



Gujarat Technological University

(Accredited with A+ Grade by NAAC)

GTU School of Management Studies

Report on “Start Up Summit 2026- Empresario”

- 1. Title of Event :** Empresario Startup Summit
- 2. Type of Event:** Entrepreneurship Development Summit
- 3. Date, Time and Venue of the Event :**
Date : 12th March, 2026
Time : 10.00 AM to 03.00 PM.
Venue : Entrepreneurship Development Institute Of India, Bhat, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

4. Description of Event:

The Empresario Startup Summit is recognized as the flagship annual event of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), where a diverse and vibrant ecosystem of innovation is brought together under one roof. It is designed as a premier platform through which startups, aspiring entrepreneurs, industry experts, mentors, investors, and students are connected, enabling meaningful interactions and collaborative opportunities to be fostered. The event also featured Shri Arjun Modhwadia, Minister Science & Technology of Gujarat, along with that Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta (Co- Founder SSIP), Dr. Dipan Sahu and many more experts of the field that have guided the students for startups and also motivated the students to carry forward towards the entrepreneurship.

5. List of Experts:

1. Shri Arjun Modhwadia:

Arjun Modhwadia is an experienced Indian politician and public leader currently serving as a Cabinet Minister in the Government of Gujarat, overseeing key portfolios including Forest and Environment, Climate Change, Science, and Technology. With a strong background in governance



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and policy-making, he represents the Porbandar constituency and has been elected multiple times as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). With an early career rooted in engineering at the Gujarat Maritime Board; his professional journey reflects a blend of technical expertise and administrative leadership. Over the years, he has held significant positions such as Leader of the Opposition in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and President of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), demonstrating his strategic and organizational capabilities. Known for his commitment to sustainable development and public welfare, he has actively contributed to initiatives in education, environmental conservation, and community development. His dynamic political journey, marked by adaptability and leadership, continues to shape his role in strengthening governance and driving impactful policy outcomes.

2. Dr. Sunil Shukla

Dr. Sunil Shukla, possesses more than three decades of experience in entrepreneurship development. Alongside pioneering development models targeting corporate executives, Start-ups and MSMEs, Dr. Shukla has also introduced entrepreneurship courses at EDII and premier institutions across the country. He is the recipient of several notable awards for his contributions to policy advocacy, training, entrepreneurship education and livelihood development, and for extending the frontiers of entrepreneurship, nationally and globally. He is editor of the prestigious ‘Journal of Entrepreneurship,’ and since 2012, has been leading the Indian Chapter of the world’s largest Annual Study on entrepreneurship (GEM). His extensive work in several global regions including South Asia, South East Asia, CIS, Middle East, Latin America, Africa, the USA has been noteworthy.

3. Dr. Hiranmay Mahanta

Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta acts as a CEO of Gujarat Student Start-up and Innovation Hub (i-Hub Gujarat). i- Hub is a catalyst in creating a stronger startup ecosystem across the state with its cohesive approach in inculcating entrepreneurial spirit in the youth across 104 universities. As the CEO, he plays a vital role in driving the vision and strategic initiatives of the organization. He is responsible for overseeing the organization’s & operations, identifying and nurturing innovative startups, forging partnerships with industry leaders, and promoting Gujarat as a vibrant hub for technology and entrepreneurship. His strategic guidance and efforts are instrumental in positioning i-Hub Gujarat as a key player in India & startup ecosystem. Through his leadership, i-Hub Gujarat continues to contribute to the



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development of a vibrant and inclusive innovation ecosystem in Gujarat, attracting talent, investment, and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship.

4. Dr. Dipan Sahu

Shri Dipan Sahu is a development professional with more than 10 years of experience and has expertise in policy design and implementation in the areas of innovation and startup ecosystem development in Higher Educational Institutions in India. He has obtained his second master's degree in Development Policy from Korea Development Institute (KDI), a South Korean Government policy think tank. He is currently serving at the capacity of Asst. Innovation Director at Innovation Cell of Ministry of HRD housed at All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. Shri Sahu is associating with AICTE since 2017 and he is a core member of the implementation team for National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP) for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). He plays a lead role in designing and implementation of numbers of other major national policy initiatives such as Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA), Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) and MBA in Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Venture Development (IEV), International Acceleration Program for Early Stage Startups. He manages a portfolio of various programs are being implemented under AICTE Startup Policy in academic institutions at AICTE.

6. Number of Participants:

The event was attended by 63 students of BBA semester 6.

7. Feedback on the Event:

The *Empresario 2026 Startup Summit* proved to be a highly informative and inspiring event from a student perspective. The event successfully brought together a diverse ecosystem comprising entrepreneurs, industry experts, policymakers, and aspiring students, which provided valuable exposure beyond classroom learning.

The presence of dignitaries such as Arjun Modhwadia and experts like Hiranmay Mahanta and Dipan Sahu added significant value to the event. Their insights on innovation, startup funding, and government support schemes were particularly beneficial for students interested in entrepreneurship.



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The sessions were engaging and motivational, encouraging students to think creatively and consider entrepreneurship as a viable career option. The interaction opportunities and real-life experiences shared by the speakers helped in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

Overall, the event was well-organized and effectively achieved its objective of promoting entrepreneurial awareness and mindset among students. It also highlighted the importance of innovation, risk-taking, and continuous learning in today's dynamic business environment.

8. Photos of Event:





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9. Flyer of the Event:





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