Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India
Ahmedabad

'InnovateEDU: Fostering Entrepreneurial Minds'

- Three-year initiative to nurture the entrepreneurship ecosystem
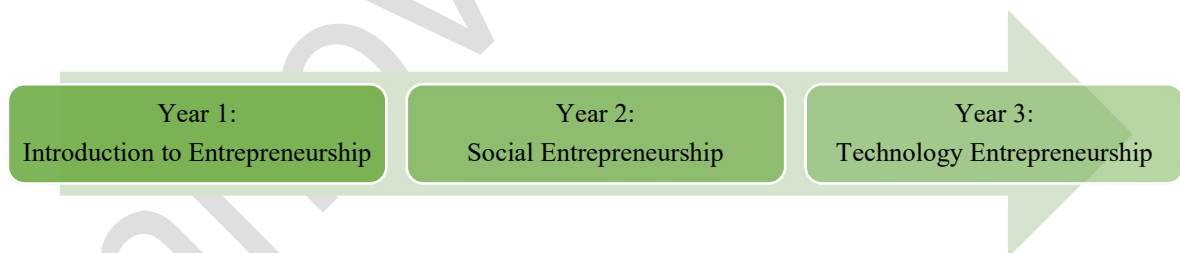
Introduction:

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) is a national institute for entrepreneurship education in India. EDII is dedicated to creating a robust ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurial minds. Recognized as a Center of Excellence by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, EDII's mission aligns closely with India's developmental goals by focusing on startup creation, self-reliance, and innovative solutions to social and economic challenges.

EDII's latest initiative, InnovateEDU: Fostering Entrepreneurial Minds, aims to collaborate with institutions across India to build a solid foundation in entrepreneurship education. InnovateEDU invites colleges and universities to participate in implementing a comprehensive entrepreneurship program, targeting the holistic development of faculty, students, and institutional research capacities. Through this program, EDII strives to instil a strong entrepreneurial mindset and to support the growth of entrepreneurial ecosystems on campuses nationwide.

Program Structure:

InnovateEDU has three core verticals that span a three-year journey as follows:

Year 1: Introduction to Entrepreneurship	Year 2: Social Entrepreneurship	Year 3: Technology Entrepreneurship

Vertical 1: Value-added integrated entrepreneurship programs for Faculty & Students

Courses, training, and mentorship opportunities to support personal and professional growth.

Vertical 2: Entrepreneurship Course Work and Research

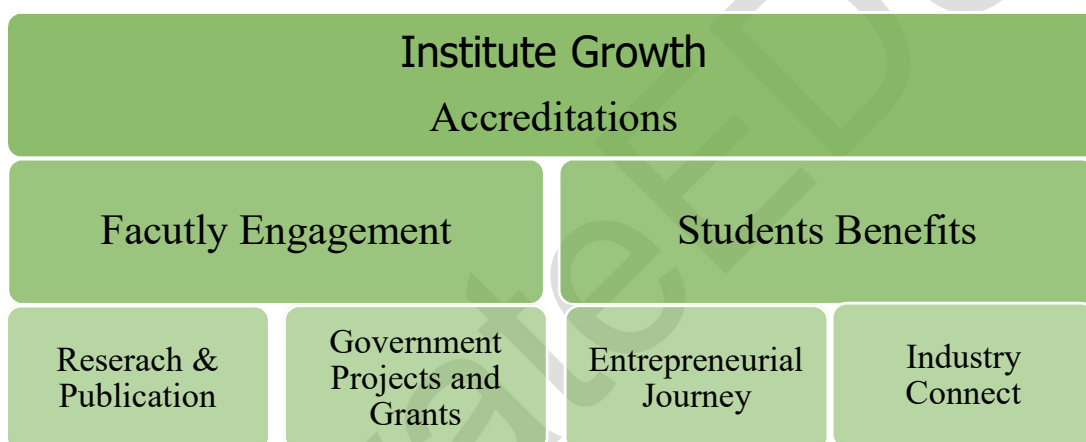Curriculum integration of entrepreneurship principles and research opportunities for students and faculty.

Vertical 3: Workshops and Boot Camps

Hands-on training to accelerate student ideas/ startups

This structure aligns with EDII's mission to promote entrepreneurship as a viable career path while meeting the needs of the government of India. Additionally, by emphasising social and technological entrepreneurship, the program addresses the evolving priorities of sustainability and innovation.

InnovateEDU Initiative key highlights:

The InnovateEDU program supports institutional objectives, faculty development, and student career readiness. EDII offers strategic insights for colleges and universities that align with NIRF and NAAC parameters, aiming to enhance institutional rankings and accreditation outcomes. Faculty members gain access to specialised training and research collaborations, while students receive hands-on learning experiences that prepare them for entrepreneurial success. InnovateEDU enables institutions to participate actively in India's growing entrepreneurial landscape through regular industry connections, funding opportunities, and periodic support.

Institute Growth
Accreditations

Facutly Engagement	Students Benefits
Reserach & Publication / Government Projects and Grants	Entrepreneurial Journey / Industry Connect

Key College/University Level Benefits:

- Nurture and develop an entrepreneurship mindset and an ecosystem within the college/university.
- Set up an entrepreneurship cell / Incubation unit associated with EDII Ahmedabad.
- Align and support the Institute Innovation Cell (IIC) calendar activities
- Collaborate with EDII to integrate structured entrepreneurship courses within the curriculum, aligning with NEP, NBA, NAAC and NIRF standards (refer to the appendix for more details).
- The courses can be linked through credited courses for the students.
- Receive regular guidance to enhance the institution's ranking and recognition in entrepreneurship education.
- Discounted registration for the EDII Biennial conference
- EDII library access to journals and other data base.
- Investment opportunities through government initiatives and a private pool of investors
- Joint FDP initiatives – Partnering with EDII, development programs such as FDPs, MDPs and executive programs can be organized.

- Incubation and collaboration opportunities with EDII incubation centre CrAdLE.

Key Faculty Level Benefits:

- Value-added integrated entrepreneurship programs equip faculty to develop an entrepreneurial mindset for themselves and to mentor the students.
- Opportunities for faculty to co-author research papers with EDII, contributing to academic publications and industry-relevant research to publish in indexed journals.
- Publish research articles in the Journal of Entrepreneurship (JoE- h-index 29) with EDII faculty members.
- Apply for government grants in entrepreneurship education, skill development, conferences, seminars, etc., in association with EDII faculty members – guidance and co-director partnership will be provided.
- Periodical faculty mentorship sessions (hybrid – quarterly) to share the achievements and overcome the challenges

Key Student Level Benefits:

- Three-year course program introducing entrepreneurship basics, social impact, and technology-driven entrepreneurship. These courses can be offered as credit courses for students based on university/college norms.
- Hands-on workshops and boot camps for practical exposure and real-world application.
- Opportunity to be part of EDII projects as an intern visit EDII project list for more information
- Work on the idea and get mentorship/guidance to accelerate the development (hybrid – quarterly)
- Participate in national and international hackathons organised by EDII.
- Access to industry mentors, resources, and networks to support student startups and entrepreneurial endeavors.
- Pitch to the pool of investors from pre-seed funding to series funding opportunities.

Other areas of Collaboration:

Research Benefits:

- Collaborative research opportunities with EDII focused on the latest trends and needs in entrepreneurship.
- Funding and support for research initiatives, encouraging innovation and social entrepreneurship.
- Access to an extensive database of research papers and case studies for enhanced learning and application.

Project Proposal:

- Guidance in formulating and presenting innovative project proposals for funding and support in entrepreneurship.
- Assistance in aligning projects with industry needs and national entrepreneurship standards.
- Support for implementing successful projects and creating scalable models for entrepreneurship development.

Industry Connect

- Industry experts as guests to connect with students to mentor, guide, fund and incubate
- Collaborative initiatives with EDII to support CSR programs, social learning, SDGs deployment
- Networking opportunities with industry leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs.
- Collaboration on live projects and internships to provide students with real-world experience.
- Regularly organised industry-led sessions to align faculty and students with market demands.

Periodical Guidance and Support

- Scheduled mentorship and review sessions to monitor progress and ensure program effectiveness.
- Customized guidance for each vertical ensures faculty, students, and researchers receive ongoing support.
- Periodic feedback and evaluation to adapt the program according to the institution's evolving needs.

Proposed financials:

The subsidized costs will be revealed after shortlisting the universities/colleges.

Selection Process:

Only 20 universities (or) colleges will selected for 2025-2026, based on the invited application and EDII internal committee selection process.

Key Dates:

- January 3rd   – Last date to submit the application
- January 21st   – Program Briefing
- January 30th   – Communication to Selected colleges / Universities
- Feb 7th   – Work Agreement and Last day to pay for year 1

About EDII:

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India is a national institution for entrepreneurship education in India. It was awarded as a Centre of Excellence by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. EDII moved on to adopt the role of a National Resource Institute in Entrepreneurship training, education, research, MSME development, innovations

and institutional building. The Institute's efforts in entrepreneurship training, education, research, MSME development, innovations and institutional building have been broad-based nationally and internationally too, with the setting up of Entrepreneurship Development Centres in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Uzbekistan and Rwanda. EDII offers AICTE- and NBA-approved PGDM programs on entrepreneurship education. EDII is committed to fostering skill development across multiple levels, focusing on Faculty Development Programs (FDP), Management Development Programs (MDPs) and entrepreneurship.

EDII also works closely with regulatory bodies, like the Central Board of Secondary Education. To broaden the frontiers of Entrepreneurship Research, EDII has established Centre for Research in Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CREED), to investigate into a range of issues surrounding the small and medium enterprise sector through its publications 'The Journal of Entrepreneurship (JoE)' CREED also establishes a network of researchers and trainers by conducting Biennial Conference on Entrepreneurship Education and Research. EDII also leads the India Chapter of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), the largest annual study of entrepreneurial dynamics in the world. In the international arena, efforts to develop entrepreneurship by way of sharing resources and organising training programmes, have helped EDII earn accolades and support from the World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, ILO, FNSt, British Council, Ford Foundation, European Union, ASEAN Secretariat and several other renowned agencies. In consonance with the emphasis on startups and innovations, EDII has hosted the Technology Business Incubator (TBI), CrAdLE – Centre for Advancing and Launching Enterprises in the year 2016. The TBI is supported and catalyzed by NSTEDB, DST, Govt. of India and aims at fostering technology/knowledge based entrepreneurial startups in four niche segments of manufacturing, food processing, renewable energy and healthcare.

Contact Details:

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Appendix A:

I.   National Education Policy Alignment:

1.   Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education (NEP 2020, Para 11.1, 11.2)

- InnovateEDU integrates entrepreneurship across disciplines, encouraging students from various fields (science, engineering, arts, and commerce) to engage with entrepreneurial thinking.
- By introducing Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, and Technology Entrepreneurship over three years, the program provides a holistic and progressive approach to entrepreneurship, aligning with NEP's vision of a broad-based education.
- Multidisciplinary workshops and boot camps offer practical skills applicable across multiple career paths, supporting NEP's call for holistic and multidisciplinary education.

2. Skill Development and Employability (NEP 2020, Para 4.4, 11.6)

- The program focuses on skill-building by offering hands-on experiences through boot camps, real-world projects, and industry interactions, aligned with NEP's emphasis on developing employable and entrepreneurial skills.
- Year 2's focus on social entrepreneurship promotes community engagement and problem-solving, preparing students with essential skills for the modern job market.
- Industry mentorship and internships enhance job readiness, addressing NEP's goal of creating a skill-oriented curriculum that enables students to thrive in evolving job markets.

3. Vocational Education and Experiential Learning (NEP 2020, Para 16.4, 16.5)

- With its practical orientation, InnovateEDU meets NEP's goal of making vocational education an integral part of higher education. The program includes entrepreneurship as a vocational course, aligning with NEP's aim to achieve 50% student exposure to vocational training by 2025.
- Experiential learning through projects, boot camps, and industry-aligned courses fulfills NEP's directive to promote real-world exposure and practical skill-building as core elements of the curriculum.
- By integrating entrepreneurship education as a key vocational stream, InnovateEDU supports the NEP's vision of experiential and hands-on learning.

4. Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Creation (NEP 2020, Para 10.9, 17.3)

- InnovateEDU promotes research through collaborative projects, support for entrepreneurship research, and access to EDII's extensive resources, aligning with NEP's vision of fostering research and innovation.
- Opportunities for faculty and students to publish research papers and engage in project-based learning directly support NEP's goal of making research a prominent part of higher education.
- By establishing a research culture on campus, the program encourages innovation and thought leadership, in line with NEP's emphasis on knowledge creation and a research-driven academic environment.

5. Inclusion and Equity (NEP 2020, Para 6.2, 6.3)

- InnovateEDU provides equal access to entrepreneurship resources and opportunities for students across diverse backgrounds, addressing NEP's emphasis on equitable access to quality education.
- By promoting social entrepreneurship and community-oriented projects, the program encourages students to address local issues, fostering a sense of inclusivity and responsibility toward underserved communities.
- The inclusion of students from rural and underprivileged backgrounds in entrepreneurship activities supports NEP's call for inclusivity and equal opportunities for all.

6. Faculty Development and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) (NEP 2020, Para 15.1, 15.4)

- InnovateEDU offers specialized training and development programs for faculty, equipping them with the skills to teach and mentor students in entrepreneurship.
- EDII's workshops on innovative teaching methodologies, research collaboration, and curriculum design align with NEP's goal of enhancing teacher quality and encouraging continuous professional development.
- Faculty members are supported in research and publishing, creating a culture of continuous learning and aligning with NEP's vision for faculty improvement through CPD programs.

7. Promoting Indian Knowledge Systems and Local Contextual Relevance (NEP 2020, Para 22.1, 22.2)

- The second-year focus on social entrepreneurship encourages students to work on community-oriented projects, supporting NEP's emphasis on local context relevance and Indian knowledge systems.
- By promoting sustainable and socially impactful entrepreneurship, *InnovateEDU* addresses NEP's vision of leveraging traditional knowledge and Indian values in education.
- The program's alignment with local community needs fosters an appreciation of India's socio-economic context, preparing students to contribute to local and rural development.

8. Global Standards and Industry Engagement (NEP 2020, Para 23.6, 23.7)

- Industry connect initiatives bring students in touch with global trends, mentors, and best practices in entrepreneurship, supporting NEP's directive to expose students to global standards.
- EDII's network provides international perspectives and competitive insights, aligning with NEP's goal of meeting global educational standards while maintaining a strong Indian foundation.
- Regular industry-led sessions and practical exposure ensure that students understand and adapt to global business requirements, preparing them for international opportunities.

9. Funding and Resource Mobilization (NEP 2020, Para 18.2, 18.3)

- InnovateEDU provides guidance in securing funding and financial support for innovative projects, supporting NEP's vision of strengthening funding for higher education institutions.
- Access to EDII's network of investors and mentors enhances institutions' capability to attract funding and grants, aligning with NEP's goal to diversify funding sources and promote financial sustainability in education.
- Financial backing for impactful research and project proposals aligns with NEP's call to foster a supportive financial environment for academic innovation and entrepreneurship.

II. Key Accreditations Benefits:

The InnovateEDU program by EDII aligns well with key parameters set by NEP-2020, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). This alignment enhances the institution's performance on essential criteria, contributing positively to rankings and accreditation outcomes. Here are the specific benefits aligned with these frameworks to name a few:

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Parameters

- Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR) [NIRF Parameter 1]
  - Faculty training and development programs improve the quality of teaching, boosting academic and pedagogical skills.
  - Access to entrepreneurship resources, research materials, and industry case studies enhance learning resources.
  - Workshops and boot camps facilitate experiential learning, providing hands-on skills to students.
- Research and Professional Practices (RP) [NIRF Parameter 2]
  - Opportunities for faculty and students to engage in research on entrepreneurship topics, enhancing publication output and quality.
  - Collaboration with EDII for joint research initiatives, contributing to academic papers and industry-relevant studies.
  - Support for research projects through funding and mentoring, promoting innovation and professional practice.
- Graduation Outcomes (GO) [NIRF Parameter 3]
  - Entrepreneurship-focused curriculum enhances employability and skills aligned with industry requirements.
  - Development of entrepreneurial skills increases the likelihood of student start-ups, improving career outcomes.
  - Regular workshops and guidance sessions prepare students for successful graduation and self-employment.
- Outreach and Inclusivity (OI) [NIRF Parameter 4]
  - Focus on social entrepreneurship in Year 2 aligns with inclusivity by encouraging students to address community issues.
  - The program is accessible to students across disciplines, promoting inclusivity in entrepreneurship.

- Partnerships with rural and regional institutions ensure a diverse and inclusive student cohort.
- Perception (PR) [NIRF Parameter 5]
  - Association with EDII, a renowned institution, enhances the institution's brand and appeal to prospective students and faculty.
  - Successful outcomes and industry connect improve the institution's reputation and attractiveness.
  - Public recognition through joint initiatives and projects elevates institutional perception nationally.

National Board of Accreditation (NBA) Parameters

- Program Outcomes (PO) [NBA Criterion 3]
  - The program equips students with entrepreneurial knowledge and skills, directly contributing to career readiness and innovation.
  - Structured course content on entrepreneurship, social, and technological ventures builds problem-solving and project management competence.
  - Exposure to industry mentors and hands-on projects align with real-world applications, enhancing program outcomes.
- Program Curriculum and Teaching-Learning Processes [NBA Criterion 4]
  - Entrepreneurship curriculum and specialized training workshops align with NBA's emphasis on effective teaching-learning processes.
  - Faculty development enhances pedagogical practices, ensuring robust teaching methodologies in entrepreneurship education.
  - Active learning through workshops, boot camps, and industry projects fosters a dynamic and interactive classroom environment.
- Industry Institute Interaction and Industry Internship [NBA Criterion 6]
  - Frequent industry interactions through EDII's network enable students to gain real-world insights and mentorship.
  - Internships and project work opportunities bridge theoretical knowledge with practical application, aligning with NBA standards.
  - Industry connect strengthens industry-institute partnerships, fulfilling the NBA's criteria for external engagements.
- Student Support and Progression [NBA Criterion 8]
  - EDII provides mentorship and guidance, ensuring structured support for student development and progression.
  - Students gain access to funding opportunities, resources, and regular guidance, enabling them to succeed in entrepreneurship.
  - Continuous assessment and monitoring help in tracking student progress and ensuring program success.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Parameters

- Curricular Aspects [NAAC Criterion 1]
  - Program content directly addresses NAAC's criterion of introducing innovative and contemporary courses.

- Yearly themes of entrepreneurship align with emerging trends, adding to curriculum flexibility and relevance.
- Integration of entrepreneurship aligns with the NAAC focus on value-added and skill-enhancing curriculum.

- Teaching-Learning and Evaluation [NAAC Criterion 2]
  - Faculty training improves teaching methodologies, fostering an engaging and effective learning environment.
  - Active learning through boot camps and workshops aligns with NAAC's emphasis on participative and experiential learning.
  - Periodic assessments of faculty and student progress ensure continuous improvement and accountability.
- Research, Innovations, and Extension [NAAC Criterion 3]
  - Joint research opportunities with EDII align with NAAC's requirement for a strong research and innovation culture.
  - Funding support and collaboration for research projects expand research capabilities within the institution.
  - Extension activities through social entrepreneurship projects foster community engagement, meeting NAAC's extension criterion.
- Infrastructure and Learning Resources [NAAC Criterion 4]
  - Access to EDII's entrepreneurship resources improves the institution's learning infrastructure.
  - Specialized entrepreneurship labs or resource centers can be established as part of the program, enhancing infrastructure.
  - Guidance on resource optimization ensures that institutions maximize existing facilities for entrepreneurial education.
- Student Support and Progression [NAAC Criterion 5]
  - EDII's mentorship and funding opportunities support student entrepreneurship journeys, aiding in their progression and growth.
  - Career-focused workshops and industry connections ensure career readiness and support successful student outcomes.
  - Regular guidance and feedback sessions create a supportive learning environment aligned with NAAC's student progression criteria.
- Institutional Values and Best Practices [NAAC Criterion 7]
  - Emphasis on social entrepreneurship fosters ethical and socially responsible values among students.
  - Workshops on sustainable and technology-driven entrepreneurship encourage innovation aligned with institutional values.
  - Collaboration with EDII allows the institution to adopt best practices in entrepreneurship education and ecosystem building.

The InnovateEDU program's alignment with these parameters supports accreditation and ranking improvements and enhances the institution's capacity to deliver a transformative, high-quality entrepreneurship education.