Visit Report

1. **Place of Visit:** i-Hub, Ahmedabad

2. **Nature of the Visit:** Understanding the Concept of Intellectual Property and Incubation Support provided by i-Hub

3. **Date:** 26th June, 2025

4. **Time:** 09:30 to 05:30 P.M.

5. **Organized by:** GSFC University, GUIITAR Council, SSIP, IIC, Startup Gujarat, and I-Hub

6. **Number of Participants**: 46, Annexure – 1

7. **Major discussions in the visit:**

Objective of the Visit:-
The primary objective of the visit to i-HUB was to gain practical insights into Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), with a particular focus on patents, design, trademarks and incubation support available at i-Hub. The session aimed to educate students on how innovation can be legally protected and effectively monetized. Include two sessions with those who have successfully started and grown their companies to a global scale.

Understanding Patents:- Mr. Krupalsinh Dabhi, Incubation lead, i-Hub

A patent is a form of intellectual property that, for a certain period—usually 20 years from the date of filing—grants the inventor the sole right to use a novel and practical invention. It serves as a legal tool to protect an invention, prevent unauthorized use, and potentially generate revenue through commercialization or licensing.

Criteria for Patentability – The "3 I's"

To qualify for a patent, an invention must satisfy the following three essential criteria:
- Innovativeness (Novelty): The invention must be new and must not have been disclosed to the public anywhere in the world before the date of filing. This includes prior publications, existing products, or even the inventor's public disclosures.
- Inventive Step (Non-obviousness): The invention must not be an obvious modification or combination of existing knowledge to a person

skilled in the relevant field. It should show a technical advancement or a unique approach to solving a problem.
- Industrial Utility (Usefulness): The invention must have a practical application and must be capable of being used in some kind of industry, including agriculture, manufacturing, or services.

Non-Patentable Inventions

While patents cover a wide range of technological fields, not all ideas are eligible for patent protection. According to national and international patent laws, the following categories are generally excluded:

Categories Not Eligible for Patents:
- Abstract Ideas & Theories: Scientific principles, mathematical equations, or conceptual frameworks without practical application.
- Business Methods & Mathematical Algorithms: Purely intellectual activities or financial models that lack a technical aspect.
- Aesthetic and Artistic Works: Music, paintings, books, and other forms of artistic expression are protected under copyright law, not patents.
- Presentations of Information: Display formats, data arrangements, or methods of communication with no technical contribution.
- Mental Acts or Games: Methods of teaching, playing games, or performing mental tasks.
- Natural Substances & Living Organisms: Naturally occurring substances, animals, plants, or biological processes that have not been genetically or chemically modified uniquely.

Example of Excluded Inventions:
- A mathematical formula as a standalone invention – not patentable
- A computer game's storyline or rule set – not patentable.
- A method of teaching arithmetic to children – not patentable.

Practical Insights Shared by i-HUB Experts:

- "Everything starts with a problem, not just an idea."
- Problems inspire ideas → ideas create IP → IP generates income.
- Never publish your idea before filing the patent.
- "First to file rule" – Whoever files first gets the patent.

Trademark Basics:

- A trademark is an identifier for a company or product, including logos, voices, patterns, symbols, words, etc.

- Geographical Indications (GI)

- GI tags are used for products that originate from a specific region and hold value due to their place of origin.
  Examples in India: Darjeeling Tea, Banarasi Saree, Kanchipuram Silk, Nagpur Orange, etc.

Students were informed about:

- The State Intellectual Property Facilitation Center (IPFC) – which helps with filing and processing IP.

- Financial Support is available for students and startups for IP filing and prosecution.

Startups Story:

1. IOTA Diagnostic

Mr. Vaibhav Shitole launched IOTA Diagnostic from Ahmedabad with a vision rooted in his pharmaceutical sciences background (MS Pharma from NIPER Ahmedabad) to make deep-tech diagnostics affordable, accessible, and stigma-free in India. Motivated by the high incidence of cervical cancer among Indian women—often going undetected due to clinical stigma, lack of awareness, and limited access to screening—Vaibhav collaborated with oncologist Dr. Somesh Chandra and Sterling Accuris Diagnostics to develop M-Strip™, India's first home-based menstrual-blood HPV self-sampling kit. The device disrupts conventional screening by letting women collect samples privately, at home, reducing barriers associated with clinic-based pap smears.

Today, IOTA Diagnostic boasts CDSCO approval, Indian patent grants for the M-Strip innovation, and clinical validation across trials, supported by early market partnerships like Sterling Accuris Diagnostics and IIMA Ventures. Their portfolio also includes the iOTA BioSampler™, a CDSCO- and ISO 13485-certified device enabling safe at-home blood or fluid collection without cold-chain logistics. Recognized with awards such as the BIRAC SITARE–Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award (2020), IOTA Diagnostic continues to scale its impact across India, especially in underserved rural and semi-urban areas.

2.

Learning Outcomes from i-HUB Visit:

➢ Understanding the Concept of Intellectual Property (IP): Students gained a foundational understanding of what constitutes IP, including patents, trademarks, and geographical indications, and why they are crucial in protecting innovations.

➢ Criteria for Patentability: Participants learned the essential requirements for an invention to be patentable — Novelty, Non-obviousness, and Industrial Usefulness (3 I's principle).

➢ Awareness of Non-Patentable Items: Learners were made aware of inventions and ideas that do not qualify for patents, such as scientific theories, mental games, business methods, and traditional knowledge.

➢ Importance of Maintaining IP Rights: Through real-life case studies like the fidget spinner, students understood. The significance of maintaining patents and the consequences of letting them lapse.

➢ Power of Individual Inventors: The Ric Richardson vs. Microsoft case demonstrated how a single well-protected patent could empower individual inventors even against large corporations.

➢ Idea to Income Pathway: Students were introduced to the journey from identifying a problem → generating an idea → protecting it via IP → and eventually monetizing it.

➢ First-to-File Principle: Emphasis was placed on the "First to file" rule, encouraging students not to delay patent filing to avoid losing rights.

➢ Trademark and GI Knowledge: Learners understood how trademarks are used for branding and how Geographical Indications (GIs) protect region-specific products like Banarasi sarees or Darjeeling tea.

➢ Support Infrastructure Awareness: Students were informed about State IP Facilitation Centers (IPFCs) and financial support schemes available for filing and prosecuting patents and trademarks.

➢ Encouragement to Innovate Responsibly: The session inspired students to think innovatively but also act wisely and legally to secure their intellectual creations for long-term benefits.
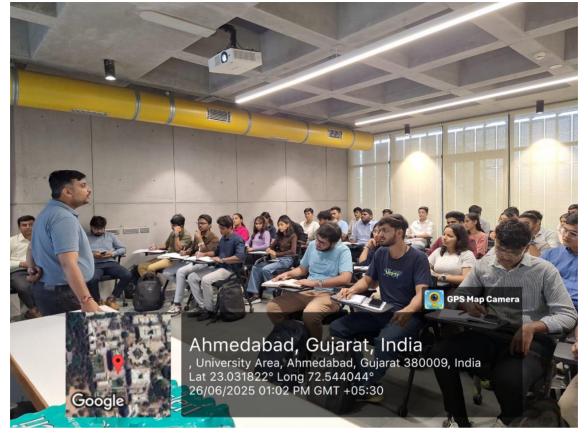
8. **Photos:**

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
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Lat 23.031822° Long 72.544044°
26/06/2025 01:02 PM GMT +05:30

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