

## **EDII Commemorates the National Startup Day**

**Ahmedabad, January 16, 2024:** The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad on Tuesday (16<sup>th</sup> January 2024) organized an elaborate event to commemorate the National Startup Day. This event was also a curtain raiser for EDII's annual entrepreneurship festival— *Empresario*; this year the theme of *Empresario* is Tech Innovation for Sustainable Future. The event was inaugurated in the presence of Chief Guest, Shri P. B Pandya, IAS, Director, Commissionerate of Higher Education, Government of Gujarat; Guest of Honour, Shri Jimish Kapadia, Founder-Growth 91, Special Guest Shri Nilesh Patel, Co-Founder & Chief Scientific Officer, Lymphon Biologics Pvt Ltd. And Dr. Satya Ranjan Acharya, Director, Department of Education, EDII

Dr. Sunil Shukla, in his opening remarks said "Gujarat is acclaimed for its conducive startup ecosystem. The state has marked a sharp rise in the number of registered startups. For the last three years, Gujarat continues to score the Numero Uno position, in the Startup India Ecosystem Ranking. I urge the youths to come up with their innovative ideas and execute them amidst amiable policies, schemes and multiple funding options that the state has created."

In his inaugural address, Shri P. B Pandya, said, "Today is the time of innovators and innovations. The youths must step forth and tap the opportunities that lie before them. They just have to ideate and the rest will automatically fall in place in the strong entrepreneurship ecosystem that the State has erected. There is no dearth of support today, be it mentorship, incubation, funding or any other support, it is all very easy to manage in today's friendly times and age."

Shri Jimish Kapadia, encouraging the audience said, "India has the finest amalgamation of institutions, policies, incubation and accelerators. The present time is the most beneficial for prospective startups. I believe the budding entrepreneurs need to build confidence in themselves and push their ideas with self-assurance. It is important that they rise above the fear of failure because success rests there."

Motivating the budding entrepreneurs, Shri Nilesh Patel said "Entrepreneurial journey is never smooth; it is a roller coaster ride but that is what makes it so worthwhile. The end result is deeply satisfying and rewarding. There is power in failure and I urge the youths to embrace that, and move ahead with big dreams, wisdom, agility and passion."

The inaugural event concluded with Vote of Thanks by Dr. Satya Ranjan Acharya. Dr. Acharya threw light of the rising number of Startups in India, and in Gujarat. He enumerated the ease of funding options and regulations which support youths and provide them with a powerful platform to experiment with their ideas. Dr. Satya also talked about the Technology Business Incubators at EDII and its services in networking, technology, marketing and funding, to startups.

The day-long event involved intra-college events like speaker sessions to guide budding entrepreneurs in their entrepreneurial journey, competitions like Pitch Deck, Demo Day and Alumni Interaction over activities like Stress Interviews, Ad-Mad Show, Treasure Hunt followed by a Musical Evening.

The event witnessed participation of over 250 students, startups and budding entrepreneurs. Around 25 participants pitched their business ideas to the investor panel.