

Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference: Central Gujarat Startup Seminar

Venue: Seminar Hall (SH-3, SoT | 208), GSFC University, Vadodara

Date: 29.06.2026

Time: 02:30 to 05:00 PM

Theme: Igniting Gujarat's Next Growth Chapter Through Innovation
Across Industries

Session Summary:

The **Start-Up Seminar**, organized during the **Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference, Vadodara**, brought together policymakers, industry leaders, startup founders, incubators, investors, academicians, and aspiring entrepreneurs to deliberate on strengthening Gujarat's innovation and startup ecosystem. The inaugural session highlighted startups as a key driver of Gujarat's economic growth and emphasized the role of **Vibrant Gujarat** in connecting entrepreneurs with investors, industry, academia, and government.

The seminar featured insightful sessions on successful ecosystem models, including **Telangana Innovation Cell's** initiatives such as **T-Hub, T-Works, and WE-Hub**, showcasing best practices in innovation, incubation, and inclusive entrepreneurship. A deep-tech entrepreneurship session highlighted the challenges and opportunities in developing indigenous aerospace technologies, emphasizing innovation, intellectual property, regulatory compliance, and government support.

Expert panel discussions by representatives from **TiE Vadodara, CII Gujarat Startup Taskforce, Fundoo Labs, and Wadhvani Foundation** stressed the importance of customer-centric innovation, storytelling, mentorship, resilience, adaptability, and continuous learning. Another inspiring panel of women entrepreneurs shared their journeys, reinforcing that perseverance, quality, and purpose-driven entrepreneurship are critical for success.

Overall, the seminar underscored the growing role of **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, women entrepreneurs, student innovators, and collaborative ecosystems** in shaping India's innovation landscape. It concluded with a strong message that sustainable entrepreneurship, supported by mentoring, incubation, advanced infrastructure, and policy initiatives, is essential for building globally competitive startups and achieving India's vision of becoming a leading innovation-driven economy.

Session 1: Startups as Growth Catalysts for the Region

Session title	Startups as Growth Catalysts for the Region
Track / theme	Igniting Gujarat's Next Growth Chapter Through Innovation Across Industries
Date & time	29th June 2026, 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM
Venue / hall	Seminar Hall (SH -3, SOT 208)
Session chair	Mr. R.D Barhatt, Jt. Commissioner, Industries
Speakers	Mr. R.D Barhatt, Jt. Commissioner, Industries
Rapporteur	Shri Barhatt inaugurated the Start-Up Seminar by setting the context for the discussions and emphasizing the pivotal role of startups in driving Gujarat's economic growth and innovation-led development. He remarked that startups represent the "heartbeat of Gujarat's economy" and are the engines that propel the state's progress through entrepreneurship, technological advancement, and employment generation. He highlighted that the Government of Gujarat has consistently nurtured a conducive ecosystem for innovation through progressive policies, institutional support, and strategic initiatives. He underscored the significance of Vibrant Gujarat as more than an investment summit, describing it as a dynamic platform that brings together entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, academia, industry, and government agencies to foster collaboration and accelerate the growth of startups. According to him, the platform has evolved into an important launchpad where innovative ideas receive visibility, mentorship, investment opportunities, and market linkages, enabling startups to scale their businesses and contribute to the state's economic transformation.

	Shri Barhatt also highlighted Gujarat's remarkable performance in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Startup Rankings, noting that the state has consistently been recognized among the top-performing startup ecosystems in India. He attributed this achievement to the collective efforts of government departments, academic institutions, incubation centres, industry partners, and entrepreneurs working together to create a vibrant innovation ecosystem. Concluding his address, Shri Barhatt encouraged all stakeholders—including students, startups, incubators, industry leaders, and policymakers—to continue fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship. He emphasized that sustained efforts in strengthening the startup ecosystem would not only enhance Gujarat's competitiveness but also position the state as a global destination for innovation, technology, and startup-led economic development.
Approx. attendance	~80

1.1. Session Objectives

- To set the context of the Start-Up Seminar by highlighting the significance of startups in driving Gujarat's economic growth and innovation ecosystem.
- To emphasize Gujarat's achievements in fostering entrepreneurship and its position as one of India's leading startup states.

1.2. Summary of Proceedings

- Shri Barhatt inaugurated the seminar by describing startups as the driving force behind Gujarat's economic progress and innovation-led development.
- He highlighted Vibrant Gujarat as a key platform for promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and startup growth across the state.
- He noted that Gujarat has consistently ranked among the top-performing states in the DPIIT Startup Rankings, reflecting the state's strong policy support and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- He encouraged stakeholders to continue strengthening the startup ecosystem to position Gujarat as a global hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

1.3. Key Insights & Takeaways

- Startups are a key driver of Gujarat's economic growth, innovation, and employment generation.
- Gujarat continues to be one of India's leading startup ecosystems, as reflected in the DPIIT Startup Rankings.
- Vibrant Gujarat has evolved into a significant platform for connecting startups with investors, industry, academia, and government.
- A collaborative ecosystem is essential to transform innovative ideas into successful enterprises.

1.4. Recommendations & Action Points

- Strengthen collaboration among academia, industry, incubators, and government to nurture innovation-driven startups.
- Encourage wider participation of students and entrepreneurs in state-supported startup initiatives and innovation platforms.

Session 2: Strengthening Startup Ecosystems: Cross-State Policy Best Practices

Session title	Strengthening Startup Ecosystems: Cross-State Policy Best Practices
Track / theme	Igniting Gujarat's Next Growth Chapter Through Innovation Across Industries
Date & time	29th June 2026, 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM
Venue / hall	Seminar Hall (SH -3, SOT 208)
Session chair	Mr. Meraj Faheem, CEO, Telangana Innovation Cell (TGIC), Govt. of Telangana
Speakers	Mr. Meraj Faheem, CEO, Telangana Innovation Cell, Govt. of Telangana
Rapporteur	Shri Meraj Faheem delivered an insightful session on best practices for developing a robust, inclusive, and decentralized startup ecosystem , drawing from the successful initiatives implemented by the Government of Telangana. He emphasized that innovation should not be confined to metropolitan cities but should be accessible to aspiring entrepreneurs across the state.

Accordingly, the Telangana Innovation Cell (TGIC) has established a decentralized ecosystem spanning all **33 districts**, enabling innovators from educational institutions, startups, and local communities to access innovation centres where they receive guidance to transform **ideas into prototypes, prototypes into products, and products into successful businesses.**

Highlighting Telangana's world-class innovation infrastructure, Shri Faheem showcased **T-Hub**, India's largest innovation campus spread across **5.75 lakh sq. ft.**, which serves as a collaborative platform for startups, corporates, investors, and mentors. He also presented **T-Works**, India's largest prototyping centre for precision manufacturing, equipped with advanced facilities for working with wood, polymers, metals, electronics, and digital fabrication technologies. He cited the example of **Skyroot Aerospace**, whose early prototype development was supported through T-Works, demonstrating the importance of shared prototyping infrastructure in nurturing deep-tech startups.

The session also highlighted **WE-Hub**, a first-of-its-kind state-led incubator dedicated to supporting women entrepreneurs through mentorship, capacity building, networking, and market access. Shri Faheem further discussed Telangana's **Fund of Funds for Grassroot Innovators**, which has supported hundreds of innovators over the past few years, enabling promising ideas from rural and grassroots communities to evolve into commercially viable ventures. He also referred to industry-supported initiatives such as **Adani's "Vande Bharatam"** programme, which complements government efforts in promoting grassroots innovation.

	A key highlight of the presentation was the Innovation Panchayat Model, inspired by India's traditional Panchayat system. Under this model, local innovators are connected with experienced mentors and ecosystem stakeholders, while the government acts primarily as an enabler by providing the platform for collaboration rather than directly intervening in the innovation process. This decentralized mentoring framework has significantly strengthened community-led innovation and problem-solving. Shri Faheem concluded by stressing the importance of developing skilled incubation professionals through the Incubator Fellowship Model, implemented in collaboration with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). The fellowship facilitates knowledge exchange and capacity building among incubation managers, recognizing that a strong network of competent incubators and incubation professionals is essential for nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs, startups, and unicorns. He emphasized that India's innovation ecosystem requires not only visionary founders but also capable institutions and professionals who can support startups throughout their entrepreneurial journey.
Approx. attendance	~80

2.1 Session Objectives

- To share Telangana's best practices in developing an inclusive, decentralized, and innovation-driven startup ecosystem.
- To showcase successful initiatives that support innovators through infrastructure, mentorship, funding, and incubation.

2.2 Summary of Proceedings

- Shri Meraj Faheem presented Telangana's decentralized innovation model, highlighting how innovation centres across all 33 districts enable innovators to transform ideas into products and successful businesses.

- He showcased flagship initiatives such as T-Hub, T-Works, and WE-Hub, which provide world-class infrastructure, prototyping facilities, and dedicated support for women entrepreneurs.
- He discussed funding initiatives, including the Fund of Funds for Grassroot Innovators, and collaborations that promote grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The session concluded with insights into the Innovation Panchayat and Incubator Fellowship Model, emphasizing the importance of local mentorship and capacity building for incubation professionals to strengthen India's startup ecosystem.

2.3 Key Insights & Takeaways

- Decentralized innovation ecosystems can significantly enhance regional entrepreneurship and inclusive growth.
- World-class prototyping infrastructure and innovation centres accelerate product development and commercialization.
- Local mentorship and community-driven innovation models strengthen startup success at the grassroots level.
- Skilled incubation professionals are essential for developing sustainable startup ecosystems.

2.4 Recommendations & Action Points

- Develop district-level innovation and mentoring networks to strengthen regional startup ecosystems.
- Invest in advanced prototyping facilities and incubation management capacity within higher education institutions.

Session 3: Building Deep-Tech Startups in Aerospace: Reality, Risks & Rewards

Session title	Building Deep-Tech Startups in Aerospace: Reality, Risks & Rewards
Track / theme	Igniting Gujarat's Next Growth Chapter Through Innovation Across Industries
Date & time	29th June 2026, 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM
Venue / hall	Seminar Hall (SH -3, SOT 208)
Session chair	Mr. Harsh Joshi, Founder, Cligent Aerospace
Speakers	Mr. Harsh Joshi, Founder, Cligent Aerospace
Rapporteur	Shri Harsh Joshi, Founder of Cligent Aerospace , delivered an inspiring session on the realities of building a deep-tech aerospace

startup in India. Introducing Cligent Aerospace, he explained the company's vision of developing **hybrid-electric Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL)** aircraft designed for regional passenger connectivity, cargo logistics, and advanced air mobility. He emphasized that India's growing focus on indigenous technology development presents significant opportunities for startups to address critical challenges in the aviation sector through innovation.

Drawing from his entrepreneurial journey, Shri Joshi discussed the unique challenges associated with establishing a deep-tech aerospace venture. He highlighted that unlike conventional technology startups, aerospace innovation demands **long-term commitment, patience, perseverance, and sustained investment** before achieving commercial success. He stressed that founders must remain focused on solving a clearly defined problem and initially concentrate on building **one robust and reliable product** rather than diversifying prematurely.

The session underscored several critical success factors for deep-tech startups, including access to **patient capital**, assembling a highly skilled multidisciplinary team, selecting the right market segment, and ensuring that product development aligns with customer requirements. Shri Joshi also highlighted the importance of leveraging government initiatives such as **IN-SPACE, iDEX**, and other policy frameworks that support innovation in the aerospace and defence sectors. He emphasized that regulatory approvals and airworthiness certifications are indispensable in aerospace, where safety remains the foremost priority.

	Shri Joshi further discussed the operational complexities of the aerospace industry, particularly the challenges associated with establishing a reliable supply chain for high-precision components and advanced manufacturing. While acknowledging these challenges, he noted that successful aerospace ventures create significant long-term value through technological leadership and global competitiveness. Concluding his address, Shri Joshi emphasized the strategic importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in protecting innovation and building sustainable competitive advantages for deep-tech enterprises. He remarked that a thriving aerospace industry not only accelerates technological self-reliance but also generates high-skilled employment and contributes substantially to national economic growth. Referring to global aerospace leaders such as Lockheed Martin and Boeing, he illustrated how successful aerospace companies can become major contributors to a nation's industrial development, technological capabilities, and economic prosperity.
Approx. attendance	~80

3.1. Session Objectives

- To provide insights into the opportunities and challenges of building a deep-tech aerospace startup in India and the key factors required for long-term success.
- To highlight the importance of innovation, intellectual property, government support, and a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem in advancing India's aerospace sector.

3.2. Summary of Proceedings

- The speaker introduced **Cligent Aerospace** and shared its vision of developing hybrid-electric **Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL)** aircraft to enhance regional connectivity, cargo transportation, and advanced air mobility.
- He discussed the realities of establishing a deep-tech aerospace startup, emphasizing the need for patience, perseverance, substantial

capital investment, a competent multidisciplinary team, and a focused product strategy.

- The session highlighted the significance of government initiatives such as **IN-SPACE**, **iDEX**, and other policy interventions that support innovation in the aerospace and defence sectors, while also stressing the importance of regulatory certifications and a resilient supply chain.
- He concluded by emphasizing that intellectual property, indigenous technology development, and the growth of aerospace enterprises can generate high-value employment and significantly contribute to India's economic development.

3.3. Key Insights & Takeaways

- Deep-tech startups require patience, long-term commitment, and focused execution to achieve commercial success.
- Building the right team, protecting intellectual property, and securing patient capital are critical success factors.
- Government initiatives such as IN-SPACE and iDEX provide valuable support for technology-driven startups.
- Indigenous aerospace innovation has significant potential to generate employment and strengthen India's technological capabilities.

3.4. Recommendations & Action Points

- Promote deep-tech entrepreneurship through specialized incubation, funding, and mentorship programmes.
- Encourage startups to prioritize intellectual property creation and regulatory preparedness from the early stages.

Session 4: Panel Discussion on Unlocking Startup Opportunities in Central Gujarat

Session title	Panel Discussion on Unlocking Startup Opportunities in Central Gujarat
Track / theme	Igniting Gujarat's Next Growth Chapter Through Innovation Across Industries
Date & time	29th June 2026, 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM
Venue / hall	Seminar Hall (SH -3, SOT 208)
Moderator	Dr. Bhavin Pandya, Dean, Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya
Panellists	1. Mr. Samir Parik, President, TiE Vadodara

	2. Mr. Ankit Macchar, National Head-Startups, Wadhvani Foundation 3. Mr Rutvik Patel, Convenor, CII Gujarat Startup Taskforce 4. Mr. Naitik Chotai, Founder, Fundoolabs Creative Learning Pvt. Ltd.
Rapporteur	Dr. Pandya initiated the panel discussion by introducing the distinguished panelists and setting the context around Gujarat's vision of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy by 2030 and USD 3.5 trillion economy by 2047. The discussion explored the evolving role of startups in achieving this vision and examined the ecosystem support required to foster innovation-led economic growth. Shri Parekh, President of TiE Vadodara, emphasized that entrepreneurship is age-agnostic, gender-agnostic, and region-agnostic, noting that the rapid emergence of startups from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities demonstrates that innovation can flourish beyond metropolitan centres. Referring to Vadodara's growing startup ecosystem, he highlighted the increasing investment activity in the city and explained how the global TiE network, comprising nearly 60 chapters, supports entrepreneurs through mentorship, networking, and knowledge sharing. He stressed that founders should focus on storytelling rather than merely pitching, enabling them to communicate their entrepreneurial journey, vision, and purpose more effectively. He also encouraged entrepreneurs to remain adaptable and willing to pivot as market conditions evolve, while acknowledging that transforming an idea into a commercially successful venture requires patience, resilience, and sustained effort. Sharing his entrepreneurial journey, Shri Naitik Chotai, Founder of Fundoo Labs, described his transition from a decade-long corporate career

at L&T to establishing an innovation-driven startup focused on scientific and sensor-based educational toys. He explained how the company initially worked with educational institutions before strategically pivoting to product-based learning solutions after identifying greater scalability in the consumer market. He advised aspiring entrepreneurs to begin with a **focused product for a clearly defined market**, validate their ideas through early adopters, and gradually expand based on customer feedback and market acceptance.

Shri Rutvik Patel, Convenor of the CII Gujarat Startup Taskforce, discussed his journey from a legal background to establishing a venture in agro-waste management. He highlighted the potential of sustainable technologies in addressing environmental challenges while creating economic opportunities for farmers and industries. Explaining his business model, he described how agricultural waste is procured from farmers and converted into biomass pellets, thereby reducing stubble burning and contributing to clean energy generation. He also highlighted the support extended by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** through its Centres of Excellence, which provide startups with technical guidance, industry connect, mentoring, and business development support.

Shri Ankit Machhar, National Startup Head at the Wadhvani Foundation, highlighted the Foundation's extensive work in nurturing entrepreneurship among students, startups, and MSMEs across multiple countries. Through an engaging interaction with the audience, he emphasized the importance of ambition, resilience, and lifelong learning by narrating the inspiring entrepreneurial journey of **Dr. Romesh Wadhvani**, whose perseverance transformed adversity into global

	entrepreneurial success. He encouraged young innovators to cultivate the right mindset, actively seek mentorship, and continuously refine their understanding of customer needs. The interactive question-and-answer session provided practical guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs. Responding to questions from participants, the panelists emphasized that startup founders must first become effective salespersons capable of convincingly communicating the value of their products. They encouraged entrepreneurs to view failures as stepping stones toward success, seek advice from experienced mentors, remain committed to product quality, and identify the right customer segment before pursuing large-scale expansion. The discussion also underscored that sustainable growth depends on continuous learning, openness to feedback, and maintaining high standards of quality and customer satisfaction. The session concluded with a strong message that Gujarat possesses abundant opportunities, funding support, and institutional mechanisms to nurture innovative startups. However, entrepreneurial success ultimately depends on perseverance, humility, mentorship, customer-centric innovation, and the ability to transform ideas into sustainable businesses through consistent execution.
Approx. attendance	~80

4.1. Session Objectives

- To provide practical insights from startup ecosystem leaders on building, scaling, and sustaining successful ventures, while highlighting the role of mentorship, storytelling, and ecosystem support.
- To discuss the opportunities, challenges, and future outlook of Gujarat's startup ecosystem in achieving the state's economic growth vision

4.2. Summary of Proceedings

- The panel discussed the evolving startup ecosystem in Gujarat, emphasizing that entrepreneurship is independent of age, gender, or geography, and highlighting the increasing contribution of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities such as Vadodara to startup growth and investments.
- Panelists shared their entrepreneurial journeys and emphasized the importance of perseverance, customer validation, product-market fit, strategic pivoting, and storytelling as essential elements for startup success.
- The discussion highlighted the critical role of ecosystem enablers such as TiE, CII, and the Wadhvani Foundation in providing mentorship, networking, incubation support, market access, and entrepreneurial capacity building.
- During the interactive Q&A session, the speakers advised aspiring entrepreneurs to embrace failures as learning opportunities, seek mentorship, maintain product quality, identify the right customer segment, and continuously adapt to market needs.

4.3. Key Insights & Takeaways

- Entrepreneurship is independent of age, gender, and geography; Tier-2 cities are emerging as strong startup hubs.
- Storytelling is as important as pitching in attracting customers, investors, and partners.
- Successful entrepreneurs continuously validate their ideas, remain adaptable, and embrace failures as learning opportunities.
- Mentorship, networking, and ecosystem support significantly improve startup success.

4.4. Recommendations & Action Points

- Create structured mentorship and networking programmes connecting startups with experienced entrepreneurs.
- Conduct regular capacity-building programmes focusing on customer discovery, storytelling, and business validation.

Session 5: Fireside Chat: Breaking the Binary: Women Building Across Traditional & Deep-Tech Sectors

Session title	Fireside Chat: Breaking the Binary: Women Building Across Traditional & Deep-Tech Sectors
Track / theme	Igniting Gujarat's Next Growth Chapter Through Innovation Across Industries
Date & time	29th June 2026, 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM
Venue / hall	Seminar Hall (SH -3, SOT 208)
Moderator	CA Swati Panchal, Co-Founder, i47 Global Venture
Panellists	1. Dr. Shanaya Bakeri, Founder, Genoscope Pvt. Ltd 2. Ms. Tanya Shah Founder, Little Genius Academy 3. Ms. Krishna Siddhapura, Founder, Storytailor Kids LLP
Rapporteur	The session commenced with CA Swati Panchal introducing the distinguished panelists and setting the stage for an engaging discussion on the entrepreneurial journeys of women founders who have successfully transformed personal experiences into impactful ventures. The panel brought together entrepreneurs from the healthcare, education, and creative learning sectors, each sharing unique perspectives on innovation, leadership, and resilience. Dr. Shanaya shared the journey of establishing Genoscope, a healthcare startup focused on precision oncology and genetic diagnostics. She explained that the venture originated from the alarming prevalence of Head and Neck Cancer (HNSCC) in India, with Gujarat accounting for a significant proportion of cases. Recognizing the need for personalized cancer treatment, Genoscope developed genetic testing solutions to support customized

treatment plans and improve patient outcomes. Reflecting on her fundraising journey, she candidly described the challenges of securing investment, including numerous unsuccessful investor interactions before raising capital. She also discussed the additional hurdles encountered by women founders during investment negotiations and emphasized the importance of strong technical knowledge, confidence, and persistence in overcoming biases.

Ms. Tanya Shah, founder of an education technology venture, shared how her own childhood learning experiences inspired her to establish **Little Genius Academy**, with the objective of making learning engaging, enjoyable, and value-driven for students. She explained that the idea took shape during her MBA at IIM Indore, where she recognized the opportunity to create innovative educational solutions. Addressing the balance between growth and quality, she emphasized that startups should never compromise on the quality of their offerings. She also highlighted the importance of embracing technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence while remaining committed to the core mission of delivering meaningful learning experiences.

Ms. Krishna Siddhpura introduced herself as a **"Mompreneur"**, describing how motherhood inspired her entrepreneurial journey. While working in a multinational company, she identified an opportunity to make storytelling more engaging for children by creatively integrating stories into clothing. She reflected on the importance of directly engaging with customers, understanding their needs firsthand, and remaining actively involved in product development. Discussing team building, she emphasized that while technical skills can be acquired, a positive attitude,

	perseverance, and the right mindset are indispensable qualities for building successful teams and sustainable enterprises. The interactive discussion addressed several practical aspects of entrepreneurship, including fundraising, maintaining product quality, adapting to changing technologies, and building high-performing teams. Collectively, the panelists underscored that entrepreneurial success is driven not only by innovative ideas but also by resilience, continuous learning, customer-centric thinking, and the ability to transform personal challenges into meaningful solutions that create lasting societal impact.
Approx. attendance	~80

5.1. Session Objectives

- To showcase the entrepreneurial journeys of women founders across diverse sectors and highlight the challenges and opportunities in building purpose-driven startups.
- To provide practical insights on fundraising, product quality, team building, adaptability, and resilience for aspiring entrepreneurs.

5.2. Summary of Proceedings

- The panelists shared how personal experiences and real-world challenges inspired them to establish ventures in healthcare, education, and creative learning, demonstrating the importance of identifying genuine societal problems.
- The discussion highlighted key entrepreneurial lessons, including perseverance in fundraising, maintaining uncompromising product quality, embracing technological change, and building customer-centric solutions.
- The speakers emphasized that mindset, adaptability, and resilience are more critical than resources alone, and that successful startups are built by teams with shared values and a strong sense of purpose.
- During the interactive discussion, the panelists encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to view failures as learning opportunities, continuously upgrade their skills, and remain committed to solving meaningful problems despite challenges.

5.3. Key Insights & Takeaways

- Personal experiences often serve as the foundation for impactful entrepreneurial ventures.
- Persistence and confidence are essential to overcome fundraising and business challenges.
- Product quality and customer value should never be compromised in pursuit of rapid growth.
- Building teams with the right mindset and adaptability is more important than technical skills alone.

5.4 Recommendations & Action Points

- Strengthen mentorship and funding support mechanisms specifically for women-led startups.
- Organize focused programmes on fundraising, leadership, and team building for emerging women entrepreneurs.

Session 6: The Only Innovation Story Worth Telling

Session title	The Only Innovation Story Worth Telling
Track / theme	Igniting Gujarat's Next Growth Chapter Through Innovation Across Industries
Date & time	29th June 2026, 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM
Venue / hall	Seminar Hall (SH -3, SOT 208)
Moderator	Ms. Shweta Brahmbha
Panellists	Ms. Shweta Brahmbha
Rapporteur	Ms. Shweta focussed on the idea of the Story telling, something that is sitting in every chair of the room, the conversation of the founder with self. Every start-up was started as the founder had a purpose. With example of Zoho that big companies can come from villages as well. It is not what you are building, but it is who you are becoming that is more important to be found out. It is you who has been shaped, forged and become, is the key question. What is stopping India from becoming a developed nation has to be pondered upon. The next chapter of India's success will not be written in Parliament and Policy but by the people who dare to believe, being.
Approx. attendance	~80

6.1. Session Objectives

- To inspire entrepreneurs to develop a purpose-driven mindset by emphasizing the importance of self-belief, storytelling, and personal transformation in the entrepreneurial journey.
- To encourage founders to create meaningful impact by aligning their ventures with a larger vision for innovation and nation-building.

6.2. Summary of Proceedings

- Ms. Shweta highlighted that every successful startup begins with a founder's purpose and the personal story that drives the entrepreneurial journey.
- She emphasized that authentic storytelling is more powerful than merely presenting a business idea, as it reflects the founder's vision, resilience, and transformation.
- Citing the example of Zoho, she illustrated that globally successful enterprises can emerge from rural India, demonstrating that innovation is not limited by geography.
- The session concluded with a call for entrepreneurs to become agents of India's transformation, emphasizing that the nation's future will be shaped not only by policies but also by individuals who dare to dream, innovate, and create lasting impact.

6.3. Key Insights & Takeaways

- Every successful startup is driven by a clear purpose and a compelling founder story.
- Entrepreneurship is as much about personal transformation as it is about building a business.
- Authentic storytelling creates trust and inspires stakeholders more effectively than conventional pitching.
- Innovation and determination, rather than location, define entrepreneurial success.

6.4. Recommendations & Action Points

- Incorporate storytelling and leadership development into entrepreneurship training programmes.
- Encourage founders to develop purpose-driven ventures that create both economic and social impact.

Notable Quotes:

- “Start-Ups are the very heartbeat of the Gujarat Economy” - Shri R. D. Barhatt, Jt. Commissioner, Industries Commissionerate, IMD, Govt. of Gujarat
- “To fool a fool to fuel your journey make sure you start about how fool a fool (Story telling)”: Mr. Ankit Machhar, National Head, Wadhwani Foundation
- “For team you need SAD to be Happy, i.e. Skills, Attitude, and Development”- Ms. Krishna Siddhapura, Founder, Storytailor Kids LLP

Photos:



Mr. R.D Barhatt, Jt. Commissioner, Industries Commissionerate, GoG



Panel Discussion on Unlocking Startup Opportunities in Central Gujarat



Fireside Chat: Women Building Across Traditional & Deep-Tech Sectors



Participants



Question & Answer Session



Startup Gujarat Cell Team and GUIITAR Council Team