

Report on Startup Star Competition

Vadodara Startup Festival 6.0

Activity Type	Startup Star Competition
Date	6–10 January 2026 (Round 1 & 2) 23 January 2026 (Final Round)
Venue	Founder Studio, Parul University
Participants	54 Students
Duration	Competition Rounds + Final Pitch
Award	Startup Star Champion – ₹5,000

Introduction

Startup Star is the flagship entrepreneurial competition of Vadodara Startup Festival (VSF) 6.0, designed to identify, nurture, and recognize promising startup founders from incubators across India. The competition evaluates founders on strategic thinking, innovation, leadership, communication, business understanding, resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving. It provides a platform for early-stage startups to showcase their ideas before investors, mentors, and industry experts while promoting a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Objectives

- Promote innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Identify high-potential startups.
- Improve investor readiness.
- Encourage networking with mentors and investors.
- Strengthen the startup ecosystem.

Competition Structure

The competition consisted of three stages. Registration closed on 5 January 2026. Round 1 and Round 2 were conducted from 6–10 January 2026. Shortlisted startups advanced to the Final Round held on 23 January 2026 at Founder Studio, Parul University. Each finalist delivered a 5-minute startup pitch followed by a 2-minute jury interaction covering business model, Go-To-Market strategy, scalability, value proposition, and investment readiness.

Participation & Evaluation

A total of 54 students participated. Startups from various incubation centres presented innovative ideas. The jury evaluated innovation, market opportunity, business model, customer validation, leadership, communication, scalability, financial understanding, and execution capability.

Outcomes & Conclusion

The competition enhanced entrepreneurial skills, improved investor readiness, and encouraged collaboration among founders, mentors, and industry experts. Startup Star successfully recognized promising founders and inspired students to transform innovative ideas into scalable ventures. The Startup Star Champion received a cash prize of ₹5,000 along with a trophy, certificate, and recognition during Vadodara Startup Festival 6.0.

