

**Minutes of the meeting of Honourable Minister of Education, Education Department, Government of Gujarat with Young Entrepreneurs and Student Start ups:**

1. A meeting of Hon'ble Minister of Education, Gujarat Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama with Young Entrepreneurs was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016, from 10:30 to 12:45 at Tapi Committee Hall, Swarnim Sankul 1, Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar.

(List of participants is attached as **Annexure**)

2. Shri Rahul Bhagchandani, one of the young entrepreneurs, welcomed all participants in the meeting, on behalf of Hon'ble Minister of Education. He gave a brief background of the meeting.

3. Shri Bhagchandani apprised that a meeting of over 25 Vice Chancellors and other representatives of all Universities of Gujarat which was chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Education, Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama at the Gujarat University on 21.08.2015 to discuss how Universities can play a pivotal role to spread a startup culture across Gujarat State. Thereafter, on September 3, 2015, again at the Gujarat University, Hon'ble Minister met some individuals of the Gujarat startup ecosystem to discuss how the Education Department, Government of Gujarat can play an important role in building a startup culture in Gujarat State. On September 26, 2015, Honourable Minister had launched the “**Start-up Gujarat, Stand-up Gujarat**” movement at an event organized by LJ Knowledge Foundation.

4. Shri Hiranmay Mahanta informed that in order to have further discussion towards the cause of the movement, this meeting was called by the Honourable Minister to understand the needs of successful student Start-ups of Gujarat - i.e. Start-ups founded by under-graduate students – and how the Government of Gujarat can play a role in supporting existing student start-ups and in infusing a startup culture in the state of Gujarat.

5. The following key points were discussed by the participants in the meeting:

- i. There is a need of developing and implementing a common university startup policy across all universities in Gujarat State.

- ii. There is a need of empowering universities to allocate work spaces where student entrepreneurs and Start-ups can work, collaborate and co-create. These spaces could conform to some “common minimum infrastructure” guidelines that can be proposed by the Education Department.
- iii. We need to build a common database and repository listing Start-ups in Gujarat, including mature Start-ups, student Start-ups and Start-ups started by university alumni in the last three-to-four years.
- iv. We need to provide exposure to higher education students regarding entrepreneurship and Start-ups right from their entry to university education, instead of final year.
- v. Vice-Chancellors of universities, principals of institutes as well as faculty members need to be sensitised about the issues concerning student startups.
- vi. We need to reach out to students and their parents, and sensitising by means of mass broadcasting through various print and visual media like BISAG, DD Girnar, radio channels, etc. There is a need of using social media to a great extent for Start-up Gujarat, Stand-up Gujarat was also discussed.
- vii. Collaboration between education and industry department for expedition of the “Startup Assistance Scheme” proposed by Industries Department is also required.
- viii. There is a requirement of building processes that use less resources and maximise use of existing available resources around educational institutes of Gujarat.
- ix. Student startups need a top-level policy patronage from the state government.
- x. We need to formulate decentralised ecosystems and infrastructure in order to allow creation of systems for all.
- xi. There is an urgent need to focus significantly on building pre-incubation facilities across Gujarat.
- xii. State Government/ Universities may organise Startup Mahotsav, along with a startup day, and related activities like Startup Run, Startup Yatra, Startup Rath, etc.
- xiii. Just like placement cells, startup cells can be considered in educational campuses. Startup cell may be adjacent to the placement cells.

- xiv. Need of looking at equal opportunities by focussing on women entrepreneurship as well as needs of rural and social entrepreneurship were discussed.
- xv. Need of drafting policies that follow strict timelines and are time bound to implement.
- xvi. The activities of GTU Innovation Council were discussed, and how it's processes can be replicated in other major cities across Gujarat.

6. Thereafter, the Honourable Minister informed the participants about the provisions of “**Gujarat Industrial Policy 2015 - scheme for assistance for Start-ups/Innovation**”. He further observed that the State Government wants to represent and demonstrate the best for start-ups to encourage and support start-ups in every way possible. He said that the Education Department will ensure all state public universities to allocate adequate space for start-ups and student entrepreneurs to work and collaborate. Hon'ble Minister emphasised on Gujarat government's desire to be among the top States in Start-ups movement in India.

7. After meaningful discussion, following decisions were taken:

- a. Education Department to develop and implement a common university startup policy for academic and co-curricular interventions, and empower universities to build common minimum infrastructure for supporting Start-ups and student entrepreneurs.
- b. All tech fests, cultural fests and other festivals organised by institutes to have at least one component to promote startup culture in the State, and all large-scale and small-scale startup and entrepreneurship activities, including formal and informal events, taking place at every university and every institute across Gujarat to report the same to a single Point of Contact in order to bring to the notice of general public about such events.
- c. Universities and other educational institutions to carry out felicitation and recognition ceremonies for Start-ups and student entrepreneurs, along with such recognition activities at State level.
- d. Every University to submit a quarterly comprehensive report on its initiatives for student Start-ups and entrepreneurs. A presentation of the same report to be made by Vice-Chancellors in a meeting chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Education.

- e. To announce annual student startup day across the State to celebrate the student entrepreneurs and Start-ups of Gujarat which can incorporate components such as Startup Run, Startup Yatra, etc.
  - f. To broadcast relevant educational content to sensitise and encourage students to build new Start-ups through various print and visual media like BISAG, DD Girnar, private radio channels, etc.
  - g. To appoint one senior Point of Contact from the Education Department to liaise with the startup ecosystem.
  - h. Build a state-level startup repository through all universities and other applicable sources, and the same repository to be made public via a web link.
  - i. A strong focus to develop and encourage women entrepreneurship and rural entrepreneurship to be given.
  - j. Strong emphasis on exposure to Start-ups and entrepreneurship from day zero for higher education students at institutions to be made.
  - k. Extensive prototyping and design support for Start-ups and student entrepreneurs.
  - l. Collaborative efforts of Education Department and Industry Department to better support student Start-ups at every stage – ideation, prototyping and growth stage.
8. At the end of the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister expressed his deep satisfaction with regard to the progress made and said that a meeting would be held after 3 months to review the progress of the decisions arrived at. He also thanked the participants for sharing their experiences.

The meeting was ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

## Annexure

List of participants in the meeting on “Startup Gujarat, Standup Gujarat” held on 01.02.2016:

S No.	Name of participants
1	Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama Honourable Minister of Education, Government of Gujarat
2	Shri Pankaj Joshi Principal Secretary (Higher & Technical Education), Government of Gujarat
3	Shri A J Shah Commissioner of Higher Education, Gandhinagar
4	Shri PR Dave Joint Director of Technical Education, Commissionerate of Technical Education, Gandhinagar
5	Dr. VS Purani Joint Director of Technical Education, Commissionerate of Technical Education, Gandhinagar
6	Shri NS Dodia PS to Honourable Minister of Education, Government of Gujarat
7	Mr. Ateet Bajaj Start51, Crowdfunding platform. Contributor to start-up ecosystem of Gujarat
8	Mr. Divesh Aswani Youth Connect Student Startup
9	Mr. Eepsit Tiwari 4BEA Student Startup
10	Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta Techpedia Contributor to startup ecosystem of Gujarat
11	Mr. Kuldeep Tiwari Freelance Journalist Contributor to startup ecosystem of Gujarat
12	Mr. Kumar Manish Coordinator, Ahmedabad Global Shapers
13	Mr. Mahendra Chaudhari Aatap Energy Student Startup
14	Mr. Manasvi Thapar Candour Legal Contributor to start-up ecosystem of Gujarat
15	Ms. Manushi Desai Youth Connect Student Startup
16	Mr. Mitesh Shethwala Alagrand.com Student Startup

17	Mr. Nadeem Jafri Heartymart Veteran Entrepreneur
18	Ms. Nilambri Solanki Bookman Student Startup
19	Mr. Nitin Jain Digital Upstarts Student Startup
20	Mr. Rahul Bhagchandani Youth Connect Foundation Contributor to start-up ecosystem of Gujarat
21	Mr. Ram Punjani Converza Student Startup
22	Mr. Rohit Radhakrishnan Open Fuel Startup in Intellectual Property Space
23	Mr. Rutvij Vohra Career Khojj Student Startup
24	Mr. Satya Ranjan Acharya Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India Contributor to start-up ecosystem of Gujarat
25	Mr. Saurabh Shah Stockadda.com Veteran Entrepreneur
26	Mr. Sharad Parekh Straut Student Startup
27	Ms. Shruti Chaturvedi Chaaai Pani Student Startup
28	Mr. Vikas Aggarwal Innovify, an incubator Contributor to start-up ecosystem of Gujarat
29	Mr. Viral Shah LJ Knowledge Foundation Contributor to start-up ecosystem of Gujarat
30	Mr. Viral Shah Aasmaan Foundation Student Startup
31	Mr. Vishal Dutta Economic Times Media
32	Mr. Yash Saxena Open Fuel Startup in Intellectual Property Space
33	Mr. Yash Shah E-Swasthya Student Startup