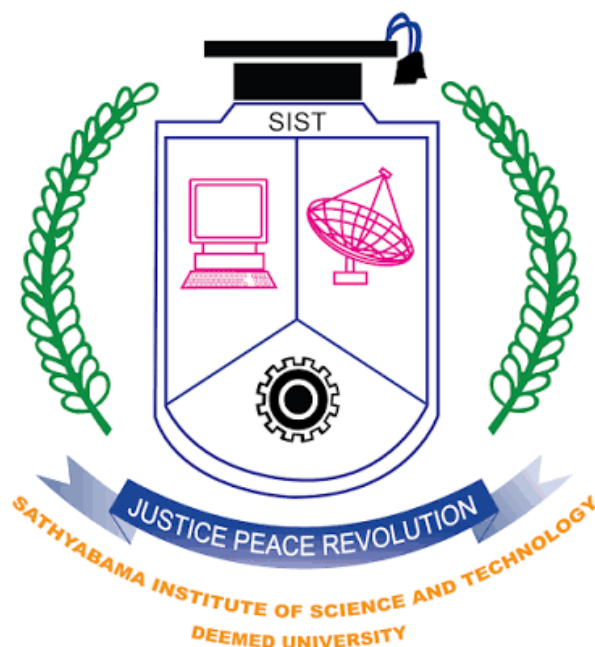


POLICY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

2026 Edition

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**Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology
(Deemed to be University)**

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DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION : This document constitutes an official policy of the Deemed to be University. The provisions of this policy shall be implemented and interpreted in accordance with the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and in conjunction with other relevant policies, regulations, ordinances, and guidelines of the Institution.



SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

CATEGORY - 1 UNIVERSITY BY UGC

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1. PREAMBLE

Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology (SIST), a Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, is committed to fostering excellence in teaching, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology development. The Institution recognizes that intellectual property (IP) generated through research, innovation, consultancy, academic activities, and industry collaborations constitutes a valuable asset that contributes to knowledge creation, societal development, and economic growth.

This Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy provides a comprehensive framework for the identification, protection, ownership, management, commercialization, and utilization of intellectual property generated by faculty members, researchers, staff, students, research scholars, and collaborators associated with the Institution.

The policy aims to encourage innovation while ensuring that intellectual property arising from the use of Institution resources, facilities, infrastructure, funding, or institutional support is appropriately protected and managed for the benefit of the inventors, the Institution, industry partners, and society at large.

This policy is aligned with the National IPR Policy of India, the Patents Act, 1970 (as amended), Copyright Act, 1957, Designs Act, 2000, Trade Marks Act, 1999, Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and relevant regulations, guidelines, and policies issued by the Government of India, University Grants Commission (UGC), funding agencies, and statutory authorities.

2. OBJECTIVES

- Promote a culture of innovation, creativity, research excellence, and entrepreneurship within the Institution.
- Encourage the generation, protection, and commercialization of intellectual property arising from research and development activities.
- Establish clear guidelines regarding ownership, management, and utilization of intellectual property.

- Facilitate technology transfer and commercialization for societal and economic benefit.
- Ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising from intellectual property among inventors, creators, and the Institution .
- Support startup creation, incubation, and innovation-driven enterprises based on Institution -generated intellectual property.
- Safeguard the interests of researchers, students, staff, sponsors, collaborators, and the Institution .
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contractual obligations, and ethical standards.

3. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

- All faculty members, scientists, researchers, adjunct faculty, visiting faculty, postdoctoral fellows, technical staff, administrative staff, and employees of the Institution.
- Undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral students, research scholars, interns, trainees, and project assistants.
- Individuals participating in sponsored research, consultancy projects, innovation activities, incubation programs, and collaborative research undertaken through the Institution .
- Intellectual property generated wholly or partly through the use of Institution funds, facilities, laboratories, equipment, infrastructure, human resources, or other institutional support.
- Intellectual property generated under sponsored projects, consultancy assignments, industry collaborations, and national or international partnerships, subject to applicable agreements.

4. DEFINITIONS

- “Intellectual Property (IP)” means creations of the mind including inventions, patents, copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs, trade secrets, databases, software, plant varieties, know-how, and other forms of legally protectable intellectual assets.
- “Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)” means the legal rights granted for the protection of intellectual property.
- “Inventor” means a person who has made a novel and non-obvious contribution to an invention.
- “Creator” means an individual responsible for creating a copyrightable work.
- “Institution Resources” include financial support, laboratories, equipment, software, research facilities, office space, materials, technical support, and institutional infrastructure.

- “Commercialization” means the process of transferring, licensing, assigning, marketing, or otherwise utilizing intellectual property for economic or societal benefit.
- “Technology Transfer” means the transfer of intellectual property, know-how, or technologies from the Institution to external organizations for development and utilization.
- “IPR Cell” means the Institution Intellectual Property Rights Cell established for administering and implementing this Policy.

5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COVERED UNDER THIS POLICY

- Patents and utility innovations.
- Copyrights, software, databases, educational materials, and digital content.
- Trademarks, service marks, logos, and brand identifiers.
- Industrial designs and design registrations.
- Trade secrets and confidential information.
- Plant varieties and biological materials.
- Know-how, proprietary technologies, and process innovations.
- Any other intellectual property recognized under applicable laws.

6. OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

General Principle

Unless otherwise specified through a written agreement, intellectual property generated using substantial Institution resources or within the scope of Institution employment, research, consultancy, sponsored projects, or academic duties shall be owned by the Institution.

Faculty and Staff

Intellectual property created by faculty members, researchers, scientists, and staff in the course of their employment or utilizing substantial Institution resources shall ordinarily belong to the Institution.

Students and Research Scholars

Intellectual property generated by students and research scholars using Institution facilities, sponsored project funds, research grants, institutional resources, or under faculty supervision shall be jointly governed by the Institution and the creators in accordance with this Policy.

Collaborative Research

Ownership of intellectual property arising from collaborative projects with external organizations shall be determined by mutually agreed contractual arrangements executed before commencement of the project.

Sponsored and Contract Research

Ownership of intellectual property arising from sponsored research, consultancy, and contract research shall be governed by the provisions of the relevant agreements while ensuring compliance with applicable laws and Institution regulations.

Exceptions

- Scholarly publications, books, articles, theses, dissertations, teaching notes, and academic works prepared without substantial Institution -directed support.
- Intellectual property developed entirely outside Institution duties and without the use of substantial Institution resources.
- Personal works unrelated to Institution employment or academic responsibilities.

7. DISCLOSURE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All inventors and creators shall promptly disclose potentially protectable intellectual property to the IPR Cell through the prescribed Intellectual Property Disclosure Form prior to any public disclosure, publication, presentation, or commercialization activity. Failure to disclose may affect patentability and ownership rights.

8. INSTITUTIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) CELL

Constitution

The Institution shall establish an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell under the Directorate of Research and Development to facilitate the implementation of this Policy.

Composition

- Director (Research and Development) – Chairperson
- Coordinator/Head, IPR Cell – Member Secretary
- Experts in Intellectual Property Management
- Representatives from Innovation and Incubation Centre
- Legal Expert (as required)
- Faculty Members with expertise in research and innovation
- Industry Representative(s) or External Expert(s), as deemed necessary

Functions of the IPR Cell

The IPR Cell shall:

- Promote awareness and capacity building on intellectual property rights.
- Receive and evaluate disclosures of intellectual property.
- Facilitate patent searches, patentability assessment, and prior-art analysis.
- Recommend filing, protection, maintenance, licensing, and commercialization of intellectual property.
- Assist inventors in drafting and filing patent, copyright, trademark, and design applications.
- Negotiate licensing and technology transfer agreements.
- Maintain records relating to intellectual property generated within the Institution .
- Monitor compliance with this Policy.
- Recommend revenue-sharing arrangements.
- Facilitate startup and entrepreneurship activities based on Institution -owned intellectual property.

9. PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Disclosure

Inventors and creators shall disclose intellectual property to the IPR Cell before any public disclosure, publication, conference presentation, thesis submission, website posting, or commercialization activity.

Evaluation

The IPR Cell shall evaluate disclosures based on:

- Novelty
- Inventive step
- Industrial applicability
- Commercial potential
- Societal impact
- Strategic importance to the Institution

Filing and Protection

The Institution may seek protection through:

- Patents
- Copyrights
- Trademarks
- Industrial Designs

- Trade Secret Protection
- Other legally recognized forms of intellectual property protection.

Expenses

The Institution may bear expenses related to filing, prosecution, maintenance, and protection of intellectual property subject to approval by the competent authority. Where external funding agencies provide support for intellectual property protection, the applicable funding guidelines shall prevail.

Withdrawal of Support

If the Institution decides not to pursue or continue protection of an intellectual property asset, it may assign the rights to the inventor(s) subject to mutually agreed conditions.

10. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND COMMERCIALIZATION

The Institution shall actively encourage the translation of research outcomes into products, processes, technologies, services, and societal applications.

Commercialization may be undertaken through:

- Licensing agreements
- Technology transfer arrangements
- Assignment of intellectual property rights
- Startup and spin-off companies
- Joint ventures
- Industry partnerships
- Social innovation and community deployment mechanisms

The Institution shall ensure that commercialization activities are conducted transparently and in accordance with applicable laws and ethical standards.

11. LICENSING OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Exclusive licenses
- Non-exclusive licenses
- Field-specific licenses
- Territorial licenses
- Research-use licenses

The terms of licensing shall be determined based on:

- Commercial value of the intellectual property
- Public interest considerations

- Nature of technology
- Market potential
- Strategic objectives of the Institution

All licensing agreements shall be executed through authorized Institution authorities.

12. REVENUE SHARING AND BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION

The Institution recognizes the contributions of inventors and creators and shall provide equitable sharing of net revenue generated through commercialization. Unless otherwise specified by funding agencies or contractual obligations, net revenue received by the Institution after deduction of expenses related to protection, maintenance, legal proceedings, and commercialization shall be distributed as follows:

Revenue Sharing Model

- Inventor(s)/Creator(s): 60%
- Institution Research and Innovation Fund: 30%
- Concerned Department/Centre/School: 10%

Where multiple inventors are involved, the inventors' share shall be distributed among them based on mutually agreed contributions. The Institution may revise the revenue-sharing ratio from time to time with the approval of the competent authority.

13. CREATION OF START-UPS AND SPIN-OFF COMPANIES

Faculty members, students, research scholars, and staff may establish startups or spin-off companies based on Institution-generated intellectual property in accordance with the Institution's Innovation and Startup Policy.

The Institution may:

- License intellectual property to startups.
- Provide incubation support.
- Facilitate mentoring and networking.
- Allow access to approved facilities and laboratories.
- Participate through equity ownership where appropriate.

**All such arrangements shall be governed through formal agreements.*

14. EQUITY PARTICIPATION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Institution may accept equity in lieu of licensing fees, royalties, or other considerations in startups utilizing Institution intellectual property. Faculty members, staff, and inventors involved in commercialization activities shall disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest. The Institution shall establish appropriate mechanisms to manage conflicts of interest and ensure transparency in decision-making.

15. CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE

All individuals involved in research and innovation activities shall maintain confidentiality regarding potentially protectable intellectual property until appropriate protection measures have been secured.

The Institution may require:

- a. Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs)
- b. Confidentiality Agreements
- c. Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs)
- d. Data Sharing Agreements

before sharing proprietary information with external entities.

16. USE OF INSTITUTION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

The use of Institution resources shall not automatically confer ownership rights to individuals. Where substantial Institution resources have been utilized, the Institution shall retain ownership or co-ownership rights in accordance with this Policy. Researchers shall ensure that Institution facilities are used responsibly and in compliance with applicable regulations.

17. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GENERATED THROUGH EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Ownership and management of intellectual property arising from externally funded projects shall be governed by:

- Funding agency guidelines
- Project agreements
- Memoranda of Understanding
- Collaborative research agreements

In case of conflict, statutory requirements and contractual obligations shall prevail. The Institution shall endeavour to protect the interests of both inventors and sponsors while promoting knowledge dissemination and societal benefit.

18. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GENERATED THROUGH INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS AND CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

Intellectual property arising from consultancy assignments, contract research, testing services, technology development projects, and industry collaborations shall be governed by the terms and conditions specified in the relevant agreements executed between the Institution and the collaborating organization. The ownership, protection, licensing, publication rights, confidentiality obligations, and commercialization arrangements shall be clearly defined before commencement of the project. Where no specific agreement exists, ownership shall be determined by the Institution in accordance with this Policy.

19. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, BIODIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS

The Institution recognizes the importance of protecting traditional knowledge, indigenous innovations, biological resources, and associated community rights. Research involving biological resources, traditional knowledge, marine resources, genetic resources, or indigenous practices shall comply with:

- Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and subsequent amendments.
- National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) regulations.
- State Biodiversity Board regulations.
- Applicable national and international conventions.

The Institution shall ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing arrangements wherever applicable. Researchers shall obtain necessary approvals and permissions before accessing biological resources or associated traditional knowledge.

20. PUBLICATION, THESIS SUBMISSION AND PRIOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

The Institution encourages publication and dissemination of research findings while ensuring appropriate protection of intellectual property.

Researchers shall:

- Consult the IPR Cell before publication of potentially patentable research.
- Ensure that patent applications, where appropriate, are filed before public disclosure.
- Coordinate thesis submission and publication activities with the IPR Cell when intellectual property protection is contemplated.
- Avoid premature disclosure that may adversely affect patentability or commercialization opportunities.

The Institution shall not unnecessarily delay academic publication and shall make reasonable efforts to balance academic dissemination with intellectual property protection.

21. RESPONSIBILITIES OF INVENTORS, RESEARCHERS AND SUPERVISORS

Inventors, researchers, faculty members, research scholars, and students shall:

- Comply with the provisions of this Policy.
- Promptly disclose intellectual property generated through their research and innovation activities.
- Maintain accurate records of research activities, laboratory notebooks, data, and experimental findings.
- Cooperate with the IPR Cell during evaluation, filing, prosecution, and commercialization processes.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding potentially protectable intellectual property.
- Ensure compliance with funding agency requirements and contractual obligations.

Research Supervisors and Principal Investigators shall:

- Create awareness regarding intellectual property protection.
- Guide students and scholars on ownership and disclosure requirements.
- Facilitate timely reporting of inventions and innovations.
- Ensure responsible conduct of research and proper documentation practices.

22. INFRINGEMENT, MISAPPROPRIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any unauthorized use, copying, disclosure, commercialization, or infringement of Institution -owned intellectual property shall be subject to appropriate action. The Institution may undertake legal, administrative, or disciplinary measures to protect its intellectual property rights.

Disputes relating to:

- Ownership of intellectual property;
- Inventorship or authorship;
- Revenue sharing;
- Licensing arrangements;
- Commercialization activities;

shall initially be referred to the IPR Cell for resolution.

Where necessary, the matter may be referred to a Institution -appointed committee, whose recommendations shall be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate action.

23. MONITORING, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The IPR Cell shall monitor compliance with this Policy and maintain records relating to disclosures, filings, grants, licenses, assignments, and commercialization activities.

The Institution reserves the right to:

- Review intellectual property-related activities.
- Audit records relating to intellectual property.
- Take corrective action in cases of non-compliance.
- Initiate disciplinary proceedings where violations are established.

Any intentional concealment, misrepresentation, unauthorized disclosure, or misuse of intellectual property may attract disciplinary action under applicable Institution rules and regulations.

24. Record Keeping and Documentation

The IPR Cell shall maintain a secure and comprehensive repository of:

- Intellectual Property Disclosure Forms.
- Patent, copyright, trademark, and design applications.
- Granted intellectual property rights.
- Licensing and commercialization agreements.
- Revenue-sharing records.
- Technology transfer documentation.

All records shall be maintained in accordance with applicable legal, regulatory, and institutional requirements.

25. Policy Review and Amendments

This Policy shall be reviewed periodically, normally once every three years, or earlier if required due to changes in:

- National laws and regulations.
- Government policies.
- Funding agency requirements.
- Institution priorities and strategic objectives.

Amendments may be recommended by the IPR Cell and approved by the competent authority of the Institution .

26. RESIDUARY CLAUSE

Any matter relating to intellectual property that is not specifically covered under this Policy shall be decided by the Vice-Chancellor based on applicable laws, regulations, contractual obligations, and the best interests of the Institution. The decision of the Vice-Chancellor shall be final and binding unless otherwise provided under applicable statutory provisions.

27. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy shall come into force from the date of its approval by the Executive Council of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology. The Directorate of Research and Development and the Intellectual Property Rights Cell shall be responsible for the implementation, administration, monitoring, and periodic review of this Policy. All existing guidelines, procedures, and practices relating to intellectual property shall be deemed modified to the extent necessary to ensure consistency with this Policy.

Annexure I

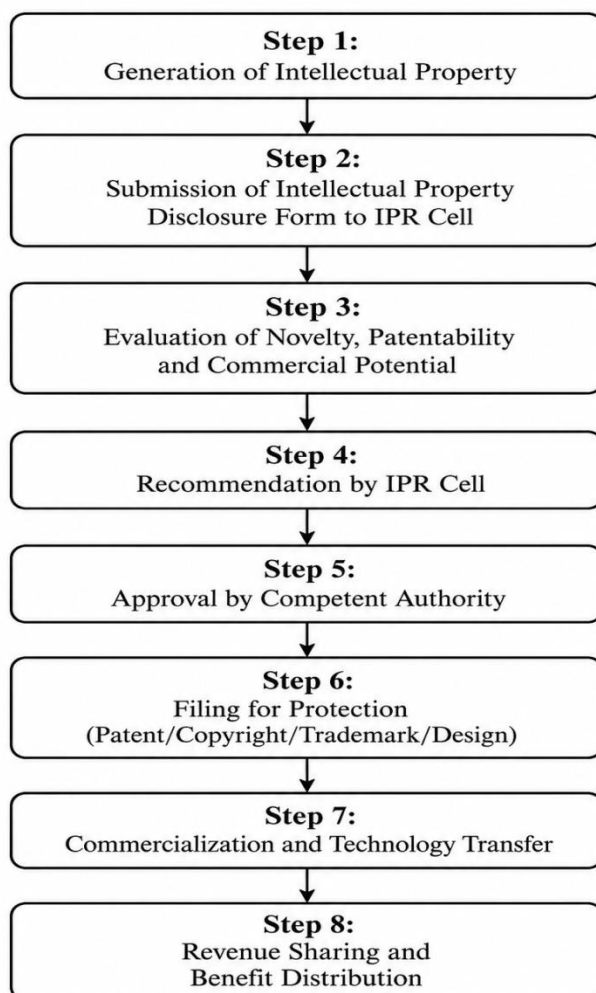
Intellectual Property Covered under this Policy

The following forms of intellectual property shall be governed by this Policy:

1. Patents and Utility Innovations
2. Copyrights and Related Rights
3. Software, Databases and Digital Content
4. Trademarks and Service Marks
5. Industrial Designs
6. Trade Secrets and Confidential Information
7. Plant Varieties and Biological Materials
8. Semiconductor Layout Designs
9. Technical Know-how and Proprietary Processes
10. Educational and Instructional Materials
11. Artificial Intelligence-Based Innovations
12. Any other intellectual property recognized under applicable laws

Annexure II

Illustrative Intellectual Property Disclosure Process



Annexure III

Interpretation

In case of any ambiguity in the interpretation of this Policy, the interpretation made by the Institution through the Vice-Chancellor shall prevail, subject to applicable laws and statutory regulations.


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