



# Mahatma Gandhi University

## महात्मा गांधी विश्वविद्यालय

(Established by State Govt. of Sikkim, U/S 2(f) of the U.G.C Act, 1956, Govt of India  
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### Start-ups/Entrepreneurship Cell

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#### Introduction

The Start-ups/Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) at Mahatma Gandhi University, Sikkim, is a dedicated initiative to foster entrepreneurial thinking, innovation, and startup culture on campus. Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and government initiatives like Startup India, Atal Innovation Mission, and Stand Up India, the E-Cell empowers students and faculty to transform innovative ideas into successful ventures.

We provide mentorship, resources, funding support, and networking opportunities to aspiring entrepreneurs, helping them navigate the journey from ideation to execution and market success.

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#### Vision

To create a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem at MGU, Sikkim, that nurtures innovation, creativity, and job creation, contributing to the economic and social development of the region and the nation.

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#### Mission

- ✓ Foster entrepreneurial mindset and skills among students and faculty.
  - ✓ Support ideation, prototyping, and commercialization of innovative ideas.
  - ✓ Provide access to mentorship, incubation facilities, and funding opportunities.
  - ✓ Create industry linkages and networking platforms for startups.
  - ✓ Promote social entrepreneurship and sustainable business models.
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#### Objectives

**Awareness & Ideation:** Conduct workshops, seminars, and boot camps to generate and refine business ideas.

**Skill Development:** Train students in entrepreneurship, business planning, financial management, and marketing.

**Incubation Support:** Provide infrastructure, mentorship, and seed funding for early-stage startups.

**Networking:** Connect entrepreneurs with investors, industry leaders, alumni, and government agencies.

**Innovation Culture:** Encourage multidisciplinary collaboration and design thinking.

**Social Impact:** Promote entrepreneurship that addresses societal challenges and local needs.

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## **Structure & Composition**

Faculty Coordinator: [Dr. Nigma Doma Sherpa / Miss Adersikha]

### **Members:**

- ✓ Faculty mentors from various departments
  - ✓ Industry experts and successful entrepreneurs
  - ✓ Alumni entrepreneurs
  - ✓ Student representatives from all programs
  - ✓ Innovation and Incubation Center representative
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## **Key Activities & Initiatives**

### **1. Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs**

**Startup Orientation Sessions:** Introduction to entrepreneurship, startup ecosystem, and success stories.

**Guest Lectures:** Talks by successful entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders.

**E-Talks Series: Regular webinars on emerging trends, funding, and scaling businesses.**

### **2. Skill Development Workshops**

- ✓ Business Model Canvas and Lean Startup Methodology
- ✓ Market Research and Customer Discovery
- ✓ Financial Planning and Fundraising
- ✓ Digital Marketing and Branding
- ✓ Legal Aspects of Startups (IPR, Company Registration, Taxation)
- ✓ Pitch Deck Preparation and Presentation Skills

### **3. Hackathons & Competitions**

- ✓ Annual Hackathon: 24-48 hour innovation challenges to solve real-world problems.
- ✓ Business Plan Competitions: Students pitch their startup ideas for prizes and seed funding.
- ✓ Social Innovation Challenge: Focused on solving local and regional problems.
- ✓ Participation in national competitions like Smart India Hackathon, IIT Bombay Eureka, and Startup India Innovation Challenge.

#### **4. Incubation & Pre-Incubation Support**

- ✓ MGU Innovation & Incubation Center: Physical space with co-working facilities, meeting rooms, and prototyping labs.
- ✓ Mentorship Program: One-on-one guidance from experienced entrepreneurs and industry professionals.
- ✓ Seed Funding: Financial support for promising startups through internal grants and external funding partnerships.
- ✓ Technology Access: Use of university labs, equipment, and software for product development.

#### **5. Networking & Exposure**

- ✓ Startup Meets & Networking Events: Connect with fellow entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors.
- ✓ Industry Visits: Exposure to successful startups, incubators, and accelerators.
- ✓ Investor Connect Sessions: Pitch events with angel investors, venture capitalists, and government funding agencies.
- ✓ Alumni Entrepreneur Network: Engage with MGU alumni who have successfully launched ventures.

#### **6. Funding & Financial Support**

- ✓ The E-Cell helps students access:
- ✓ Internal Seed Funding: Up to Rs. 50,000 - 2,00,000 for validated ideas.
- ✓ Government Schemes: Support for applications to Startup India, MSME schemes, MUDRA loans, and state startup funds.
- ✓ Angel Investors & VCs: Introductions to funding networks.
- ✓ CSR Funding: Partnerships with corporate CSR programs.

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#### **Success Stories: MGU Student Startups**

##### **Example 1: HealthTech Solutions**

**Founded by:** Mr. Raja (BCA, 2024)

**Concept:** A mobile app connecting rural patients with healthcare professionals for remote consultations.

**Achievement:** Secured seed funding of Rs. 20000, serving 500+ patients in Sikkim and West Bengal.

**Impact:** Improved healthcare access in remote Himalayan regions.

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### Example 2: AgrilInnovate

**Founded by:** Dr. Ningma Doma Sherpa (Faculty of Agriculture, 2024)

**Concept:** Organic farming advisory platform providing real-time weather, pest control, and crop management guidance to local farmers.

**Achievement:** Won the MGU Business Plan Competition 2024; partnered with Sikkim Organic Mission.

**Impact:** Supporting 50+ organic farmers in Sikkim.

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### Example 3: EcoWrap Packaging

Founded by: Dr. Laden Sherpa (Faculty of Science, 2024)

**Concept:** Biodegradable packaging solutions made from locally sourced agricultural waste.

**Achievement:** Incubated at MGU;

received funding of Rs. 30,000.

Impact: Reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainable packaging in Sikkim.

#### Facilities & Resources

- ✓ Co-Working Space: Modern, fully-equipped workspace for startup teams.
- ✓ Prototyping Lab: Access to 3D printers, electronics, and fabrication tools.
- ✓ Conference & Meeting Rooms: For team discussions, investor meetings, and pitches.
- ✓ Legal & Financial Advisory: Support for company registration, contracts, and compliance.
- ✓ Digital Resources: Access to business planning software, market research databases, and e-learning platforms.

#### Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Description
Startup Bootcamp 2025	8-10 November 2025	3-day intensive workshop on startup fundamentals in the field of Physiotherapy
Pitch Fest 2026	5 February 2026	Annual business plan competition with Rs. 2 lakh prize pool
Investor Connect Session	20 March 2026	Meet and pitch to angel investors and VCs