Introduction:

In August 2015, Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the mission of Startup India, Stand-up India, Skill India, Swachhata Mission during his Independence Day address and appealed to young minds of the nation to become problem solvers and create opportunity. The education department of Gujarat govt. recently launched the "Student Startup & Innovation Policy" (SSIP) to support more than 1.4 million students of the state and help them innovate and start up early in their college days.

Students are capable to become the country's largest force of problem solvers and eventually become job creators and fill the job deficit. If 5% of our students become innovators and entrepreneurs, Gujarat will lead the way. Students are also more sensitive to problems of India and hence various pedagogic ways have been suggested by Student Start-up & Innovation policy of Gujarat which each university and college will promote at their level. As challenges of our vast nation need to be solved in more entrepreneurial way, compassionate young minds in schools and colleges also need to be sensitised about them so that they can apply their skills and knowledge to solve them. From the   perspective of the ecosystem development suitable mechanism also need to be put in place to put onus on such efforts at different layers.

Globally and nationally various open innovation experiments are being attempted to promote innovation and efforts like innovation challenge award or incentivising innovations for solving real issues are getting wider notice. Innovation challenges need not to be only towards solving challenges by means of technology but it can involve wide range of domain expertise beyond technology. Quite often the challenges demand a system level innovation or innovation at process level to bring changes in prevailing situation. Such challenges can be attempted solo or sometime in demands co-creation among different stakeholders, teams who bring in wide range of expertise to address them. The challenges may range from a needy technology intervention, improving existing process, even through out of box approach or even field work to solve a problem in an innovative manner. SSIP in Gujarat wish to develop various such tools and interventions and use them thereby engaging young students across universities, colleges and even schools to harness their creative potential. Towards achieving the goal Education Dpt. Govt. of Gujarat is announcing SSIP Summer Innovation Challenge 2017.

Key objective of the program

1. Sensitise young minds about various century old challenges which our country and Gujarat in particular is facing and how long lasting impact can be achieved if they get solved.
2. Engage students in summer vacation through immersion program, enable with necessary skillsets to empathise a problem, scout, codify benchmark and develop proof

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of concepts to show implication and also implement/test it in the community and get feedback on the same.

3. Motivate colleges, universities to develop own ways/new pedagogies to develop such programs and make summer breaks as source of harnessing creativity of students.

4. Appreciate creative solutions/innovators at state level to inspire the coming generation and entire ecosystem.

5. Let the young students explore and leverage their untapped potential and explore new ways of learning by doing something hands on and bringing impact.

6. Taking the spirit of innovation beyond technology intervention, embrace experiments in science, social science, arts and other areas to bring change at individual, institutional or system level.

7. Incentivise some of the potential solutions through SSIP resources from the spin offs from Summer Innovation Challenge.

8. Explore co-creation possibilities students, industry, civil society and users to co-innovate in time bound manner.

9. Enable students to apply their knowledge to try for new social innovation, technological innovation, cultural innovation, institutional innovation and explore for bringing change.

10. Develop a state level pedagogy to pilot, validate and upscale such open innovation models and incentivise institutes to adapt contextually, e.g. universities in different domain like agriculture, technology, science, social science etc will need different approach so that the innovation process suits them.

11. Students take up projects/challenges based on real life issues of industry, community, academia, governnace and society at large and try to solve them.

SSIP Summer Innovation Challenge awards are in below category (for student innovations which has been done during summer challenge award period)

* Technological Innovation
* Social Innovation - Swachhata / Saksharata / Skill Development / Digital India/ Cash Less intervention
* Team base Social innovation intervention and activities
* Innovation through Arts, Culture and allied domains
* Children creativity /innovation- School Student/Children out of school below 17 years

SSIP Young Innovator's awards (for student innovations which has been done as a part of previous academic work/project in any university in Gujarat)

* Technological
* Fundamental and applied science
* Social Innovations and others

For SSIP Young Innovator's Awards, each University in Gujarat will nominate their best student Projects/Research outcome/Innovation and a committee of Jury will evaluate the

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nominations. It is suggested that each university should do its internal process to seek nominations from its affiliated colleges/departments and do an internal review and select best student projects/innovations and nominate them for state level. State Affiliated Type universities can nominate best 25 projects/innovations covering UG/PG/Ph.D level, Deemed universities & Single campus universities can nominate their best 10 projects/innovations after internal scrutiny and evaluation process. The universities having students more than 1 lac may nominate maximum 50 nominations including all sectors/branches. The format of application and necessary docs will be shared through SSIP website for further assistance in the process. Applicants should be a running student in UG/P.G/Ph.D level or having finished his project/research/innovation within past 1 year. An expert jury nominated by SSIP cell at State level will select potential award/appreciation list from all university nominated entries every year.

Technological Innovation: *Any innovation proposed/developed by students by leveraging any kind of technology to solve challenges and create value can be considered in this category. Technology rigor and its implication would matter in such scenario.*

Social Innovation: *Any student or team working toward solving a social issue through means of technology or otherwise and demonstrating impact could be considered. Here social implication, inclusion, access, scale and impact would be considered more than technological/scientific depth in the efforts.*

Team/Co-creation based innovation: *A group of students who are coming together to address particular challenge through innovative ways collectively and demonstrate impact. The efforts may not be based on technology or scientific solutions. Diversity in team, leadership, multi stakeholder efforts and co-creation would be given stress.*

Children creativity/innovation: *Innovations proposed by school children up to K -12/or even out of school children can be considered under this.*

Who can participate in summer Innovation Challenge

- Students from any streams as individual or team belonging to any university, colleges in Gujarat can take part in this program.
- Even school children or even out of school children can participate in this program and max proof of concepts of proposed idea/innovation need to be demonstrated as requirement for it.
- Students can apply in individual, team, group categories while trying to solve any kind of challenge and develop a proof of concept of potential solution or give a report of the interventions made by them.
- Colleges, universities can handhold in the process, create such attempts at own level and nominate the best teams.
- Even faculty members can participate in this program in faculty member category.

- Interdisciplinary teams will also be encouraged; students from multiple institutes and universities can come together and participate.
- Field work is an important component of the program.

Process & Timeline of the Summer Innovation Challenge 2017

Sr. No.	Process	Timeline
1	Conceptualisation & declaration at SSIP level	4th May
2	Declaration on web portal	10th May
3	Sensitisation of the program across Colleges/universities	15th May
4	Team registrations on web	up to 30th May
5	Immersion and problem identification/ definition/ validation/intervention/field work	up to 15th June
6	User feedback, validation, benchmarking of solutions	Till 20th June
7	Submission of report of attempted solution/intervention	15th July
8	Review, scrutiny, evaluation by experts/jury	30th July
9	Shortlist and award /appreciate	August 2017

Jury and Evaluation

SSIP will nominate a team of experts who are associated with such innovation process, programs from academia, industry and others who will evaluate the applicants. Initially each team will submit their team details online and submit their area of working, problem hypothesis and develop a proof of concept in next 1 month in summer. Each team then need to submit a detailed report about their innovation/Proof of concept developed with feedbacks from potential users and associated details which will be scrutinised by the expert jury. Selected teams from all participants will be invited for a physical presentation in front of the experts/jury/reviewer and present their innovative idea/solution. Competent jury will select the final teams who will be appreciated during an event at state level.

What would be the looked for in the proposed solution/innovation

- Clarity & understanding of the problem definition and solution proposed.
- Potential impact if the proof of concept is a possible implementable solution
- Impact if field work has been done during the course of innovation.
- Depth of efforts and hard work
- Thorough work right from locating a challenge to be solved.
- User feedback ,positive expert review
- Trying to solve a challenge which has not got traction by now but having potential of impact and change.
- Team efforts if it's a team based nomination

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- Stress can be given if co-creation based efforts has been put in like multiple sectoral students from different department/college coming together to innovate
- Quality of the thought process and novelty proposed and utility of the POC
- Innovation in any form of product, process, institutional or social interventions will be dealt with equal stress but potential impact would matter/actual impact.

What should the final proposal contain

- Problem identification: not more than two pages, this should include efforts taken to explore the problem space and get to the root cause.
- Suggested Solution:
- Field implementation/Field trial of the solution.
- User feedback, Validation, Benchmarking.

Prizes in each category:

- 1st Prize: Rs. 25000 INR
- 2nd Prize: Rs. 15000 INR
- 3rd Prize: Rs. 10000 INR
  Certificate will be given to all participants.

Role of universities & colleges

- Sensitise about this program through its web portal, circular, outreach etc.
- SSIP coordinators of the university need to make a plan for the university and its affiliated colleges and execute
- Scout and engage potential teams and help them understand the concept and attempt.
- Closely work with SSIP teams to harness better efficiency of the program.
- See that maximum student participate in this endeavour and they may try to solve diverse set of challenges across sectors.
- In case of needs facilitate to locate sites where students need to visit, do immersion analysis and define challenges on which they will work for next month.
- Facilitate access to existing infra, lab, workshop, tools and facilities and link to potential mentors to applicants so that they can build possible proof of concepts in stipulated time line.
- Link the applicants to external experts, subject matter experts and other support providers while they are in process of developing potential solution.
- Codify and document the process and insights so that next set of students who will participate can take benefit from this.
- Incentives participating teams in innovative ways so that more young students participate in this endeavour.

- Share best practices and insights derived in this process with SSIP team so that the program can be further blended towards harnessing optimum efficiency.

Note

- Students, Teams may locate any pertaining challenge from the community, industry or industry at large and develop a proof of concept of their idea.
- Students from Arts, social science background other than technology domain can use their expertise and develop a micro project around the challenge and show impact.
- Faculty members from the applicants college or from outside can be mentor to the project to advise them.
- Students/Teams have to validate proposed intervention/solution from the end users for whom they are developing their solution and incorporate their feedback in final proof of concepts
- If the proposed solution can be bring impact to large pool of mass, say new light weight load carrying device of MGNREGA workers and if the proposed innovation gets awards the solution would be preferably made open source so that it impacts maximum.
- The decision of the expert jury would be final and only potential innovations from the innovation challenges would be considered for further support through SSIP.
- Teams can pick up challenges which are generic as they see in their community/society or they can take up a challenge posed by any specific or group of users like industry, clusters, municipality, village, organisation and others.
- Teams may approach to the college/university/Government authority for any necessary help regarding SSIP Summer Innovation Challenge 2017.
- The proposed solutions should not be made before hand by the teams as project or so, but students can work on pre conceived challenges which they might have been thinking since some time. Idea is to enable students to develop solutions in stipulated time.
- Innovations catering needs of any end user, SME, society at large which have been developed before SSIP Summer Innovation Challenge declaration will also be considered for appreciation/support on merit but in a different category.
- University, college who shows active participation in this program should be acknowledged too.
- SSIP will allocate some industry experts, mentors, designers, scientists and other support providers whose innovations gets appreciation so that proposed solution become real life usable solution.
- SSIP cell will build capacity of SSIP Coordinators to deploy the program effectively at grassroots level through physical and virtual orientation program.
- Vice Chancellors, Principals, Directors, College promoters, Deans who will make significant efforts to spearhead such efforts and over all objectives of SSIP will be specially acknowledged by authority.