National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Board report out; only CIIE performs reasonably well

'Startup ecosystem not sufficient and efficient'

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Ahmedabad: Although government and universities of Gujarat are coming up with initiatives to promote startups, experts feel it would be a challenge to support the large number of startups that will crop up as the support system is not sufficient and efficient. Only CIIE from Ahmedabad has been found to be of national class by a national body. Only three of close to dozen odd TBIs in and around Ahmedabad have found mention in a report by National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Board (NSTEB), which deals with Technology Based Incubators (TBIs) nationally. These are Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) of IIM-A, National

Design Business Incubator of NID and Commcubator of MICA.

However, only CIIE has a respectable position nationally coming second from the point of view of turnover of its incubate companies in 2014. Its companies put together clocked a cumulative turnover of Rs330 crore, second only to IKP Knowledge park in Hyderbad, which saw it companies do a business of Rs745.7 crore. MICA's incubatees did a business of Rs32 lakh in 2014, while there was no mention about the turnover of NID's incubator.

In terms of employment generated by companies of TBIs, CIIE stood eighth with a total of 1,200 jobs gener-

ated in five year period of 2009-14. NID's incubator generated 141 jobs and MICA's incubator only 16 jobs, according to the report. The southern states stole the show. Thiruvananthapuram-based Technopark generated 4,500 jobs, followed by Villgro Foundation of IIT-Madras (3,803 jobs), Amity University – Noida (3,500 jobs), Basaveshwar Engi-

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neering College – Karnataka (2,900 jobs), Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering – Mysore (2,050 jobs).

Recently National Innovation Foundation (NIF) by IIM-A faculty Anil Gupta, Venture Studio of Ahmedabad University and state government promoted iCREATE had been approved by NSTEB.

"This shows that at a time when startups, including those from college students fast emerging in the state, the support system to take them to the next level is not sufficient and efficient enough. How will we support them is a big question," said a source involved with state's startup ecosystem.

NSTEB head HK Mittal told dna that more and better TBIs are emerging in the country but according to him, the major problem is of good quality startups. "We don't have the ones like Google or Apple. The very purpose of the startup policies of states and universities is to have a large pool of startups so that some of them can grow on a global scale. In fact one of the important provisions that need to be in the policy is acceptance of failure of startups. These are tech startups and the failure rate is a shade higher than conventional ones," said Mittal.

Management consultant Sunil Parekh, who is involved in taking forward the startup policy of the state, said TBIs will require time to evolve but the inherent trait of entrepreneurship will work to Gujarat's advantage.

STARTUPS TO ADD A DOZEN BILLIONAIRES: ASSOCHAM

New Delhi: India is likely to produce at least a dozen more billionaires and several new millionaires by 2020 as the country's start-ups scene hots up, fuelled by sectors like e-commerce, financial services and other technology-driven fields, an Assocham study has projected.

"India will be among the top Asian start-up giants, along with China and South-East Asian countries. However, even as the structural problems in China are likely to create roadblock for the start-ups there, no such issue confronts the Indian start-ups," the paper noted. It said the maximum value

creation is expected in the fledgling e-commerce, music-entertainment, payment gate-ways and city transport aggregators like radio taxis. The travel arena, especially in the ticketing and booking has already gained some level of maturity. Within the e-commerce space, a lot more verticals well beyond groceries and fashion and electronic items like mobile phones are expected to be created. Online food orders and cinema ticketing are already generating good volumes. As the broadband Internet penetration increases in smaller cities, the trend is set to catch up, the study noted. —PTI