Ministry of Human Resource Development Launches Innovation Cell

Innovation cell has been established at All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) premises with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

- The primary mandate of Innovation Cell is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years.
- Along with Innovation cell, **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)** has also been launched which aims to encourage healthy competiveness among Higher Educational Institutions.
- The move comes after India's ranking in the **Global Innovation index** Ranking moved slightly up to **57 in 2018** from 60 in 2017. India has been constantly outperforming on innovation relative to its level of development for many years in a row.

Major Programs under Innovation Cell

1. **Network of Innovation Clubs (NIC)**

   They will be established in Higher Educational Institutions to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by providing a platform for various activities like:
   - Interaction with renowned Business Leaders and top-notch academicians,
   - Mentoring by Industry Professionals,
   - Experiment with new technologies, etc.

2. **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)**

- ARIIA will rank education institutions and universities primarily on innovation related indicators.
- It considers all major indicators which are commonly used globally to rank most innovative education institutions/ universities in the world.

- More than quantity, ARIIA will focus on quality of innovations and will try to measure the real impact created by these innovations nationally and internationally.
- It will primarily focus on 5 main parameters:
    - Budget Expenses and Revenue generated through Innovation and entrepreneurship development.
    - Facilitating access to advance centres / facilities and entrepreneurial support system.
    - Idea to Entrepreneurship.
    - Development of Innovation Ecosystems Supported through Teaching & Learning.
    - Best innovative solutions Developed In-house for Improving Governance of the Institution.

3. **Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2019**

Smart India Hackathon 2019 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of pressing problems of daily lives.

Read more about SIH-2019

4. **National Student Startup Policy (NSSP)**

- AICTE launched its Student Start-up Policy in 2016, which is designed for the AICTE approved Institutions in accordance with Govt of India's "Start-up India" Action plan.
- It intends to guide AICTE approved institutions to promote student driven innovations and start-ups.
- The policy aims at identifying the innovative and entrepreneurial potential of students and transforming them into start-up entrepreneurs.

Steps Taken by Government to Promote Innovation

- **"India Innovation Index"** launched by NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The Government is promoting **Research Parks (RPs)** and **Technology Business Incubators (TBIs)** which would nurture and promote the innovative ideas till they become commercial ventures.
- The projects for promoting research and innovation like the **IMPRINT** and **Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY)** have brought focused attention of the scientific community on the need for promoting innovation.
- The **Start Up India** initiative of the Government has also put in place a mechanism for identifying and incubating the innovative ideas.