Gujarat Technological University

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GTU School of Management Studies

Centre of Excellence in Fintech and Financial Services

Report on One Week STTP on "FinTech: Empowering Educators for the Digital Finance Era"

1. **Title of Event:** One Week Short Term Training Programme (STTP)
2. **Date:** 27th April to 1st May
3. **Time:** 10:30 AM onwards
4. **Venue:** Gujarat Extension Centre, Ahmedabad National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training & Research (NITTTR) Opp. Sola Civil Hospital, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad, Gujarat – 380060
5. **Organized By:** GTU School of Management Studies, Ahmedabad Jointly with Gujarat Extension Centre, Ahmedabad – NITTTRB

Day 1 Report

The first day of the One Week Short Term Training Programme (STTP) on FinTech: Empowering Educators for the Digital Finance Era began with an inaugural session followed by expert sessions focused on the FinTech ecosystem and emerging technologies. The programme aimed to enhance participants' understanding of modern financial technologies, digital transformation, and innovative teaching approaches in finance education.

Inaugural Session

The programme commenced with a welcome address by **Dr. Rajesh K. Jain, Director,** GTU-SMS, who highlighted the objectives of the STTP and the importance of FinTech in today's financial world. **Dr. Nishith Dubey** then introduced NITTTR Bhopal and its Gujarat Extension Centre, highlighting its contribution to technical education, faculty development, innovation, and skill enhancement.

Key Guests Present:
Dr. Madhur Sharma – Chief Guest
Mr. Parth Devariya – Director & Co-Founder, GFuture Tech Pvt. Ltd.
Faculty Coordinators and Participants

Dr. Madhur Sharma shared insights on industry expectations and practical learning.
Mr. Parth Devariya motivated participants to solve real-world problems through innovation in FinTech.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks, National Anthem, and group photograph.

Session 1 Overview of the FinTech Ecosystem

Speaker: Mr. Parth Devariya

Director & Co-Founder, GFuture Tech Pvt. Ltd.

The first technical session was delivered by **Mr. Parth Devariya**, who provided an insightful overview of the FinTech ecosystem and explained how technology is transforming the financial sector. He described FinTech as an innovative business model that converts traditional challenges such as delay, distrust, and paperwork into trust, speed, and efficiency. The session was practical, interactive, and highly informative for all participants.

Key Topics Covered:

- Cybersecurity in FinTech
- Blockchain Technology
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- UPI and Digital Payment Systems
- Embedded Finance
- API-based Banking
- Foreign Exchange in FinTech
- High Frequency Trading (HFT)

He motivated participants to identify real-world problems, develop innovative solutions, and explore opportunities in the growing FinTech sector.

Session 2 Key Technologies Driving FinTech

Speaker: Mr. Parth Devariya

The second technical session focused on the major technologies driving innovation in the FinTech industry. **Mr. Parth Devariya** explained how emerging digital tools, cloud platforms, data systems, and Artificial Intelligence are reshaping financial services and creating new business opportunities.

The speaker introduced participants to the importance of building systems using modern technology platforms and encouraged learners to develop practical skills relevant to today's market requirements.

Major Topics Covered:

- UPI Infrastructure and digital payments
- Fraud detection and risk assessment
- Cloud computing in financial services
- Databases such as PostgreSQL and MongoDB
- AI tools and prompt-based systems
- Open-source platforms
- Frontend and backend technologies
- Project deployment platforms
- Stock market analysis tools

Practical Insights Shared:

The speaker emphasized that learners should not focus only on theory but should also build projects, test products, and learn practical implementation. He also highlighted the growing importance of **prompting skills**, data analysis, and AI-assisted development.

Key Learning Outcome:

Participants understood that the future of FinTech depends on combining finance knowledge with technology skills such as databases, cloud systems, AI tools, and digital product development.

The session was highly informative and gave participants a practical roadmap for developing careers and innovations in the FinTech sector.

Task Allocation

After Session 2, Task-1: Designing a FinTech Solution was assigned to participants. The task focused on solving real-world challenges such as onboarding delays, fraud detection, and low digital engagement using FinTech technologies.

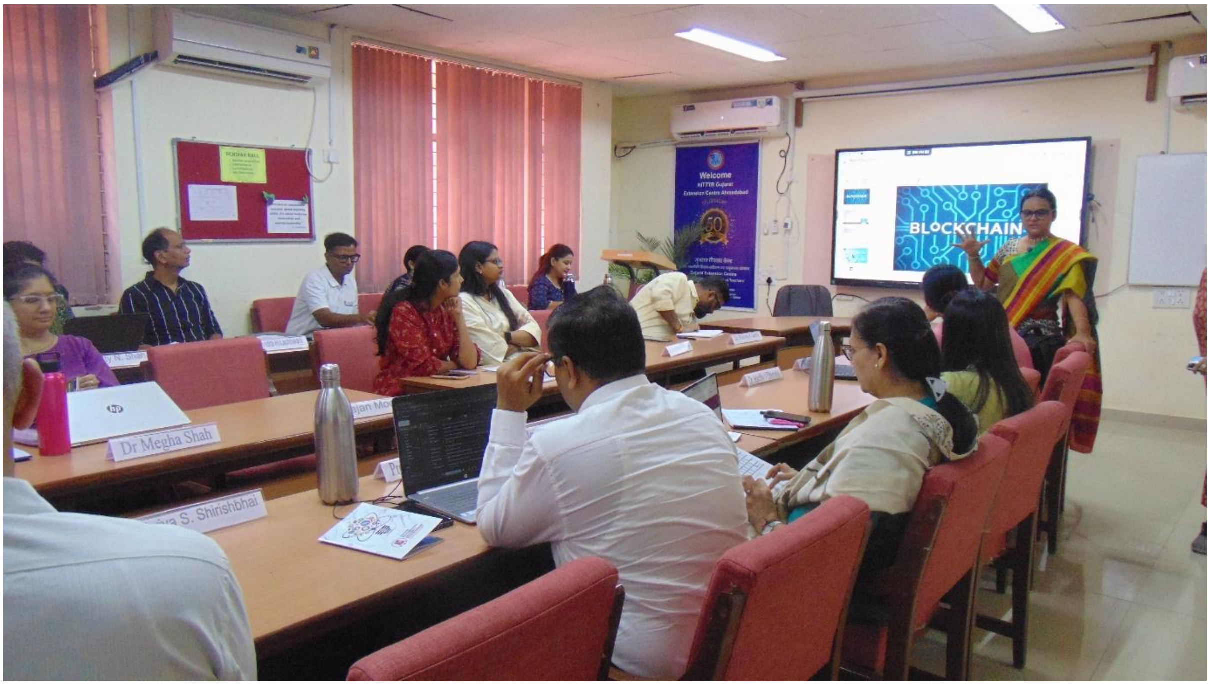
Report on Day 2 – One Week STTP on FinTech

Session 3: Blockchain Technology and Its Impact on Finance

Speaker: **Dr. Hetal Vyas**,

Assistant Professor, GLS University

This session briefly explained blockchain as a secure, decentralized digital ledger technology. It highlighted its origin from Bitcoin and its growing importance in financial systems. The discussion focused on real-world applications and how blockchain improves transparency, efficiency, and security in finance and other sectors.



Major Topics Covered:

- Concept of blockchain and digital ledger
- Applications in banking, healthcare, voting, and digital identity
- Use cases like JP Morgan (J.P. Coin)
- Blockchain in insurance (fraud prevention, claim processing)
- Centralized exchanges (Binance, Coinbase)
- Cross-border payments and tokenization
- Role of blockchain in transparency and security

Session 4: Digital Payments – A Global Perspective

One Week STTP on FinTech focused on 'Digital Payments – A Global Perspective'. The session was delivered by Dr. Yupal Shukla, Faculty at Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE. The session aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of global digital payment systems, emerging trends, and the role of fintech in transforming financial transactions worldwide.

Speaker Profile

Dr. Yupal Shukla is an academician associated with Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE. With expertise in global finance and digital transformation, the speaker provided valuable international insights into payment systems, fintech innovations, and cross-border financial ecosystems.

Session Overview

The session highlighted how digital payments have evolved from traditional cash-based systems to advanced, technology-driven platforms. It emphasized the growing importance of digital payment infrastructure in enabling faster, secure, and seamless financial transactions across the globe.

Key Concepts Covered

- Evolution of digital payment systems globally
- Types of digital payments: cards, mobile wallets, UPI, QR-based payments
- Cross-border payments and global transaction systems
- Role of fintech companies in transforming payments
- Payment gateways and processors
- Security aspects: encryption, authentication, fraud prevention
- Regulatory frameworks and compliance (KYC, AML)
- Role of blockchain in payments and settlements
- Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in global context
- Case studies of global payment platforms

Key Learnings

- Digital payments are essential for economic growth and financial inclusion
- Global payment systems require interoperability and strong security
- Fintech innovations are reshaping how individuals and businesses transact
- Cross-border payments are becoming faster and more efficient
- Regulatory compliance is critical for trust and stability

Insights Gained

The session provided insights into how developed countries are adopting advanced payment technologies and how emerging economies like India are leading in real-time payment systems.

It also highlighted the importance of integrating technology with financial systems to improve accessibility, transparency, and efficiency.

Conclusion

The session on Digital Payments – A Global Perspective offered a comprehensive understanding of modern payment ecosystems. It reinforced the importance of innovation, security, and regulation in building efficient digital payment systems and preparing professionals for the evolving financial landscape.

Session 5: Digital Banking and Neo Banks

Speaker: Mr. Vivek Shrivastava, Chief Executive, Axis Bank (GIFT IBU)

This session focused on the shift from traditional banking to digital and neo banking systems. It explained how technology-driven banking improves customer experience, efficiency, and accessibility. The role of fintech innovations, digital payments, and AI in transforming banking services was highlighted.

Major Topics Covered:

- Digital banking vs neo banking concepts
- Evolution from traditional to digital-first banks
- Fintech partnerships and embedded finance
- API-driven banking and cloud systems
- Data-driven lending and risk monitoring
- Digital payments and cross-border transactions
- GIFT City as a global financial hub
- AI in banking (KYC, fraud detection, credit scoring)

Activity 1: FinTech Lab

The activity involved group-based learning where participants worked on real-world fintech problems. The objective was to enhance practical understanding of blockchain, digital payments, and banking innovations through design thinking and collaboration.

Learning and Purpose:

- Encourage practical application of fintech concepts
- Develop problem-solving and analytical skills
- Promote teamwork and creativity
- Understand real-world risks in digital finance
- Enhance presentation and communication skills

Task 2: Blockchain in Finance – Company Analysis

This assignment required analyzing a financial company using blockchain technology. The aim was to understand how blockchain is implemented in real-world financial services and evaluate its impact, benefits, and challenges.

Learning and Purpose:

- Understand practical implementation of blockchain in companies
- Analyze products and services using blockchain
- Evaluate benefits like speed, transparency, and cost efficiency
- Identify challenges such as regulation and adoption barriers
- Develop research and analytical writing skills

Conclusion:

Day 2 provided clear insights into blockchain and digital banking concepts with a balance of theory and practical activities. The sessions and tasks helped participants understand real-world fintech applications and enhanced their analytical and problem-solving abilities.

Report on Day 3

Session 6: Entrepreneurship and the Innovation Mindset

Expert Speaker: Mr. Nithish Dubay

This session explored the core principal of entrepreneurship, distinguishing between the Entrepreneur (external venture creator) and the Intrapreneur (internal innovator). A central theme was the "pain points is gain point" philosophy—the idea that identifying market frustrations is the key to creating value. Through the case study of Nirma, participants learned about the resilience required to scale a brand from the ground up.

Qualities of an Entrepreneur:

- Risk-taking capabilities and persistence.
- Decisive leadership and innovative problem-solving.
- The "Failure to Give Up" attitude as a non-negotiable trait for success.

Session 7: Cybersecurity & Regulatory Compliance in FinTech

Expert Speaker: Mr. Deepak Upadhyay

This session addressed the critical vulnerabilities in digital finance, clarifying the distinction between data breaches (external attacks) and data leaks (unintentional exposure). Participants explored complex regulatory landscapes including GDPR, PCI-DSS, and PSD2. The session also clarified common social engineering tactics such as Phishing, Vishing, and Smishing.

The Three Mantras for Fraud Prevention: "Read, Fear & Laziness"

This unique approach encourages users to read carefully, maintain a healthy fear of suspicious links, and exercise "laziness" by not rushing into urgent-looking but fraudulent transactions.

Session 8: AI & ML Integration in the FinTech Industry

Expert Speaker: Mr. Chintan Patel

Tracing the evolution of the industry from FinTech 1.0 (1866) to the current FinTech 4.0, Mr. Patel highlighted the exponential growth of the global market. The session broke down the technical pillars of AI: Supervised, Unsupervised, and Reinforcement Learning, while introducing the cutting-edge concept of Agentic AI.

Strategic Integration:

- Solving FinTech problems like algorithmic bias and model transparency.
- Why banking must integrate AI to remain competitive and secure.
- Practical strategies for educators to teach AI-driven financial modeling.

Report on Day 4

The fourth day of the Short Term Training Programme (STTP) on FinTech focused on the revolution of lending systems and provided a practical, ground-level understanding of India's financial infrastructure. The day was divided into an expert technical session in the morning and an intensive industrial visit to GIFT City in the afternoon, aiming to bridge the gap between academic theory and industry implementation.

Session 9: FinTech in Lending From P2P to Crowdfunding

Speaker: Dr. Rajsee Joshi

Faculty, University of Wollongong (GIFT City Campus)

The technical session delivered by Dr. Rajsee Joshi provided a comprehensive overview of the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending landscape. The session traced the global history of P2P lending, highlighting its emergence in the 2000s and the critical growth dynamics following the 2008 financial crisis.

Key Topics Covered:

- ✓ Global Evolution: Discussion on the origin of P2P lending (Zopa, UK, 2005) and the "China Case Study," covering the boom and collapse from 2015 to 2019.
- ✓ Business Models: Analysis of P2P revenue models, focusing on the "Borrower's Benefit & Investor's Risk" dynamic.
- ✓ Credit Risk & Scoring: The shift toward alternative data sources, such as telecom and utility data, to assess creditworthiness in the absence of traditional bureau data.
- ✓ Institutional Growth: The transition from pure retail lending to the entry of Banks and NBFCs, and the rise of "Marketplace Lending" platforms.

- ✓ Indian Regulatory Context: Overview of the RBI Regulatory Framework and the role of P2P in supporting financial inclusion and economic growth.

Industrial Visit: GIFT City, Gandhinagar

The second half of the day featured an industrial visit to the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). This visit allowed participants to explore India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and understand the infrastructure required to sustain a global financial hub.

Key Highlights of the Visit:

IFSC & IFSCA Vision: Understanding the regulatory environment and the strategic importance of the IFSC in global finance.

Smart Infrastructure: Exploration of the state-of-the-art Utility Tunnel, which houses all essential city services in a single walkable corridor to prevent road digging.

Centralized Management: Visit to GIFT House, the command and control center that monitors city-wide operations and security.

Sustainable Ecosystem: Insight into the integrated "District Cooling System" and the vision for a high-tech, sustainable financial district.

Key Learning Outcome:

Participants gained a holistic view of how technology-driven lending (FinTech) operates within a robust physical and regulatory framework (GIFT City). The day effectively combined the "tech" aspect of FinTech with the "infrastructure" necessary for its large-scale success.

Report on Day 5

Session 10: InsurTech Innovation in the Insurance Industry

Expert Speaker: Dr. Dimitrios Salampasis

The insurance industry is currently undergoing a profound paradigm shift, moving away from its historically rigid, legacy-driven roots toward a dynamic ecosystem defined by the "Embedded, On-Demand, Everywhere" philosophy. Driven by the rapid rise of InsurTech—a sector composed of data-led startups that utilize technology to create experiential and niche business models—the industry is transitioning from a traditional focus on risk indemnification to a proactive model of risk prevention and real-time intervention.

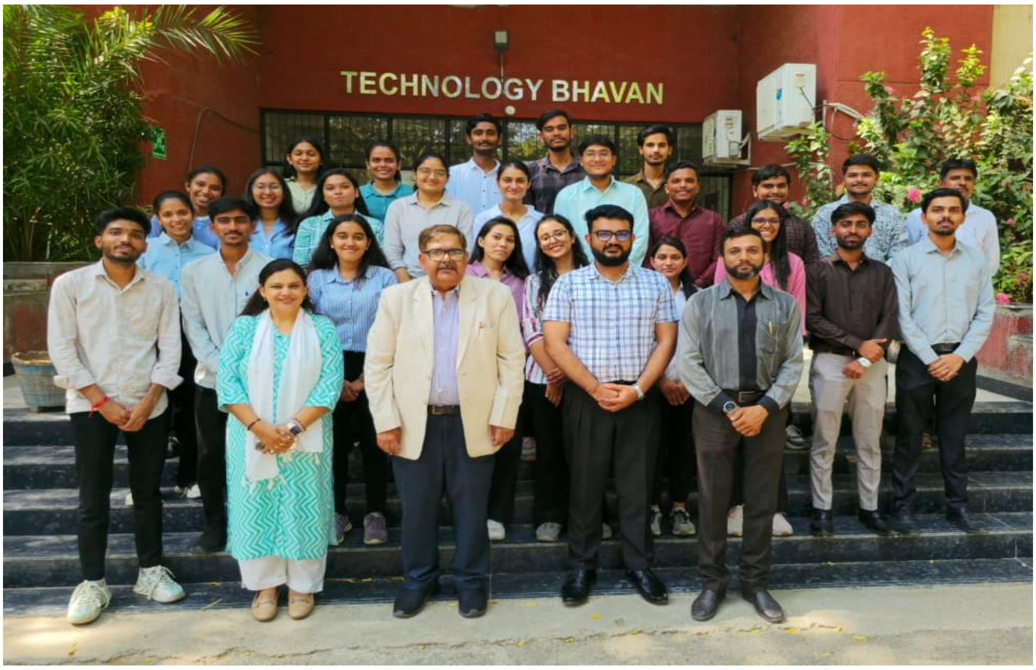
This transformation is fueled by a convergence of advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence for behavioral pricing, the Internet of Things for continuous monitoring, and even Quantum Computing for complex climate risk modeling. As incumbents and tech-driven newcomers form strategic partnerships, the "Industry Playbook" is being rewritten to prioritize modular agility, seamless digital integration, and a "predict and prevent" mindset that seeks to address global challenges like climate change while meeting the heightened expectations of modern consumers.

Session 11: Regulatory Technology (RegTech) in Fintech

Expert Speaker: Mr. Birju Naik

The session began by defining **FinTech** as the integration of technology into offerings by financial services companies to improve their use and delivery to consumers. However, as FinTech expanded, it faced a massive hurdle: a complex, ever-changing web of global regulations designed to prevent fraud and financial instability

RegTech (Regulatory Technology) emerged as a subset of FinTech specifically designed to manage regulatory processes through automation. It "enters the picture" as a solution to the rising costs and complexities of compliance, transforming it from a manual burden into a strategic digital advantage.



the achievements of the attendees were officially recognized through the distribution of certificates. The event was brought to a graceful close by **Rajan Modha** of GTU-GSMS, who delivered a formal vote of thanks, acknowledging the collective effort of the organizers, speakers, and participants in making the program a resounding success.

Valedictory Ceremony

The program concluded with a formal valedictory ceremony, beginning with a group photograph of the guests and participants to commemorate the collaborative learning experience. Following this, certificates were distributed to every participant by Mr. Birju Naik and Dr. Nishith Dubey, Professor and Coordinator at the NITTTR Gujarat Extension Centre. This final session marked the successful culmination of the journey, leaving the attendees professionally enriched and better equipped to integrate advanced financial technologies into their teaching and research.