

## Report on Vadodara Startup Festival 2026

<b>ACTIVITY TYPE</b>	<b>Vadodara Startup Festival 2026</b>		
<b>DATE &amp; TIME</b>	21/01/2026 TO 23/01 2026	Duration	3 Day
<b>SEMESTER</b>	All	No. of participants	7612
<b>EXPERT NAME WITH DESIGNATION</b>	<b>Yogesh Brahmarkar Innovation Director, MOE's Innovation cell, AICTE</b>		

### Introduction

The Vadodara Startup Festival 2026 was successfully organized by the Parul Innovation and Entrepreneurship Research Centre (PIERC), Parul University, with the vision of promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, startup culture, and industry-academia collaboration among students, startups, innovators, faculty members, investors, and industry leaders.

The festival served as a dynamic platform to connect aspiring entrepreneurs with experienced mentors, successful startup founders, investors, policymakers, academicians, and innovation ecosystem enablers. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, startups, incubation centres, educational institutions, industries, and entrepreneurial communities from different regions.

The festival focused on fostering entrepreneurial mindset development, startup networking, idea validation, innovation showcases, business opportunities, and collaborative growth. Various activities including startup exhibitions, panel discussions, mentoring sessions, innovation showcases, networking interactions, workshops, pitch sessions, expert talks, and innovation challenges were conducted during the festival.

The event highlighted the importance of innovation-driven entrepreneurship and provided a practical exposure to participants regarding startup ecosystems, funding opportunities, business model development, intellectual property, technology commercialization, and market linkage.

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### Objectives of the Festival

The major objectives of the Vadodara Startup Festival 2026 were:

- To promote entrepreneurship and innovation culture among students and youth.

- To provide a networking platform for startups, innovators, investors, and industry experts.
  - To encourage startup ideation, incubation, and commercialization.
  - To support innovative solutions addressing real-world challenges.
  - To create awareness regarding government startup policies, grants, and funding opportunities.
  - To facilitate industry-academia collaboration.
  - To encourage multidisciplinary innovation and startup development.
  - To provide mentoring and guidance to early-stage startups.
  - To showcase innovative products, technologies, and startup solutions.
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### **Inaugural Ceremony**

The festival commenced with an inaugural ceremony in the presence of distinguished dignitaries, startup founders, industry experts, faculty members, students, and invited guests. The event began with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony followed by a welcome address delivered by the organizing committee.

The dignitaries emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in today's rapidly evolving global economy. The speakers encouraged students and young innovators to become job creators rather than job seekers and highlighted the role of universities and incubation centres in building a sustainable startup ecosystem.

The inaugural session also included introductions to the various festival activities, startup showcases, competitions, and networking opportunities planned throughout the event.

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### **Startup Exhibition and Innovation Showcase**

One of the major attractions of the festival was the Startup Exhibition and Innovation Showcase, where startups, innovators, and student teams displayed their innovative products, technologies, prototypes, and business ideas.

More than 40+ startups and student innovators exhibited innovative solutions across different domains including:

- Healthcare and Medical Technology
- Artificial Intelligence and Automation
- Agriculture and Agri-Tech
- Sustainability and Green Technology

- Education Technology
- Biotechnology
- Smart Devices and IoT
- FinTech and Digital Solutions
- Social Innovation
- Manufacturing and Industrial Innovation

The exhibition provided startups with an opportunity to interact with visitors, investors, mentors, faculty members, students, and industry representatives. Participants received valuable feedback and networking opportunities that could support their future growth and business expansion.

The exhibition area witnessed active engagement throughout the festival with continuous interaction among participants and visitors.

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### **Expert Talks and Knowledge Sessions**

Several expert talks and knowledge-sharing sessions were conducted during the festival by renowned entrepreneurs, startup founders, industry experts, academicians, investors, and innovation leaders.

The sessions focused on various important aspects of entrepreneurship and startup development including:

- Startup Ideation and Validation
- Business Model Development
- Design Thinking and Innovation
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
- Fundraising and Investment Readiness
- Digital Marketing Strategies
- Technology Transfer and Commercialization
- Leadership and Team Building
- Government Startup Schemes and Policies
- Emerging Technologies and Future Trends

The speakers shared practical experiences, startup journeys, challenges faced during entrepreneurship, market insights, and strategies for sustainable business growth.

The sessions were highly interactive and enabled participants to directly engage with experts through question-answer discussions and networking interactions.

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### **Panel Discussions**

The festival featured multiple panel discussions involving entrepreneurs, incubation managers, investors, academicians, policy experts, and industry leaders.

The panel discussions focused on contemporary entrepreneurial topics such as:

- Building Sustainable Startup Ecosystems
- Role of Universities in Entrepreneurship Development
- Innovation and Technology Commercialization
- Challenges Faced by Early-Stage Startups
- Startup Funding and Investment Opportunities
- Women Entrepreneurship and Inclusive Innovation
- Future of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Startups
- Industry-Academia Collaboration for Innovation

The panelists shared diverse perspectives and practical recommendations that helped participants gain a deeper understanding of the startup ecosystem and emerging entrepreneurial opportunities.

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### **Mentoring and Networking Sessions**

Dedicated mentoring and networking sessions were organized to provide personalized guidance to startups and student innovators.

Mentors from various domains interacted with participants and provided suggestions related to:

- Product Development
- Business Planning
- Market Validation
- Financial Planning
- Branding and Marketing
- Technology Development
- Investor Pitching

- Team Building
- Scaling Strategies

The networking sessions created opportunities for collaborations between startups, institutions, industries, mentors, investors, and incubation centres.

Participants benefited significantly from direct interactions with experienced professionals and ecosystem stakeholders.

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### **Startup Pitching Sessions**

The startup pitching sessions provided an opportunity for startups and student teams to present their innovative ideas and business models before a panel of experts, mentors, and investors.

Participants showcased their solutions, explained problem statements, market opportunities, business strategies, and future scalability plans.

The jury members evaluated the presentations based on:

- Innovation and Creativity
- Problem-Solving Approach
- Market Potential
- Feasibility and Sustainability
- Business Model
- Presentation Skills
- Social and Economic Impact

The pitching sessions encouraged healthy competition, confidence building, and entrepreneurial exposure among participants.

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### **Participation Details**

The Vadodara Startup Festival 2026 witnessed active participation from:

- Students from multiple schools and colleges
- Startup founders and co-founders
- Faculty members and researchers
- Innovation enthusiasts
- Industry experts and professionals

- Investors and ecosystem enablers
- Incubation centres and startup support organizations
- Government representatives

The festival successfully brought together stakeholders from academia, industry, government, and startup ecosystems under one platform.

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### **Key Highlights of the Festival**

- Successful organization of a large-scale startup and innovation festival.
  - Participation from startups, innovators, students, and industry experts.
  - 40+ innovative startup and student project showcases.
  - Expert sessions by experienced entrepreneurs and professionals.
  - Interactive panel discussions on emerging startup opportunities.
  - Mentoring and networking opportunities for participants.
  - Promotion of innovation-driven entrepreneurship culture.
  - Exposure to startup funding, incubation, and commercialization opportunities.
  - Strengthening of industry-academia collaboration.
  - Encouragement of interdisciplinary innovation and startup development.
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### **Outcomes of the Festival**

The Vadodara Startup Festival 2026 generated significant impact on participants and the overall innovation ecosystem. The major outcomes included:

- Increased awareness regarding entrepreneurship and startup opportunities.
- Enhanced innovation and entrepreneurial mindset among students.
- Networking and collaboration opportunities between startups and industry.
- Guidance and mentorship support for early-stage innovators.
- Exposure to investment and funding opportunities.
- Promotion of practical learning and experiential entrepreneurship.
- Identification of promising innovative ideas and startup solutions.
- Encouragement for future startup incubation and commercialization.
- Strengthening of the regional startup ecosystem.

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## **Acknowledgement**

The organizing committee expresses sincere gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, mentors, panelists, startup founders, industry experts, faculty members, students, volunteers, partners, sponsors, and participants for their valuable support and contribution towards the successful organization of the Vadodara Startup Festival 2026.

Special appreciation is extended to the leadership and management of Parul University and the Parul Innovation and Entrepreneurship Research Centre (PIERC) for their continuous support in promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, research, and startup development.

The dedication, coordination, and collective efforts of all stakeholders played a significant role in making the festival a grand success.

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## **Conclusion**

The Vadodara Startup Festival 2026 successfully created a vibrant platform for innovation, entrepreneurship, startup collaboration, and knowledge exchange. The festival inspired students, innovators, and entrepreneurs to explore new possibilities and transform innovative ideas into impactful ventures.

The event not only strengthened the entrepreneurial ecosystem but also encouraged future collaborations, innovation-driven development, and sustainable startup growth. The enthusiastic participation and positive response from all stakeholders reflected the growing spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation within the academic and industrial community.

The festival concluded with a strong commitment towards continuing initiatives that support startups, innovation, research commercialization, and entrepreneurial excellence in the future.

## Glimpses of the Program









