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EDII Champions Green Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Growth at Kolkata Roundtable Meet

KOLKATA: The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), a globally unique institution fostering entrepreneurial skills, reaffirmed its commitment to green entrepreneurship at a recent roundtable meet in Kolkata. Aligning with the Government of India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and net-zero targets, EDII emphasized the critical role of eco-friendly businesses in addressing environmental challenges while creating economic opportunities.

With a 42-year legacy, EDII has supported over 1,000 family businesses, incubated 100+ startups, and built a thriving network of 1,800+ successful alumni. Accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) and recognized with the USASBE Outstanding Entrepreneurship Program Abroad Award (2014), EDII's outcome-based courses align with market needs, offering students hands-on exposure to tech-driven businesses, expert mentorship, and industry-relevant training.

Expanding the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Focus on Persons with disabilities (PwDs)

At the Roundtable Meet, discussions centered on creating a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem for PwDs. Key objectives included:

Best practices for PwD inclusion in entrepreneurship, from infrastructure improvements to workplace integration.

Aligning initiatives with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for long-term impact.

Strengthening corporate and institutional support for PwD-led enterprises.

Corporate participants committed to impactful interventions, including:

Community Sensitization Campaigns to promote PwD inclusion.

Life Skills Training for adolescents with disabilities.

Business Opportunity Sourcing to help PwDs establish ventures.

Credit Linkage Support for PwD-led businesses.

Entrepreneur Growth-Cum-Counseling Programs (EGCP) for mentoring PwD entrepreneurs.

Micro-Skillpreneurship Development Programs (MSDP) for equipping unemployed PwDs with business skills.

Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director General of EDII, who could not be at the meet, remotely messaged the institute's commitment to inclusive economic empowerment. "By providing the right training and opportunities, we can ensure that entrepreneurship is not limited to a select few but becomes a viable option for all, including Persons with Disabilities."

Adding to this, Dr. Raman Gujral highlighted the institute's past successes. "Our initiatives have already reached over 8,533 PwDs through skill-training programs, resulting in the creation of 1,247 enterprises. This is just the beginning—we aim to scale these efforts and ensure more PwDs gain access to sustainable livelihoods."

A Unified Approach to Sustainable Enterprise Development

EDII Ahmedabad's dual approach—nurturing future entrepreneurs through academic programs while expanding opportunities for marginalized groups through corporate partnerships—sets a benchmark for holistic economic development. By championing green entrepreneurship and fostering inclusive growth, EDII continues to pave the way for a sustainable and equitable future.