SEICOM DEGREE COLLEGE

(AFFILIATED TO SV UNIVERSITY)

(ACCREDITED BY NAAC)

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CELL (EDC)
(2023–24)

Objectives: In 2023–24 the EDC focused on making entrepreneurship a self-sustaining ecosystem. Objectives included increasing student startups, bridging gap to industry, and enhancing commercialization support. The cell also aimed to document its processes and success metrics (preparing for accreditation and rankings).

Composition: The team continued under the appointed EDC Coordinator, with committee members now including an alumnus entrepreneur (ad-hoc), reflecting stakeholder involvement. The two student incubate members became EDC advisors to share direct feedback from the startup cohort. This year the committee size remained 7 faculty plus student members.
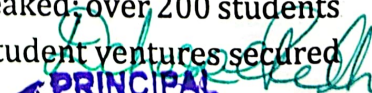
Initiatives & Activities: Building on prior years, the EDC expanded its programs. A "Demo Day" was held where student startup teams pitched to external investors and mentors. The EDC also ran a second edition of the Technology-Entrepreneurship Fair, inviting local media coverage. Recognizing soft-skill needs, workshops on leadership, pitching, and financial planning were conducted. The E^2 Club (entrepreneurship club) organized a nationwide online idea-hackathon that attracted entries from multiple colleges.

- Regular incubation workshops (e.g. corporate governance for startups).
- Collaboration with placement cell to invite CSR training for students on startup finance.
- Mentorship "Speed Networking" events: short one-on-one mentor sessions.

Collaborations/MoUs: Several new ties were forged. The EDC signed an MoU with a regional chamber of commerce to co-host training programs and student project funding competitions. Partnerships with local NGOs facilitated social entrepreneurship projects (e.g. a student team working on a rural agri-startup with NGO guidance). The college's earlier MoUs (with incubators and industry) were renewed and extended.

Student Participation & Outcomes: Student engagement peaked; over 200 students participated in at least one EDC event. Impressively, three student ventures secured

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external funding or prizes: a biotech project won a national startup contest (₹100,000), and two IT solutions were adopted by small businesses on a pilot basis. Around 10 students took internships with partner startups this year, bridging academia and industry. The outcomes reflected the cell's maturation in mentoring students from classrooms to market.

Funding & Support: A mix of sources funded the EDC. The college continued its annual grant (₹100,000). The chamber of commerce provided a scholarship fund (₹50,000) for outstanding student projects. One startup team received government-backed loan assistance (₹200,000) secured via EDC guidance. Additionally, multiple smaller sponsorships and CSR contributions (totaling ₹30,000) were obtained to support events. This diversified funding helped sustain the expanded scale of activities.

Key Achievements & Impact: The year marked SEICOM's strongest entrepreneurial outcomes yet. Key achievements included multiple student projects maturing into startups and the formal partnerships that enriched the ecosystem. The EDC was recognized in the college's self-study report as a driver of innovation. These results demonstrate SEICOM's continuing success in producing entrepreneurial leaders.

Plans & Recommendations: For 2024–25, the EDC plans to establish an on-campus micro-incubator with dedicated space and equipment, so teams can work full-time. It will also seek accreditation of its entrepreneurship programs (e.g. from state skill councils) and aim to form a student alumni network of former incubates. Finally, the EDC recommends continuous process improvement (e.g. annual feedback) and alignment with evolving national initiatives (such as integrating AI into student projects) to keep the entrepreneurship drive at SEICOM vibrant and effective.

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