



Event Report

Artisan Graduation Ceremony 2025 & Kaarigar Tank (2nd Edition)

Date: 8th November 2025

Venue: B-0 Hall, Gujarat Technological University (GTU), Chandkheda

Organized by: Kaarigar Clinic in association with GTU and GTU Ventures

Event Overview

The *Artisan Graduation Ceremony 2025* celebrated the successful completion of the 90-Day Business Wellness Program by successfully nurturing **225 artisan-entrepreneurs**, who have collectively enabled sustainable livelihoods for over **65,000 artisans** across rural India. This initiative by Kaarigar Clinic, in collaboration with GTU Ventures, aims to empower traditional artisans by transforming them into self-reliant entrepreneurs through design thinking, innovation, and business development interventions.

The event also featured Kaarigar Tank 2025 (2nd Edition), a pitching platform for artisans to showcase their innovative, sustainable, and market-ready ventures before an esteemed jury panel.

Dignitaries and Jury Panel

Chief Guests:

- Dr. Rajul Gajjar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, GTU
- Shri Ashok Chatterjee, Former President, Craft Council of India; Former Executive Director, NID
- Mr. Pratul Shroff, Founder, Dr. K.R. Shroff Foundation
- Ms. Shilpa Patel, President, Craft Council of India – Gujarat
- Mrs. Nikitaa Jain, Managing Director, Swarnim Startup & Innovation University

Jury Members:

Mrs. Eline Bhatt (Designer & Visiting Faculty, NID & NIFT),
Mrs. Rupa Mehta (Former Program Director, Doordarshan),
Prof. Shubhangi Yadav (NIFT),
Mr. Chetan Patel (Secretary, Srishti & Convenor, Shodhyatra),
Mrs. Minal Makwana (EDII, Ahmedabad),
Mr. Mahavir Singh Makwana (Incubation Manager, GISC),
Mr. Kamalendrasingh (Incubation Manager, AIC-GISC Foundation),
Mr. Yajuvendra Chauhan (Project Manager, AIC-GISC Foundation)

Highlights

- Graduation of 65 artisan-entrepreneurs from the Business Wellness Program.
- Successful execution of Kaarigar Tank 2025, providing a platform for artisans to pitch their entrepreneurial ideas.
- Recognition of Kaarigar Clinic's impact, having nurtured over 225 artisan entrepreneurs and influenced the livelihoods of more than 65,000 rural artisans.
- Acknowledgment of GTU Ventures' role in enabling incubation linkage, mentoring, and access to government schemes like SSIP and Startup Gujarat.

Key Outcomes

- The jury shortlisted 15 Proof of Concepts (PoCs) for potential support under the SSIP PoC Grant, subject to approval by the respective Educational Institution Committee (EIC).
- GISC-GTU evaluated artisans on parameters such as scalability, social entrepreneurship, and stage of product development.
- The selected artisans will receive mentoring, technical assistance, market access, networking, and possible funding support up to ₹2.5 lakhs per project from GISC-GTU.

Resolutions

1. The jury and collaborative partners resolved to extend continued mentoring and incubation support to the selected artisan entrepreneurs.
2. The shortlisted artisans may be funded under the SSIP PoC scheme following EIC approval and adherence to SSIP guidelines.
3. The disbursement of PoC funds will be executed in tranches, based on quotation analysis and project requirements evaluated by GISC-GTU officials.

Conclusion

The *Artisan Graduation Ceremony 2025* exemplified the strong partnership between Kaarigar Clinic and GTU Ventures in building an inclusive ecosystem for rural innovation and entrepreneurship. The recognition of 15 promising PoCs for potential SSIP funding signifies the rising quality and scalability of artisan-led enterprises in India. Both institutions reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the artisan innovation ecosystem through sustained mentorship, incubation, and institutional collaboration.

Winners of Artisan Graduation Ceremony

S. No.	Name	Craft	Contact
1	Divya Rabari	Rabari Painting	6354896370
2	Dhara Monpara	Painting	7575049505
3	Krupaliba Gohil	Eco Printing	7043392703
4	Kunjal Bhavsar	Stitching	8780661518
5	Kirti Samariya	Bead Work	9081113006
6	Mukesh Badiya	Mud Mirror Work	6353895095
7	Namrata Acharya	Vermi Compost	9899122637
8	Ravi Raj	Handmade Paper	7979933150
9	Rajesh Vankar	Weaving	9978479116
10	Rita Rabari	Applique	9327342960

11	Rosebin Khatri	Bandhani	8849936800
12	Samiya Khatri	Bandhani	9173684152
13	Sonal Maytra	Ahir Embroidery	9099922917
14	Vaibhavi Bhavik	Material Upcycling	9727305757
15	Vaishali Nijar	Upcycled Textile Product	9313370739