

A three-day Capacity Building Boot Camp on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for MBA/PGDM – IEV (Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Venture Development) institutions was collaboratively organized by the AICTE-Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and i-Hub Gujarat from 24th to 26th March 2025. The event was held at the Gujarat Student Startup & Innovation Hub, located at the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat, Ahmedabad.

This national-level initiative aimed to foster innovation and entrepreneurial capabilities among selected institutions across India. A total of 19 institutes, shortlisted from various regions of the country, actively participated in this intensive boot camp.

The Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Dayalbagh, Agra, was among the selected participants. The institute was represented by Prof. Sanjay Bhushan and Prof. Akshay Kumar Satsangi from the Department of Management. Their participation highlighted DEI's continued commitment to promoting innovation-driven education and entrepreneurial development among its students and faculty.

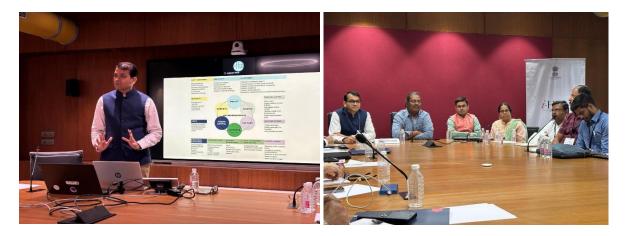
The boot camp included sessions and workshops by industry experts, innovation leaders, and startup mentors, focusing on building institutional capacity, developing innovation ecosystems, and nurturing startup culture within academic institutions.

Proceedings

Day 1 – March 24, 2025

The day commenced with the registration of participants in the morning, followed by the first session, which was convened by Mr. Yogesh Brahmankar, Innovation Director at the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, Government of India. The session focused on the theme 'Effective and Efficient Execution of the IEV Program'.

Mr. Brahmankar emphasized the need to reimagine contemporary education, highlighting that it should extend beyond mere job placements. He underscored that the core objectives of entrepreneurship include innovation, problem-solving, and wealth creation, and these must be integral to educational frameworks.



Following this, the inaugural session was led by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, New Delhi. In his address, Prof. Sitharam encouraged students to pursue their dreams and passions, asserting that educational institutions bear the responsibility to identify and nurture the talents and innovative ideas of students. His insights reinforced the importance of fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among the youth.



Session 2: Institutional Introductions and Expectations

Session 2 served as an introductory platform for participating institutions, during which representatives from 19 institutions introduced themselves and shared their expectations from the program. Participants also highlighted the various challenges they face in executing their respective startup initiatives.

A notable highlight of the session was the appreciation expressed by dignitaries, including Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta, CEO, i-Hub Gujarat. He commended the enthusiastic participation of Dayalbagh Educational Institute, especially considering the short notice and the Institute's ongoing preparations for its Annual Convocation scheduled on 25th March 2025. This commitment was acknowledged as a reflection of the Institute's dedication to innovation and entrepreneurship.



Session 3: Implementation Framework for MBA/PGDM in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Venture Development (IEV)

Session 3 focused on the implementation framework for the MBA/PGDM in IEV and was led by Shri Dipen Sahu, Assistant Innovation Director at the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, AICTE, Government of India. During his presentation, Shri Sahu elaborated on four key entrepreneurial attributes:

- 1. Internal Motivation
- 2. **Opportunity-Seeking Attitude**
- 3. Logical Approach
- 4. Problem-Solving Action

He emphasized the importance of these criteria in nurturing entrepreneurial talent. Shri Sahu also encouraged the participating institutions to learn from the success stories of Dayalbagh Educational Institute and a few other institutions, as shared during the session. He urged institutions to adopt best practices and innovative strategies to enhance their performance and address the challenges in implementing entrepreneurship programs.

Field Visit: Gandhi Ashram, Sabarmati

Following the sessions, the delegation visited the historic Gandhi Ashram located on the banks of the Sabarmati River. The visit proved to be a source of inspiration as participants observed the life and principles of Mahatma Gandhi and his companions. The simplicity and humility of the Ashram resonated deeply with the Dayalbagh philosophy and way of life, reinforcing the ideals of sustainable and value-driven living.

Day 2 - March 25, 2025

The second day of the Entrepreneurial Boot Camp, held on March 25, 2025, featured a series of insightful sessions aimed at nurturing innovation and advancing startup development. The day commenced with Session 1, titled "Innovation Management & Startup Lifecycle: Concept to Commercialization," delivered by Prof. B. Ravi, Director, NIT Surathkal. This session provided a comprehensive overview of the startup journey, offering key insights into managing innovation and navigating the pathway from ideation to market readiness.

During this session, participants from Dayalbagh Educational Institute (DEI) showcased the institute's vibrant culture of dynamic learning and continuous knowledge evolution. They elaborated on DEI's holistic approach to fostering entrepreneurship across various strata of society. Highlights included:



- **Promotion of high-end techno-entrepreneurship**, with innovative student-led projects involving drones, robotics, and 3D printing.
- Support for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the Business Advisory Clinic, which has extended free consultancy services to over 10,000 family-owned, household, and private enterprises.
- **Implementation of a bottom-of-the-pyramid approach**, focusing on empowering marginalized communities by supporting **quantum-nano enterprises** even in remote tribal regions.

DEI participants also emphasized the strong global support network provided by AADEIs and AAFDEIs members, which has significantly contributed to job creation and placement opportunities.

Following a networking lunch, the program continued with Session 2, titled "Startup Investment Lifecycle & Investment Portfolio Management, Structuring Investment Rounds," presented by Shri Mihir Joshi, Managing Director of GVFL. This session concentrated on the financial strategies critical to startup success, covering investment structuring and lifecycle management.

Next, Session 3, titled "Setting up Impactful Accelerator Programmes: Pathway to Growth for Incubated Startups," was conducted by Shri Deepak Sharma, Co-Founder and Managing

Partner of India Accelerator. His session focused on the vital role of accelerator programs in fostering startup growth and scalability.

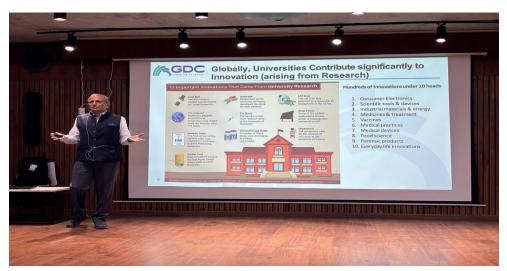
The day concluded with Session 4, a Roundtable Interaction and Sharing of Best Practices, featuring Shri M. Nagarajan, IAS, and Mr. Srinivas Chidumalla, Country IT Manager, Syngenta India Limited. This interactive session provided a collaborative platform for sharing insights, strategies, and experiences among participants.



Throughout the day, DEI's active participation highlighted its strong venture development ecosystem, commitment to inclusive and quality education through its global network of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) centres, and dedication to ensuring equitable access to entrepreneurial opportunities for all.

Day 3 - March 26, 2025

The third day of the program commenced with Session 1, titled "Building Enterprising Institutions," led by Shri R. Raghuttama Rao, CEO of the Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GDC), housed at the Sudha & Shankar Innovation Hub, IIT Madras. The session focused on the development of robust institutional frameworks that foster entrepreneurship. A notable highlight of the discussion was the value-based education program of Dayalbagh Educational Institute (DEI), which was presented by the DEI participants, emphasizing the integration of ethical principles in entrepreneurial development.



Session 2, "Innovation & Startup Ecosystem of Gujarat," was delivered by Shri Hiranmay Mahanta, CEO of iHub Gujarat. The presentation provided an insightful overview of Gujarat's dynamic and rapidly evolving startup landscape, underlining the state's role as a key driver of innovation in India.

Post the networking lunch, Session 3 included a visit to IIMA Ventures at IIM Ahmedabad, offering participants a valuable, first-hand experience of one of India's premier venture ecosystems. DEI participants had meaningful interactions with the coordinator of the facility and engaged with several start-up incubator teams.

The discussions explored potential areas of collaboration between IIM A Ventures and DEI, particularly in the domains of student engagement and joint startup initiatives. The DEI team also highlighted their innovative program, 'Quantum Jugaad – Low-Cost Solutions', which has been thriving as a unique approach to grassroots innovation and frugal entrepreneurship.

The day concluded with a renewed sense of possibility for institutional partnerships aimed at fostering innovation-driven enterprises grounded in ethical and value-based education.

Valedictory Session and Closing Remarks

The three-day event concluded with a Valedictory Function, during which participants shared their reflections through a Feedback Session, followed by a formal Vote of Thanks expressing gratitude to all speakers, organizers, and institutions involved.

Throughout the course of the program, DEI participants consistently demonstrated their institution's unwavering commitment to fostering a diverse spectrum of innovation and entrepreneurial ventures. These ranged from cutting-edge technology startups to inclusive, community-based initiatives aimed at addressing grassroots challenges.



The presentations and interactions underscored DEI's distinctive approach to venture development—one that is deeply community-driven and ecosystem-oriented. Since its inception, DEI has championed a collaborative culture that integrates value-based education with practical innovation, enabling sustainable and impactful entrepreneurship across various domains.

Outcomes of Boot Camp and Expectations of AICTE & Ministry of Education:

1. Prioritizing Start-ups over Traditional Placements

A significant emphasis was laid on encouraging students to pursue entrepreneurial ventures over conventional job placements. Start-ups are now viewed as pivotal career pathways capable of generating employment, innovation, and value creation.

2. Entrepreneurial Aptitude-Based Admissions in MBA/PGDB-IEV Programs

It was recommended that institutions restructure their admission processes for MBA and PGDB-IEV programs to prioritize candidates with strong entrepreneurial aptitude, ensuring alignment with the objectives of innovation-driven education.

3. Early Identification and Nurturing of Entrepreneurial Talent

Institutions must take proactive responsibility in identifying and nurturing entrepreneurial potential from the school level. Early exposure and support are critical in shaping future innovators and change-makers.

4. Capacity Building of Faculty in Entrepreneurial Mindset

Faculty members should undergo specialized training to adopt a start-up mindset, which should permeate all aspects of the teaching-learning-evaluation framework. This will ensure that educators are equipped to mentor and inspire students toward entrepreneurship.

5. Transition from Traditional to Entrepreneurial Education Systems

A paradigm shift is taking place, with the educational focus moving from conventional academic outcomes to an entrepreneurial education model. This new model emphasizes real-world problem solving, innovation, and economic contribution.

6. Project-Based Learning to Foster Entrepreneurial Skills

Students from diverse academic backgrounds should be regularly engaged in business-related projects. Such hands-on experiences will help inculcate entrepreneurial thinking and encourage them to pursue their dreams and passions.

7. **Purpose of Entrepreneurship: Innovation, Problem Solving & Wealth Creation** The primary goals of entrepreneurship should include driving innovation, addressing real-world problems, and creating wealth for both society and the nation. These outcomes form the foundation of a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem.

8. Holistic Ecosystem Approach to Start-ups

Start-ups should be viewed as part of a larger ecosystem involving students, faculty, parents, the community, government, and society at large. Collaborative engagement among these stakeholders is essential for sustained entrepreneurial growth.

9. Industry Association Membership and DPIIT Registration

Institutions and start-ups must actively engage with local and national industry bodies. Additionally, registration with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is encouraged to gain access to support schemes and recognition.

10. Psychometric Testing to Identify and Enhance Entrepreneurial Skills

It was proposed that institutions conduct psychometric assessments to identify students' entrepreneurial potential. These tests will aid in the personal and professional development of students, aligning their strengths with suitable entrepreneurial paths.

Conclusion

The boot camp underlined a national vision to transition India into a leading entrepreneurial hub. Educational institutions play a crucial role in nurturing innovation, developing entrepreneurial talent, and creating a culture that values start-up initiatives. Aligning academic structures with the expectations of AICTE and the Ministry of Education will be pivotal in achieving this vision.