

EDII grads shift focus to startup turnovers

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Ahmedabad: The 22nd convocation of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) showcased a unique focus among graduating students. Instead of competing for higher pay packages, the students were vying to showcase the impressive turnovers of their startups and ventures.

Among the 54 graduating students, more than 30 had established their own ventures, said EDII officials. These entrepreneurial endeavours spanned various sectors, ranging from car customization to warehouse management, sustainable fashion, and chemical production. Some have completed a year with a sizeable turnover, some have got seed funding, some have got investors and some are registered with the state and government-run incubation programmes.

Yashovardhan Kothari founded Build Well Infrastructure in Ratlam, focusing on the construction supply chain. Within a year, the venture achieved a turnover of around Rs 50 lakh. "My family business is diversified from power distribution to financing. But I decided to chart my own path supplying raw material to workers



Yashovardhan Kothari

needed for construction," he said.

Nandini Agarwal, based in the city, established Bindi, a sustainable fashion label that employs a factory-to-customer model, resulting in a turnover of about Rs 40 lakh in a year. She branched away from her father's garment manufacturing business. "We use the factory-to-customer model to cut cost and provide affordable formal apparels for women. I identified the idea while brainstorming during classroom sessions, identified the market needs and ecosystem," she said.

R N Ravi, the governor of Tamil Nadu, was the chief guest at the event. In his address, he mentioned that it is a time of comprehensive revolutionary transformation. "This era is unfolding in fin-



Nandini Agarwal

te opportunities for each one of us. So, you explore your destiny and soar high... The country in encouraging its youth to tap their energies and potential; it is creating an ecosystem where the youth can step forth. Today, India is the fastest growing economy in the world, with more than 1 lakh startups. This is only because of the enterprising spirit of our youth," he said.

EDII's president and MD of IDBI Bank Ltd, Rakesh Sharma, and Milind Kamble, founder of DICCI, were also present at the event.

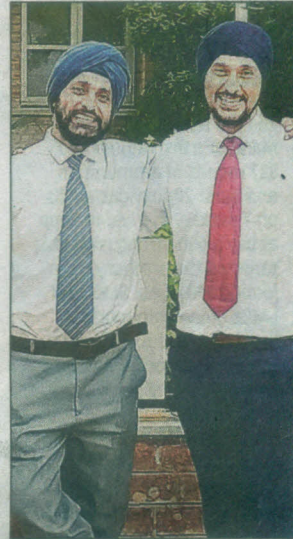
Dr Sunil Shukla, director general of EDII, in his address outlined the 40 years of the institute and elaborated on initiatives for MSMEs and startups in close collaboration with various stakeholders.

Brothers in forties go back to school

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Ahmedabad: The new batch of PG Diploma in Entrepreneurship at EDII has two brothers — aged 44 and 46 years — who have decided to come back to academics after two decades. The brothers — Harjit Singh Bagga, 44, and Jaspal Singh Bagga, 46 — run an academic publishing house in Vastrapur. "The purpose to come to EDII was to apply our practical knowledge to theory and expand the scope of our venture. Born and brought up in Gujarat, it is likely that we are bitten by the 'dhandho' bug!" said Harjit Singh. Jaspal Singh, in true Gujarati spirit, said that as they both have enrolled in the course, it would be wrong if it results in only one venture. "We will also explore other business opportunities," he said.

The eclectic class also has Sumangala Bafna from Maharashtra. "I had secured admission in IIM Sambalpur and Ranchi. But I was always interested in entrepreneurship rather than seeking a job. Thus, I decided to get admis-



sion here. I wish to establish a luxury brand," she said. For Bharti Kshirsagar, a gazetted officer in Government of Gujarat, it was about learning the ropes of theory and practice of entrepreneurship that she can apply to her work in the government sector. "The mindset of an entrepreneur can also help in problem solving from areas ranging from climate change to malnutrition," she said.