



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVERNMENT AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE, ROURKELA.769004

No. 2832 /GACR

Dt. 04.07.26

WhatsApp/ Website

NOTICE

An **Innovation & Start Up** competition will be held in the 3rd week of July among the students of Government Autonomous college, Rourkela and the best 3 (Three) proposals will be sent to the University level competition. Students are encouraged to participate by submitting their proposal for getting funded their projects to convert their dream into the reality.

The participants are advised to go through the detailed guideline attached herewith.

Dateline:

1. By 31st July, 2026: Submission of detailed proposals to the **Coordinator, Sri. D.K. Mahanta, Commerce.**
2. By 7th August, 2026: Refinement and monitoring of the proposal by the Review Committee.
3. On 15th August, 2026: Declaration of best 3 proposals and Award of Prizes by the Principal.

Awards/ Financial Support:

1. At College Level: **Certificate to all participants.** (Top 3 will be selected to the University Level)
2. At University Level: **Rs. 1 Lakh Financial Support** for Idea Development, Training By Industry Leaders. (Top 7 Proposals)
3. At State Level: **Rs. 5 Lakh Financial Support** for Prototype Development, Skilling, Mentorship, Labs, Logistical Support. (Top 10 Proposals)

[Signature]
04.7.26

Principal

Govt. Auto. College, Rourkela.

Memo No. 2833 /GACR Date. 04.07.2026

Copy to Notice Board/ Common Room (Staff, Girls & Boys)/ College Website/ all staff members through Emp. Asso. WhatsApp Group/ Sri D.K. Mahanta, Coordinator/ Administrative Bursar/Academic Bursar/ Section Officer/ Principal's file for information and necessary action.

[Signature]
04.7.26

Principal

Govt. Auto. College, Rourkela.

Guidelines for Innovation and Start-Up Competition in Higher Education Institutions



**Higher Education Department,
Government of Odisha**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha, envisions fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among its students by organizing a multi-level Innovation and Start-Up Competition. This initiative will encourage students across colleges and universities to propose creative solutions to local challenges, develop life-easing innovations, or conceptualize viable start-ups and business ideas.

The competition will create a pipeline of innovative thinkers and support them through structured guidance, financial assistance, and training. For these purposes, Higher Education Department is launching a groundbreaking initiative to revolutionize the educational landscape and foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

2. OBJECTIVE

The programme seeks to address local challenges, simplify living and business processes by promoting:

1. Start-up ventures
2. Developing entrepreneurial skills
3. Empowering students with resources and financial support to achieve regional and sectoral development.

3. SCOPE

The competition is open to all students enrolled in higher education institutions across Odisha, including colleges, universities, and other affiliated institutions. Participation is compulsory for all institutions and students.

4. THEMES

Participants may submit ideas under the following categories:

1. **Solutions to Local Problems:** Proposals that address specific issues faced by the local community.
2. **Ease of Living / Ease of Doing Business:** Innovations that simplify daily activities or business operations.
3. **Start-Up and Business Ideas:** Concepts with potential for commercial viability.

5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The competition will be conducted at three levels:

- Institution Level
- University Level
- State Level

5.1 Institution-Level Competition

- **Participants:** All students of the institution (all Govt and aided colleges and affiliating Universities) shall mandatorily be participating in the competition. No one should be given exemption from participation.
- **Organizing Body:** Institutions are responsible for conducting this round under the supervision of the principals of the colleges concerned / Chairpersons of PG Council of Universities.
- **Evaluation:** By a three-member panel formed by the institution (faculty members, local entrepreneurs, and alumni).

Submission Guidelines

Students must submit a detailed proposal including:

1. Title and category of the idea
2. Problem statement and proposed solution
3. Feasibility, scalability, and impact of the idea
4. Implementation plan
5. Proposals must not exceed **2000 words**
6. A **synopsis within 500 words**

A self-declaration by the participants that the proposal submitted is original must be countersigned by the teacher/mentor guiding the student.

- **Selection Process:** Evaluation based on creativity, feasibility, and impact potential.
- **Selection:** Top 3 proposals will be forwarded to the respective university.

5.2 University-Level Competition

- **Participants:** Top 3 proposals from each affiliated institution from the affiliating university including top 3 participants of the university. (In case of unitary university, all students of the unitary university shall participate)

Organizing Body: Universities under the supervision of Registrar / Chairperson PG Council in coordination with the Higher Education Department.

- **Evaluation Panel:** Senior faculty members, entrepreneurs, and domain experts.
- **Selection Process:** A panel of 3 experts (including 1 external member) will evaluate proposals.
- **Selection:** Top 7 proposals will be selected for financial assistance and prototype development.

5.3 State-Level Competition

- **Participants:** Selected proposals recommended by universities.
- **Organizing Body:** Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC), Higher Education Department.
- **Evaluation Panel:** Experts from academia, industry, and government.
- **Selection:** Top 10 proposals will be selected for state-level support.

The state-level competition will be monitored and coordinated by OSHEC, which will finalize the top proposals and facilitate them in a state-level function.

6. SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES

6.1 State-Level (Top 10 Proposals)

- Financial assistance for prototype development (up to ₹5 lakh each), to be paid in instalments based on progress.
- Skilling and entrepreneurship training
- Mentorship by industry leaders
- Access to co-working spaces and labs
- Logistical support for scaling and implementation
- Priority access to the facility of the University Incubation centre following due processes.

6.2 University-Level (Top 7 Proposals)

- Financial assistance of ₹1,00,000 per selected proposal for prototype development, to be paid in instalments based on progress.
- Training workshops on ideation and business planning.
- Mentorship from industry experts and alumni networks.

Disbursement Mechanism for Prototype Development Grant

To ensure proper utilization of funds, the ₹1,00,000 assistance shall be released in instalments:

Sl. No.	Instalment	Amount	Conditions for Release
1	First Instalment	₹40,000 (40%)	Released after selection of the project at the University Level to initiate prototype development and procurement of basic materials.
2	Second Instalment	₹40,000 (40%)	Released after submission of a progress report confirming substantial progress in prototype development and verification by the University Evaluation Committee.
3	Final Instalment	₹20,000 (20%)	Released after completion of the prototype and final verification by the University Evaluation Committee.

11. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Enhanced culture of innovation among students.
2. Real-world problem solving through student ideas.
3. Identification of talent for Odisha's start-up ecosystem.
4. Creation of a network of innovators and mentors.
5. Development of student-led start-ups.

12. CONCLUSION

The Innovation and Start-Up Competition is a transformative initiative to empower Odisha's students, drive regional development, and position the state as a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Annexure-I

Timeline for the Innovation and Start-up Competition – 2026

Sl. No.	Activity	Timeline
1	Notification for Innovation and Start-up Competition at institutional level and sensitization of students for participation	20 th – 30 th June 2026
2	Competition start date at institutional level	1 st July 2026
3	Submission of detailed proposals (maximum 2000 words) with a synopsis of 500 words by students to the Principals / Chairperson PG Council	31 st July 2026
4	Refinement and monitoring of proposals by mentors at college level	August 2026
5	Declaration of results (best 3 proposals) at institutional level with provision of prizes by Principal / Chairperson, PG Council and notification of Single Point Contact Officer and Coordinator at University level	15 th August 2026
6	Submission of synopsis along with detailed contact address of selected candidates from institutions to the University	24 th August 2026

7	Screening / Shortlisting / Selection of proposals at university level through physical interaction with participants	25 th September 2026
8	Fine-tuning of the selected proposals at university level in consultation with mentors	By 16 th October 2026
9	Submission of proposals from Universities to OSHEC	31 st October 2026
10	Screening and shortlisting of proposals by OSHEC	2 nd November – 13 th November 2026
11	Felicitation of winners at State Level Competition	16 th November to 15 th December 2026