ACTION TAKEN REPORT

National Workshop on **Transforming Higher Education: Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Background & Objectives

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions transforming higher education institutions into vibrant hubs of innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill development. In alignment with this vision, the NEP Cell of Visva-Bharati University organized a two-day National Workshop on “Transforming Higher Education: Innovation and Entrepreneurship” on 11–12 February 2026.

The workshop aimed to build the capacity of faculty members, researchers, and students to design innovative academic programmes and entrepreneurial initiatives. Key focus areas included the conceptualization, design, and development of MOOC/SWAYAM courses; understanding the credit frameworks under NEP 2020; and fostering a start-up ecosystem within the university. The workshop sought to empower participants with hands-on exposure, policy insights, and best practices from leading practitioners across academia and industry.

Resource Persons

Name	Profile
Prof. Ashutosh Mohan	Professor, Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and National Coordinator INI, SWAYAM.
Prof. Sayam Sen Gupta	Professor, Chemical Sciences, & Founder Director, RISE Foundation IISER Kolkata
Dr. Sonali Roy	Chief Operating Officer, RISE Foundation IISER Kolkata
Dr. Bikash Ghosh	Founder Director, Pinggy Technology Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Saurabh Ray	Founder Director, Monosha Biotech Pvt. Ltd.

Day 1 – 11 February 2026 (Wednesday)

Theme: NEP 2020, MOOC Courses & SWAYAM/INI Platform

Inaugural Session

The workshop commenced at 10:00 AM with the Inaugural Session, presided over by Prof. Debasis Bhattacharya, Chairperson, NEP Cell, Visva-Bharati. In his inaugural address, Prof. Bhattacharya set the tone for the two-day workshop by articulating the transformative vision of NEP 2020 for Indian higher education. He underscored the urgency for universities to evolve beyond traditional boundaries and emerge as dynamic centers of innovation, skill development, and entrepreneurship. He highlighted Visva-Bharati's commitment to the spirit of Tagore's holistic educational philosophy and its natural alignment with the NEP 2020 mandate, urging participants to actively engage with the sessions and carry forward the workshop's learnings to their respective institutions.



Session I – NEP 2020 and MOOCs/SWAYAM: Significance & Credit Framework | 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM	
Resource Person	Dr. Ashutosh Mohan, Associate Professor, IMS-BHU & National Coordinator INI, SWAYAM
Topics Covered	• Importance and role of MOOC courses under NEP 2020 and the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) framework • How SWAYAM/MOOC courses enable flexible, multi-entry/exit pathways for students • Integration of MOOCs into university credit systems and recognition frameworks • Overview of the INI (Institute of National Importance) platform under SWAYAM and its significance • National policy landscape: UGC guidelines on credit transfer through SWAYAM/MOOCs • Interactive Q&A with participants on institutional readiness and challenges

Lunch Break: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Session II – Designing & Developing MOOC/SWAYAM Courses: Process & Quality Standards | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	
Resource Person	Dr. Ashutosh Mohan, Associate Professor, IMS-BHU & National Coordinator INI, SWAYAM
Topics Covered	• Step-by-step process of proposing, conceptualizing, and developing a SWAYAM/MOOC course • One-shot video production techniques: scripting, recording, editing, and best practices for course content • Content quality standards: pedagogical design, learning outcomes, assessment design • Guidelines and protocols prescribed by SWAYAM/INI for course creators • Common pitfalls in course development and strategies to ensure high-quality outcomes • Practical demonstration and hands-on activity: participants outlined their own course concepts • Institutional support required: roles of IQAC, faculty, and technical teams



The workshop day concluded at 4:00 PM. Day 1 provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the policy framework and practical tools to develop MOOC content on SWAYAM.

Day 2 – 12 February 2026 (Thursday)

Theme: Entrepreneurship in Higher Education – Ecosystem, Startups & Incubation

Session III – Introduction to Entrepreneurship: Concepts, History & Ecosystem Building

The second day of the workshop commenced at 10:00 AM. The morning session was jointly conducted by Dr. Sonali Roy, COO, RISE Foundation IISER, and Prof. Sayam Sen Gupta, Professor at IISER Kolkata and Founder Director, RISE Foundation IISER. The session was widely appreciated for its engaging delivery and the seamless combination of theoretical depth and practical insight.



Session III – Entrepreneurship: Concepts, History & Ecosystem | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	
Resource Person	Dr. Sonali Roy (COO, RISE Foundation IISER) & Prof. Sayam Sen Gupta (Professor, Chemical Sciences, IISER Kolkata)
Topics Covered	• Defining entrepreneurship in the context of higher education institutions • Historical evolution of entrepreneurship globally and in the Indian context • Why universities are uniquely positioned to foster entrepreneurship and innovation • Overview of startup ecosystems: stakeholders, enablers, and success factors • Role of research-driven innovation in identifying market problems and creating solutions • Introduction to RISE Foundation IISER: its mission, model, and impact in nurturing startups • Case studies of successful academic-entrepreneurship linkages

Startup Stories: Experiences from Incubated Entrepreneurs

A highlight of Day 2 was the "Startup Stories" segment, where two incubated entrepreneurs from RISE Foundation IISER shared their first-hand experiences of building startups from academic foundations. Their presentations were candid, inspiring, and highly relevant to the faculty and research scholars present.

Startup Story I – Pinggy: A Technology-Based Startup

Dr. Bikash Ghosh shared the journey behind Pinggy, a technology-based startup that provides developer-focused tunneling solutions. He explained how his strong academic training at IIT Kharagpur, along with his exposure to advanced research in blockchain and distributed systems, helped him identify a real-world gap in developer tools. He emphasized that academic excellence is not only about publishing research papers, but also about developing the ability to identify problems, which is essential for entrepreneurship. Dr. Ghosh also described how his experience as a research intern at IBM Research and his participation in hackathons improved his product development skills,

eventually leading to the founding of Pinggy. His journey clearly showed that strong technical knowledge, when combined with entrepreneurial courage, can lead to solutions with global impact.

Startup Story II – Monosha Biotech: Passion Meets Purpose

Mr. Saurabh Ray, a certified Master Herpetologist and Wildlife Ecologist, made the bold decision to leave a stable career in the IT sector to pursue his life's true calling, working with snakes and contributing to the development of antivenoms. He founded Monosha Biotech Pvt. Ltd. in West Bengal, focusing on the development of antivenom and snake vaccines, addressing one of the most neglected yet critical public health challenges in India, particularly in rural and tribal communities. Mr. Ray described the challenges of establishing a biotech startup from scratch, including regulatory hurdles, funding constraints, and the need to build scientific credibility. His role as an Expert Member of the ICMR-National Task Force for Research on Snake Bite added credibility and direction to his enterprise. His session was deeply motivating, especially for participants from life science backgrounds, as it demonstrated that entrepreneurship rooted in genuine social need can be both meaningful and sustainable.

Lunch Break: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Session IV – Roadmap for Establishing a Startup: POC to Business & University Incubation | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	
Resource Person	Dr. Sonali Roy (COO, RISE Foundation IISER) & Prof. Sayam Sen Gupta (Professor, IISER Kolkata)
Topics Covered	• Detailed roadmap of the startup journey: from Proof of Concept (POC) and Problem of Value (POV) to Minimum Viable Product (MVP) and full-scale business • Stages of startup development and the critical transitions at each milestone • Funding landscape: grants, seed funding, angel investment, government schemes (BIRAC, Atal Innovation Mission, SIDBI), and venture capital • Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) strategy for startups originating from university research • Role of incubators and accelerators: how RISE Foundation IISER supports startup development • Opportunities for Visva-Bharati to leverage RISE Foundation IISER's expertise and model to build its own startup/incubation ecosystem • Practical frameworks: Business Model Canvas, Lean Startup methodology • Connecting academic research output to societal/commercial relevance

Valedictory Session & Vote of Thanks

The workshop concluded at 4:00 PM with a Valedictory Session. Certificates of Participation were distributed to all registered participants. The formal Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. Viswanath Sundar, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, Visva-Bharati. The workshop ended with Ashram Sangit.