




# GTU INNOVATION COUNCIL

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Student Startup Support System (S4)	Gujarat Technological University (GTU)	GTU Innovation Council (GIC)

A

Report on

## Round Table Discussion On Possible Gujarat Start-up Policy

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

**Time:** 06:00 pm to 09:00 pm

**Venue:** 119, Second Floor, ACPC Building, LDCE Campus, Ahmedabad-380015.

### Background:

Gujarat Technological University (GTU) has made major efforts since 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 for supporting student start-ups. As GTU worked to improve practice-orientation, to develop industry-institute interactions through its GTU Innovation Council (GIC), to establish its student start-up activities and to create awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and Patenting through a series of workshops across the State, various roundtables discussion and conferences were organized to prepare one-of-its-kind GTU's Student Start-up policy to support budding students entrepreneurs.

In November 2014, GTU prepared a comprehensive draft of Student Start-up Policy and the policy for its Skilling Mission, based on our experience of the last four years. This set of policies has emerged after working on the different components of the policies at GTU with more than 200,000 students over the years. This is the only successful model in India for a University-based start-up and incubator system. The policies are designed to develop a robust entrepreneurship system all across GTU.

Since the Union Govt. has declared nearly 10,000 crore INR support to start-ups during this year's financial budget and since many of the southern states have also formulated such policies,

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a discussion about incorporating a robust start-up policy in the Gujarat State Industrial policy has started. Therefore, GTU Innovation Council organized a round table conference to review the Gujarat State Industrial policy, inviting the eminent personalities, associated with the start-up movement in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. The objective was to discuss the details of the policy Vis a Vis the GTU policy.

## **Report:**

The round table meeting was attended by 30 persons including experts, start-ups and students. Before commencing the meeting and discussions, a self-introduction of all the attendees was made. The start-up entrepreneurs from various start-ups were- **Antariksh Parikh** Founder and CEO Youthemism, **Yash Shah** from eSwasthya and **Sharad Parekh** from Straut Pvt Ltd. The event was chaired by **Mr. Haren Shah**, Chairman, Peach Technivations Pvt.Ltd. Gandhinagar.

The group wanted to discuss the policies of the other states in comparison with that of the Gujarat State. It also wanted to include in the Start-up Policy, the role of Academic start-up Ecosystem, Scalability of Local Start-up Ecosystem etc. The start-ups present in the meeting were requested to share their experiences in the meeting.

During the meeting **Mr. Prakash Vani**, Platypus Designs Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad and **Mr Dinesh Agarwal**, Director of the Orchid Skill Development Institute, Ahmedabad pointed out that the State Government policy said very little about the role of start-ups and the same was given at a macro level. It was felt that clarity should be required for the effective implementation and encouragement for the start-ups.

The different opinions from the stake holders are listed below:

- Government should help create and maintain co-creation and incubation spaces. Also incentives should be available to Institutes, Industrial Associations and qualifying individuals if they create such space at their premises. Govt. recognized / operated

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counseling spaces or zonal nodal agencies should support the new start-ups in taking the idea to the next stage.

- To have all the information from a single window, Skill Development Ministry should form a pool of technocrats or honorary experts or paid consultants and make the facility available to the start-ups.
- To make available a list and contact information about start-ups and start-up facilitators for exchange and information of ideas.
- For a cluster of start-ups, common facilities like the availability of the databases, access to library and laboratories like CII, PRL etc. should be facilitated.
- Special incentives for investment in Crowd funding companies for Company promoters.
- Sustenance allowance to start-up promoters whose project has been approved by the institutes. (These may be the Final Year projects of students.) Step by step financial assistance for development and validation of the prototype for such projects may be provided.
- Financial assistance to start-ups to bring the concept to prototype level.

At the end of the round table meeting the chair of the meeting Shri Haren Shah summarized the debate. Shri Shah also stressed the importance of Industry-Institute Linkage, consideration of (i) Integral Industrial Complex like Auroville (<http://www.auroville.org/>), (ii) Collaterals waiver to IT or Knowledge based Start-ups etc.

**Reference:** Report on the S4-S4 Debate on National Entrepreneurship Policy of 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2013 at <http://www.gtu.ac.in/Report/26122013.pdf>

REPORT of a debate on the “Role of Co-working space co-creation space for promoting Start-up culture” of 17th July 2014 at <http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14Aug/13082014.pdf>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/states/gujarat-plans-startup-policy-to-boost-innovations/article6611746.ece>

<http://yourstory.com/2014/08/indian-government-entrepreneurship-programs/>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/info-tech/kerala-govt-earmarks-rs-500-cr-for-startups/article5455494.ece>

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Other References: 1. GTU's Student Start-up Policy is available at [http://files.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14DEC/05122014\\_02.pdf](http://files.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14DEC/05122014_02.pdf)

2. GTU's policy document for its Skilling Mission is available at <http://files.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14DEC/22122014.pdf>

3. For a draft of the policy and for a reference to some of the earlier RoundTable Discussion meetings on the issues of policy, please visit [http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14Nov/GTUStartupPolicy\\_Draft.pdf](http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14Nov/GTUStartupPolicy_Draft.pdf)



*Picture: Participants during the Round Table meeting on Possible Gujarat Start-up Policy*

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