



Report on "Initiatives & Programmes to Support Innovation in HEIs - Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog"

Title of the Session: "Initiatives & Programmes to Support Innovation in HEIs - Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog"

Organized By: Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Swami Vivekananda University, Kolkata

Resource Person: Dr. R. K. Sharma, Professor & IIC Academic Lead
Er. S. Mukhopadhyay, Patent Consultant

Mode of Delivery: Online

No. of Participants: 72

Duration: 1 Hour

Date: 25th August, 2026

Venue/Location: Swami Vivekananda University, Kolkata

Objectives:

The session aimed to create awareness among students, faculty members, researchers, innovators, and Higher Educational Institutions about national initiatives and programmes designed to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship. It focused on understanding the role of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in supporting innovation from idea generation and prototyping to incubation, commercialization, and market deployment. The session also highlighted opportunities for HEIs and Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) to participate in and contribute to the national innovation ecosystem

Theme:

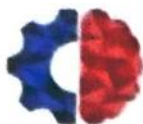
The theme of the session was **"Initiatives & Programmes to Support Innovation in HEIs."** The discussion presented a three-part innovation ecosystem comprising **Input Generation, Throughput Improvement, and Output Acceleration**. These stages focus respectively on increasing the pool of innovators, strengthening institutional capacity, and creating market linkages and pathways for commercialization

Outcome:

The session enhanced participants' understanding of the national innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and the different support mechanisms available at various stages of innovation. Participants gained knowledge about incubation, mentoring, prototyping, technology readiness, intellectual property, commercialization, market access, and industry collaboration. The session also helped participants understand how HEIs and IICs can actively contribute to strengthening innovation ecosystems and supporting students and faculty in transforming ideas into impactful solutions.

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Session Highlights:

The session provided an overview of major initiatives of **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog**, and their relevance to the innovation ecosystem. The discussion covered **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)**, **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)**, **Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs)**, **Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)**, and the **Industrial Accelerator (Access Program)**. These initiatives address different stages of the innovation journey, from developing young innovators and supporting grassroots innovation to incubating startups, providing grants, facilitating market access, and connecting advanced technologies with industry.

The session also highlighted the role of HEIs and IICs in strengthening innovation ecosystems. Particular emphasis was placed on mentorship, incubation infrastructure, technology readiness, intellectual property generation, commercialization, and industry linkages. The **Mentors of Change** network was highlighted as an opportunity for faculty members, innovation ambassadors, and student innovators to mentor young innovators.

Key Initiatives Discussed

1. Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs):

ATLs provide school students with hands-on exposure to technologies such as 3D printing, IoT, robotics, AI, electronics, and microcontrollers. The session also discussed the **ATL Marathon**, **Student Innovator Program (SIP)**, and **Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP)** as pathways for progressing student ideas towards entrepreneurship and market readiness.

2. Atal Incubation Centres (AICs):

AICs were presented as institutional incubation platforms providing facilities such as co-working spaces, rapid prototyping, laboratories, domain expertise, mentoring, and investor interactions. The session highlighted the growing focus on sector-specific incubation and expansion into Tier-2 and Tier-3 educational institutions.

3. Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs):

ACICs focus on promoting innovation in Tier-3 and Tier-4 towns, aspirational districts, tribal areas, and underserved regions. The programme emphasizes grassroots innovation and development of local entrepreneurs addressing community-specific challenges.

4. Atal New India Challenge (ANIC):

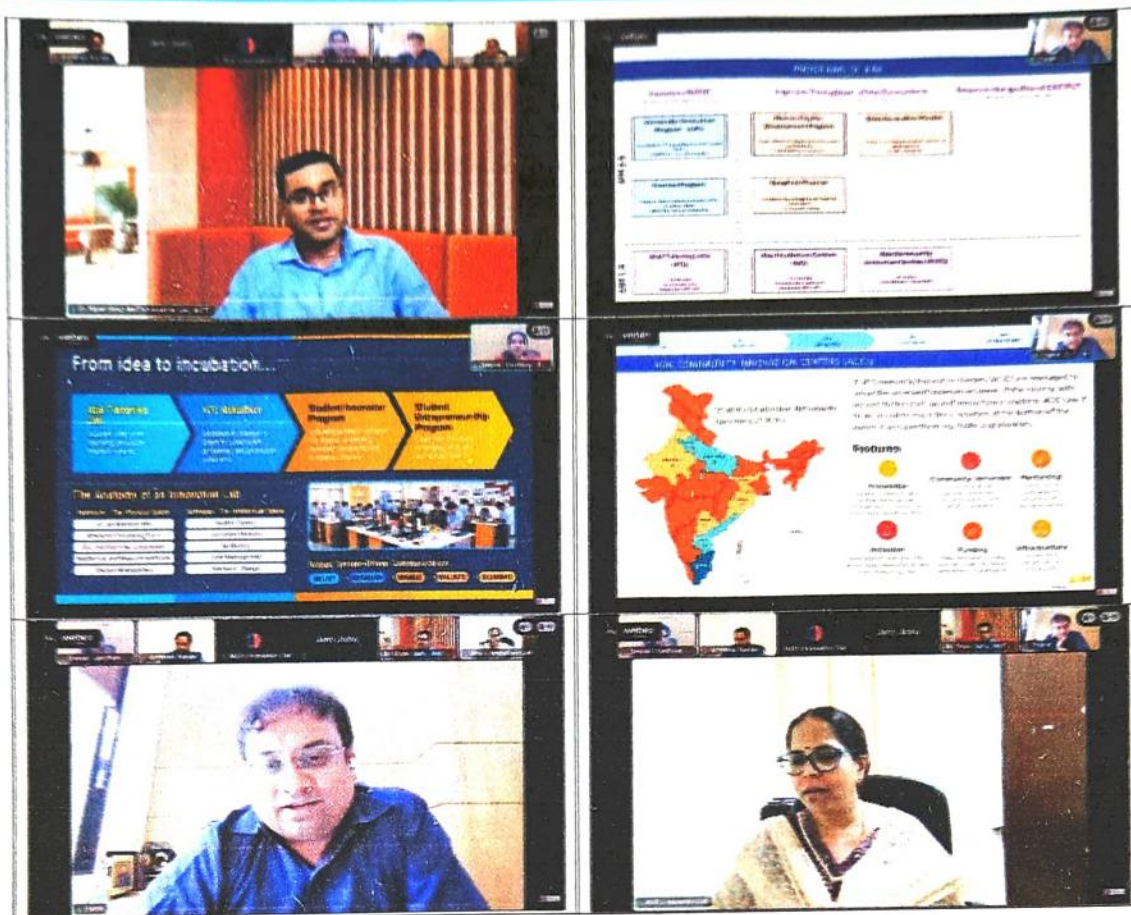
ANIC provides support to early-stage startups and MSMEs developing technology-based solutions for national priority areas. The programme also creates opportunities for startups to work with government ministries and explore pilot and market-entry opportunities.

5. Industrial Accelerator – Access Program:

The programme focuses on supporting technologies progressing from **TRL 6 to TRL 9**, helping bridge the gap between proven prototypes and commercial market deployment through industry collaboration and accelerator programmes.



Glimpse of the event:



General Participants Feedback:

Participants found the session informative and relevant to the development of innovation and entrepreneurship activities within Higher Educational Institutions. The overview of AIM programmes provided useful insights into incubation, grassroots innovation, startup development, mentorship, and commercialization opportunities. Participants particularly benefited from understanding the different pathways through which innovative ideas can progress from early-stage concepts to market-ready solutions.

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Recommendations:

HEIs and IICs should actively engage with national innovation programmes and strengthen their institutional incubation and mentoring mechanisms. Faculty members, innovation ambassadors, and student innovators may be encouraged to participate in mentorship initiatives and support innovation activities beyond the university campus. HEIs should also organize exposure visits, connect students with incubation centres, encourage prototype development and IP generation, and regularly monitor official calls for relevant AIM programmes.

Signature of the Convenor with University Seal

Convenor:

**Dr. Ranjan Kumar,
Convenor, IIC Cell**

**Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
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**Initiatives & Programmes to Support Innovation in HEIs - Atal Innovation Mission,
NITI Aayog**

Date: 25th August, 2026

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5	Aditya Singh	DME	000-101-2025-003	A. Singh
6	Sachin Kumar	DME	000-101-2025-033	Sachin Kumar
7	Subhadeep Mudi	DME	000-101-2025-048	Subhadeep Mudi
8	Krishnakanta Jana	DME	46	Krishnakanta Jana
9	Satyajit Pal	DME	45	Satyajit Pal
10	Akash Das	DME	47	Akash Das
11	Raideep Kolya	DME	000-101-2025-31	Raideep Kolya
12	Swarna Tikader	DME	000-101-2025-36	Swarna Tikader
13	Som Chakraborty	DME	000-101-2025-044	Som Chakraborty
14	MDHAMMAD. ASHIF	DME	000-101-2025-022	Md. Ashif
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16	Shuvam Roy	DME	000-101-2025-043	Shuvam Roy
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18	Suman Maiti	DME	33	Suman Maiti
19	Ratidip Kratao	DME	32	Ratidip Kratao
20	Joy Bhattacharyay	DME	000-101-2025-018	Joy Bhattacharyay
21	Rishab Das	DME	000-101-2025-019	Rishab Das
22	Tushar Bangal	DME	000-101-2025-058	Tushar Bangal
23	Sayananta Kamila	DME	000-101-2025-041	Sayananta Kamila
24	Tatam Ghosh	DME	000-101-2025-032	Tatam Ghosh
25	Arijit Gayen	DME	000-101-2025-002	Arijit Gayen
26	Rabindra Nath Manna	DME		Rabindra Nath Manna
27	Santanu Roy	DME		Santanu Roy
28	AYUSH SAHANA	DME	000-101-2025-008	A. Sahana
29	Koushik Halder	DME	000-101-2025-020	Koushik Halder
30	Santanu Mondal	DME	000-101-2025-063	Santanu Mondal
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34	SUVANKAR MONDAL	BME	002-101-2023-007	Suvankar Mondal
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41	JAYJIT DEY SARUAR	DME	002-101-2024-117	Jayjit Dey Saruar
42	PAPAT SANTRA	BME	002-101-2023-001	Papat Santra
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