

1st entrepreneurship varsity in country mulled for Gujarat

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Ahmedabad: At a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a special thrust on entrepreneurship and skilled workforce, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI) is drafting a proposal for India's first entrepreneurship university in Gujarat.

"Gujarat took the lead in organizing the country's first entrepreneurship development programme in 1970. The success of this programme led to the state-level creation of Centre for Entrepreneurship Development. Since entrepreneurship experiment started from Gujarat, it has a legitimate claim to the first entrepreneurship university of the country," said Sunil Shukla to TOI after taking over as EDI director.

He said: "If our proposal is accepted by the Centre, the varsity will offer unconventional entrepreneurship courses in areas such as corporate, ecology, social, healthcare, real estate, tourism and public sector."

"We will also introduce

doctoral programmes in entrepreneurship and research chairs at the varsity," Shukla said.

He further said that the institute currently has a strength of 45 faculty and they plan to recruit 20 more members. "The only problem we face in recruitment is no institution creates faculty that is specialized in entrepreneurship," Shukla said.

EDI is also chalking out plans to strengthen its existing centres in 14 Indian states and start new ones in Rwanda, Zambia and Namibia.

Meanwhile, EDI's new EDI centre in Uzbekistan that was scheduled to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on July 6 has been delayed. Shukla said: "Some works are yet to be finished, so we had to postpone the inauguration." The centre, which will be EDI's first in Central Asia, aims to address the problem of high unemployment in the region. EDI is successfully running entrepreneurship development centres in Laos PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar.