

Gujaratis' entrepreneurship skills behind state's development: Vyas

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GUJARAT Health and Tourism Minister Jaynarayan Vyas on Wednesday credited the state's development to "the sheer determination of Gujaratis in entrepreneurship".

"Gujaratis take to entrepreneurship like fish to water," Vyas said at a conference at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI) in Gandhinagar.

Vyas chronologically narrated the history of the state's development through entrepreneurship; how small enterprises grew into household names over the years.

He said the entrepreneurial spirit of the people acted as a catalyst for industrial expansion and eventually led to the growth of industrial estates and complexes. Previously, Gujarat had to rely on other states for grains, but has now achieved agricultural growth as well, he said.

The ninth biennial conference is hosting participants from all but three Indian states, and papers deal with entrepreneurship in realms such as barriers, orientation (mostly of communities and regions not conventionally known to be entrepreneurial), women entrepreneurs, small scale enterprises, innovations and sector-wise entrepreneurship.

Conference Chair Professor Sasi Misra said: "During the License Raj era, non-Gujaratis at IIM-A would get jobs abroad and return with six or seven scooters and sell them to Gujaratis at thrice the price."

He said 250 abstracts were submitted at the conference, of which 117 research papers will be presented during the event. These include papers by doctoral and post-graduate students, 12 foreign papers and one by an entrepreneur.

He added, "It's a diverse set comprising various realms, and includes papers on social entrepreneurship as well."