

BIIC@MGU marks 100 student start-up projects

Adding a feather to the cap, Mahatma Gandhi University has reached 101 start-ups. This has created a history, as the Mahatma Gandhi University is the first of its kind to get such an achievement. This was made possible by the creation of an institutional apparatus, the Business Innovation and Incubation centre (BIIC), to facilitate student start-ups, patent facilitation and inculcate the values of entrepreneurship awareness of the students. The university established BIIC in 2016 with the sole intention of fostering a vibrant innovation system and better university-industry linkage. In a short span of nearly two years, this is indeed a remarkable achievement. They also have 14 patents applications filed during the same.

This Tuesday, Mahatma Gandhi University awarded grants to 40 students, as part of its programme "BIIC Connect" and "BIIC- IUCOFSA". Students from different departments including Biosciences, Computer sciences, Economics, Tourism, Physics, Nanotechnology and Management participated in the event.

The grant distribution was formally inaugurated by Dr. Christy Fernandez, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIDC). Speaking on the occasion D. Fernandez congratulated Mahatma Gandhi University for achieving this unique feat of reaching 101 start-ups in a short span of two years. "This achievement will strengthen the eco system of innovation in Kerala and will spread a strong message to the student community to strive harder. Such endeavors on the part of the university will re-design the existing norms and prepare the ground to perceive the students as job providers and not as job seekers."

"However the university has to work assiduously to help emerge these start-ups as worth companies. The university authority needs to be flexible in their approach by promoting the entrepreneurial vales among the students, especially the sciences students, he cautioned."

Dr. Fernandez also offered the help of KSIDC to support the inculcation of the ideas.

Prof. (Dr.) Sabu Thomas, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, claimed that this is the first time that any university was able to make such phenomenal achievement. He further added that these achievements were made possible by efforts of, BIIC which is currently supporting innovation and incubation activities.

Syndicate members Adv P. K. Harikumar and Dr. R. Pragash, Dr. Girish Kumar R, Director, BIIC, and Prof. DR. Mathew Kurien also spoke.