Report on Two-Day AICTE–ATAL VAANI Program on Blue Economy

The MBA Department of Vidyabharti Trust College of Master in Computer Application (MBA, MCA & IMSc.IT) successfully organized a two-day AICTE–ATAL VAANI Program on 21st and 22nd August 2025, under the able coordination of **Dr. Hiral Tailor**, and Co-coordinator **Dr. Pratik Chauhan**. The program was designed to create awareness and foster dialogue on the Blue Economy, emphasizing sustainable development, coastal opportunities, governance, and skill development. The event witnessed active participation from faculty members, students, researchers, and academicians.



Day 1 commenced with participant registration followed by breakfast, setting a welcoming tone for the event. The Inaugural Ceremony was graced by **Dr. Gaurang Rami,** Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat. He delivered an insightful inaugural address on *"ATAL VAANI & Blue Economy Vision for Gujarat"*, highlighting Gujarat's strategic coastal advantages, sustainable economic growth, and policy-driven initiatives under the Blue Economy framework. His session provided a strong conceptual foundation for the program.

After the lunch break, the second technical session was conducted by **Dr. Rajesh Khajuria**, Global Accreditation Mentor (ACBSP–USA, AAC–EU) and Member of the Academic Council, CVM University, Vallabh Vidyanagar. His lecture on *"Investment, Entrepreneurship & Coastal Economic Opportunities"* focused on innovation-led growth, start-up ecosystems, and entrepreneurial prospects in coastal regions. The session was followed by high tea and snacks, after which the day concluded with a summary and open discussion, enabling participants to reflect on key learnings and interact with experts.

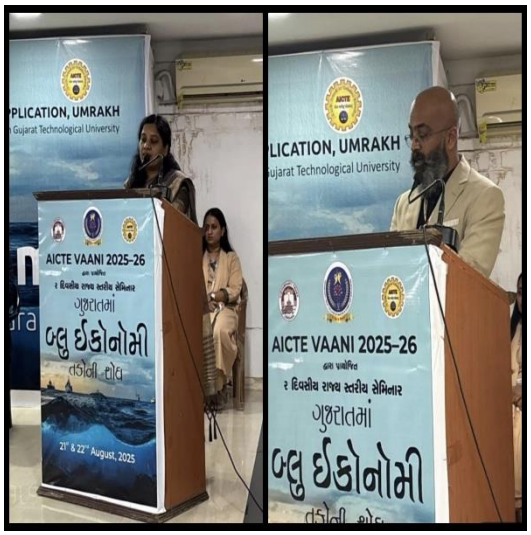
Day 2 began with breakfast, followed by a session from **Mr. Vikrant Joshi**, Founder of Rife Consultancy. He spoke on *"Technology and Sustainability in the Blue Economy"*, emphasizing the role of emerging technologies, digital transformation, and sustainable practices in strengthening coastal economies. His session highlighted how technology can balance economic development with environmental conservation.

The next session was delivered by **Dr. Dharmesh S. Raval**, Director (I/C), School of Maritime Management and Assistant Professor of Finance. His topic, *"Collaboration between Academia, Industry, and Government"*, stressed the importance of interdisciplinary partnerships and policy-driven collaboration to achieve sustainable maritime and coastal development. Following the lunch break, **Mr. Sagar Panchal**, Founder of Ranging Success1 Finserve & IMF LLP, addressed participants on *"Governance, Policy Alignment & Implementation Strategies"*, providing valuable insights into effective policy execution and regulatory frameworks.

The final technical session was conducted by **Dr. Ronak Mehta**, Assistant Professor at P. P. Savani University, on *"Skill Development for Coastal Communities"*. He emphasized capacity building, vocational training, and education as key drivers for inclusive growth and empowerment of coastal populations. After high tea and snacks, the program concluded with the Valedictory Ceremony, marking the successful completion of the AICTE VAANI Program. The two-day event proved to be highly beneficial for faculty members, students, and researchers by enhancing their understanding of the blue economy, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and policy frameworks. The program achieved its objectives by fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and strengthening the academic-industry-government interface, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.

Overall, the AICTE–VAANI Program was highly successful in achieving its objectives. It provided a comprehensive platform for knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary interaction, and policy-oriented discussions. The coordinated efforts of the MBA Department under Dr. Hiral Tailor and Dr. Pratik Chauhan ensured smooth execution of the program, making it a meaningful academic and societal contribution toward sustainable coastal development.

Glimpse of the Event:





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Approved by AICTE, New Delhi and Affiliated to GTU, Ahmedabad.







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