

EDII organises Startup Express 2.0

Gujarat government's higher education department commissioner Shri M Nagarajan, who was the chief guest at the event, said the energy of our youth needs to be channelized properly so that it turns out to be really a dividend for the country

Ahmedabad, April 22: The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) & Centre for Advancing & Launching Enterprises (CrAdLE) on Friday organised Startup Express 2.0 at EDII Campus, Ahmedabad. Startups, students and new age entrepreneurs from Gujarat participated in the event and shared their entrepreneurial endeavors and experiences. The participants discussed opportunities to receive funds from government schemes, pitch their ideas to investors and explore startup internship opportunities, learn about entrepreneurship and the significance of incubators and accelerators in nurturing viable ideas.

Around 1,800 applications were received for Business Idea Competition from across Gujarat. Following a stringent screening process, 12 applications have been selected for participation.

Also, 15 startups, that are well recognised in the ecosystem and were part of Shark Tank India, exhibited their startups and the innovative products/services they have developed, at the event. Apart from the exhibition, these startups also shared their entrepreneurial journey and success story with budding and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Shri M. Nagarajan, Commissioner, Higher Education Department, Govt. of Gujarat was invited as the chief guest at the function. Shri Vinod Agrawal, Chairman Gujarat State Council, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) & EDII Alumnus and Dr Apoorva Palkar, Director- Innovation, Incubation & Linkage at Savitribai Phule Pune University were the Guest of Honours at the event.

Addressing the gathering, Shri M Nagarajan said, "Today the country is placed at venerable pedestal, when it comes to start ups. While the environment is ripe with unicorns and successful startups, a factor worth appreciating is that today India appreciates failures too. That is giving tremendous confidence to our young minds. For a start up to be successful today, the idea should be technically sound, viable and scalable. Gujarat has a host of policies for young innovators and so, all they now need to do is, think of an innovative idea that can address a problem, and set off on their journey. The Government pitches in with the much-required timely help. India is a young country with more than 60 per cent of the population in less than 35 years bracket. The energy of our youth needs to be channelized properly so that it turns out to be really a dividend for all of us. I congratulate EDII for helping youths achieve their dreams."

Speaking at the event, Dr. Apoorva Palkar said, "Gujarat is a blessed state; a pioneer when it comes to entrepreneurship and start up initiatives. My advice to young aspiring start up enthusiasts would be to identify a problem and then think of a solution that not just address the problem but also fits the market. I urge the youth to think about pathbreaking ideas to solve a

problem, and they will tremendously succeed. EDII is doing great in terms of incubating viable ideas, training youths and handholding them to ensure that they emerge successful as new age entrepreneurs. My congratulations to the Institute and its technology Business Incubator, the CrAdLE.”

Highlighting the role of entrepreneurship, Dr. Sunil Shukla said, “This is perhaps the most appropriate time to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship. The ecosystem is conducive; the Government is forthright with its support for new-age entrepreneurs and there are multiple ways and means to harness resources for a startups. It is nice to note that the startup culture is on a rapid rise; the country records close to 60,000 start ups but at the same time, we need to bear in mind that the startup mortality rate is also high and hence one has to be sure about the business idea and the steps involved in converting it into a venture. With close to 600 incubators and accelerators to support innovative, scalable ideas, that also isn’t a tough task. All that start up entrepreneurs need to be aware of is to mobilize such support and move ahead with a planned strategy.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Vinod Agrawal said, “EDII is my alma mater. My journey, and where I am today shows how much this Institute can give to budding entrepreneurs. My compliments and gratitude to EDII. India is emerging as a startup nation, and with a little more accent on research and development, it will sure, very soon, stand at the foremost position among the comity of nations that command a place in the startup domain. Startups need to take baby steps to growth. This would mean that their growth is being planned well in view of all the external factors. Such a mindful approach will reduce the mortality rate among startups.”

For the purpose of spreading awareness about the entrepreneurship culture in the regional startup ecosystem, EDII and CrAdLE had conducted regional startup bootcamps in four major cities of Gujarat i.e. Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat & Vadodara. The CrAdLE team screened 100 startups for the semi-final round of the competition at each location and selected top 12 startups for the Grand Finale round.

EDII and CrAdLE also organised a Startup Internship Fair for students & startups to align their interests with each other. The internship fair gave the students exposure to various aspects of working in startups whereas startups got a pool of students willing to work with them and co-create a sustainable future.

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