

On learning pilgrimage to Mecca of start-ups

24 students of IIT-Gn and PDPU attended two-week programme in Israel to explore and understand the mechanics behind a successful start-up



11 students from PDPU and 13 from IIT-Gn visited Israel

Dhwani Pathak Dave
dhwani.pathak@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @dhwaniathak

Twenty-four students from the city spent two weeks in Israel, famously known as the start-up nation, getting first hand experience on how to start and sustain a business. The students from IIT-Gandhinagar and Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU), who just returned from the enlightening tour, couldn't hold back their enthusiasm.

Akash Keshav, a third-year engineering student from IIT, said, "These two weeks were the most enlightening ones of my life. We got to know how an idea is incubated, sustained and allowed to flourish into a business. We attended workshops, met various field experts and in-

teracted with entrepreneurs."

The confidence among the group of students was sky-high as they discussed about what they had learned while touring Israel. Akash said, "In Israel, people have realised that a country's economy will not flourish if people just get regular office jobs. The economy needs booster shots that come in form of business start-ups. There is so much a person can learn from them. It is like visiting the Mecca of start-ups."

The two-week programme called Technion eXplore program was conducted under an MoU signed between International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate) of India and The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

Raj Modi, a Master's student from PDPU, said, "When we left

for Israel, we had several ideas but didn't have the confidence to put them forward or execute them. However, after interacting with the experts, we got to know of project management tools that can help us build upon our ideas to make it a success story."

A total of 13 students from IIT Gandhinagar and 11 from PDPU were selected for the programme. Operations manager Devesh Rathore of iCreate, the programme has helped students build their confidence. He said, "This exercise has encouraged students to be open to the idea of start-ups. They realised that qualified individuals like them were taking the risks and building on an idea. This has given them the confidence to turn their ideas into business plans."