside of teaching and core academic responsibilities may be dedicated to startup-related activities, ensuring no conflict with primary duties.

- All faculty-led startups must adhere strictly to institutional policies concerning intellectual property, consultancy, and the use of college resources.

8.2. Provisions for Students:

- Students are encouraged to register their startups and may seek academic credit for their entrepreneurial work upon review and approval by the MEC-ISP Committee.

- Startup activities can be considered as a substitute for mini-projects, major projects, or internships, with clearly defined deliverables and evaluation criteria.

- Provisions for academic flexibility, such as attendance relaxation or leveraging semester breaks, will be formally considered and integrated as the volume of student startup activities grows.

9. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Technology Licensing

- The **Madha Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre (MIPFC)** and the institutional IPR Cell will serve as the nodal agencies for all IP-related matters.

- Intellectual Property generated through significant use of MEC's resources shall be **jointly owned** by the inventor(s) and the institution.

- A transparent, pre-defined, and equitable framework for revenue sharing from the licensing and commercialization of IP will be established and communicated to all stakeholders.

- The IPR Cell will provide end-to-end support, including prior-art searches, patent drafting, filing assistance, and managing technology transfer agreements.

10. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Action Plan

The Principal, in conjunction with the MCIED, will be responsible for the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the policy's implementation. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for annual review will include:

- Number of startups incubated and their survival rate.

- Number of workshops, hackathons, and IP filings conducted.

- Number and quality of collaborations with industry and government bodies.

- Amount of external funding secured.

Proposed Annual Action Plan:

- Conduct at least one flagship hackathon and a minimum of four skill-development workshops.

- Organize biannual startup pitch events connecting students with potential investors.

- Actively facilitate linkages between innovators and national funding agencies and innovation networks.

11. Policy Review and Implementation Committee (2025–26)

S.No	Designation	Role
1	Principal	Convener
2	Head (Innovation & Research)	Co-Convener
3	Head, MCIED	NISP Coordinator
4	HOD (Nominated Department)	Member
5	External Expert (Industry Representative)	Member
6	External Expert (Startup/Incubation Representative)	Member

Review Frequency: The policy and its outcomes shall be reviewed **annually** by this committee.

12. References and Governing Documents

1. National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP 2019), Ministry of Education, GoI.

2. AICTE Startup Policy – 2016.

3. Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy – 2018.

4. Internal Guidelines, Madha Engineering College (MCIED, 2025).

13. Definitions and Key Terminology

- **Startup:** A newly established entity, incorporated or not, working towards the development and commercialization of a scalable business model based on a product or service that is innovative and has high growth potential.

- **Incubation:** A structured, time-bound program that provides early-stage startups with workspace, mentorship, networking, and funding access to accelerate their growth.

- **Pre-incubation:** The initial, supportive phase that helps individuals or teams refine their ideas, build prototypes, and validate their business model before entering a formal incubation program.

- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** Legal rights granted to creators and inventors for their intellectual creations, encompassing patents, copyrights, trademarks, and industrial designs.

- **Seed Fund:** The initial capital investment provided to a startup to support product development, market validation, and early-stage operations.

- **Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell):** The student and faculty-led body within the institution responsible for driving entrepreneurial activities and fostering a startup culture.

Approved By:

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(This document is a dynamic policy instrument and shall be reviewed annually by the MEC-ISP Implementation Committee.)