**6.5.1:** **Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has contributed significantly for institutionalizing the quality assurance strategies and processes**

SIESGST had a very active and effective ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System (QMS) with the help of which quality assurance strategies and processes were institutionalized. Since May 2017, the practices followed for ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System (QMS) (2005-17) are now being continued under the IQAC.

The two practices institutionalized as a result of ISO 9001: 2008 QMS were Academic & Administrative Audits and Management Review Meetings (MRM). The two best practices presently institutionalized under IQAC are:

1. **Implementation of Internship Policy:**

The Industry Institute Interaction Cell (IIIC) of SIES GST supports students to undergo internship program during their winter/summer vacation. This is in-line with the AICTE Model Internship guidelines to organize internship program for B.E students at Industry/ Institute.

The internship program is offered to students to expose Technical students to the industrial environment where they can learn, understand and sharpen the real time technical / managerial skills required at the job. This Internship helps them to apply the Technical knowledge in real industrial situations, improve technical writing skills, realise responsibilities, imbibe ethics, familiarize with relevant aspects of standardization & quality control.

This Internship Program provides benefits to major stakeholders such as Students, Industries, Institute. The set of guidelines are framed for arranging Internship Programs, attending Internship Programs and for Reporting the progress of an intern. The said internship policy framed is approved in IQAC meeting. Various Internship Programs are being conducted under this policy which are majorly categorized as Addon Courses, Certificate Courses and Internship through Student Development Program.

**2. Nurturing critical thinking, creativity, and scientific temper among the students**

At SIES GST, the students are encouraged to apply their engineering knowledge and skills to find solutions for various day-to-day problems.

In the year 2018, the Ministry of Education launched the Institution’s Innovation Council (IIC) program in collaboration with AICTE for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to systematically foster the culture of innovation and start-up ecosystem. SIES GST was one of the earlier institutes who adopted this initiative to engage large number of faculty, students and staff in various innovation and entrepreneurship related activities. We have successfully completed two years and have secured four-star rating for both the years.

This initiative has been thought of as one of the quality initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and innovative activities and related activities such as ideation, Problem solving, Proof of Concept (POC) development, Design Thinking, Hackathons etc. This has not only benefited the students to think out of box but has also increased the number of participants and winners in national and international hackathons. The institute received a fund from DST to promote Entrepreneurship culture in the institute for which the institute worked closely with NASSCOM and Rein labs and arranged training sessions and competitions.

At present, the Institute has initiated framing of startup centre policy to support students to endorse innovative ideas for successful startups. The institute also plans introduce value added and certificate programs to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.