INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

GUIDELINES

Startup Competition-2025
(Best Startup Award-2025)

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is actively engaged in fostering its students and alumni towards an *Atmanirbhar* and a *Viksit* Bharat through promoting, supporting and nurturing the Innovator Students and Alumni of IGNOU interested in setting up their own Startups. In this context, the IIC-IGNOU is organising a **Startup Competition-2025** to select the candidates for the Best Startup Award-2025 from among the IGNOU students and alumni.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

All the Students and Alumni of IGNOU, who have either set up their Startup/Business Venture or are at an advanced stage of setting-up their Startup/ Business Venture, are eligible to participate in the **Startup Competition-2025.**

Why Should You Participate?

1. The top three Startups/ Business Ventures/ to be Startups/ Business Ventures will be given the **Best Startup Award-2025.**
2. The winners of First, Second and Third Prizes will be awarded a Cash Prize of Rs. 10000/-, Rs. 7000/-, and Rs. 5000/-, respectively.
3. All the shortlisted participants will be provided the required support, training and guidance for scaling up their Startup/Business Venture initiatives.
4. You will be provided a national platform for showcasing your Startup or Business Venture.
5. Certificate of Participation will be provided to all the shortlisted students and alumni.
6. You will get the opportunity to interact with other innovators and entrepreneurs.
7. You will be guided and facilitated in getting financial support from various funding agencies.

What are Different Stages?

1. Interested students and alumni are required to submit the details about their Startup/ Business Venture/ to be a Startup/ Business Venture through the Google Form for the First Round.
2. The entries received by the last date will be screened by an Expert Committee to shortlist the Startups/ Business Ventures/ to be a Startup/Business Ventures.
3. The shortlisted students and alumni will be eligible to participate in the Second Round of the **Startup Competition-2025**.

4. The shortlisted students and alumni will be required to present their Startup/ Business Venture/ to be a Startup/ Business Venture before the Expert Committee to select the best three Startup/ Business Venture/ to be a Startup/ Business Venture. This will be held tentatively during the first week of August.
5. The shortlisted candidates will be provided a **Template** for presentation during the Second Round of the **Startup Competition-2025**.
6. The selected Startup/Business Venture/to be a Startup/Business Venture may get an opportunity to present during the event on celebrating World Entrepreneurship Day to be held tentatively on August 21, 2025.

What are the Suggested Theme Areas?

1. Food, Agriculture and Rural Development
2. Clean Energy and Alternate Fuel
3. Clean Water and Water Management
4. Environmental Issues and Waste Management
5. Swacchhata Initiatives, Health Care, Hygiene, Lifestyle and Sports
6. Smart Transportation and Traffic Management
7. Smart City and Urban Development
8. Social Issues and Security System
9. Scientific and Technological Developments
10. Education and Online Teaching-learning System
11. Hospitality, Travel and Tourism
12. E-Governance, E-Commerce and Digital Marketing
13. Robotics and Drones
14. ICT, Cyber Security Systems, Blockchain, Cognitive Computing, AI and ML
15. IoT based technologies
16. Any other Area like Fashion, Art, Entertainment, Retails and Banking, etc. (Please specify)

Will I Get a Certificate?

Certificate of Participation will be awarded to the shortlisted Students and Alumni who present their Startups before the Expert Committee. Certificate of Merit along with the Best Startup Award-2025 will be awarded to the Winners of the First, Second and Third positions in the Second Round. However, the decision of the University in this regard will be final and binding.

How to Apply?

Interested Students and Alumni of IGNOU who have established a **Startup/Business Venture or are at an advanced stage (at least TRL-4) of setting up their Startup/Business Venture** can **submit their detailed entries** through Google Form at the link: **https://forms.gle/WvEgMnevMX3JR6iHA** latest by **July 31, 2025.**

Important Dates

1. **Submission Deadline:** The last date for submitting the entries at the link: **https://forms.gle/WvEgMnevMX3JR6iHA** for the Startup Competition-2025 is **July 31, 2025.**
2. **Pitching Day:** The shortlisted Startup/ Business Venture/ to be a Startup/Business Venture will have the opportunity to present their startup in front of an Expert Committee. **This event is scheduled to be held tentatively during the second week of August in Hybrid Mode.**
3. **Award Function and Presentation** by the selected Startup/Business Venture/ to be a Startup/Business Venture during an event tentatively planned to be held in Hybrid Mode.

Whom to Contact

For any clarification or more details, you may contact via email at directorncide@ignou.ac.in.

Director, NCIDE