

Modi promises to crank up start-up culture with sops

➤ 3-year tax holiday ➤ App-based registration of firms ➤ Initial fund of Rs 10,000cr

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a slew of measures on Saturday to project India as a breeding ground for start-ups. Among them are three-year tax holiday, a start-up fund of Rs 10,000 crore and waiver of capital gain tax for new entrepreneurial ventures.

He announced a self-certification scheme in respect of nine labour and environment laws and said there will be no inspection during the first three years of launch of the venture.

Also, a liberalised patent regime is being brought to help start-up businesses register patents, for which the fee will be slashed by 80 per cent.

"There will be no income tax on start-ups' profits for three years," said Modi amid applause at the Vignyan Bhawan in New Delhi. He was addressing at the first Start Up India conference that saw presence of over 1,000 entrepreneurs.

Modi announced an action plan to boost such ventures which are seen as key to employment generation and wealth creation.

India, which has the third-largest number of start-ups globally, will also support the ventures by removing the criteria of experience and turnover for bagging government procurement contracts.

Modi said profits earned by start-ups will be exempt from payment of income tax during the first three years of business. To boost financing, a 20 per cent tax on capital gains made on investments by entrepreneurs after selling own assets as well as government-recognised venture capitalists will also be exempt.

He further said an unencumbered easy exit option will be provided under the bankruptcy Act so that start-ups can exit within 90 days. **PTI**



Modi poses for a selfie with the young entrepreneurs at the Start Up India conference in Delhi on Saturday

RED CARPET ROLLED OUT

- No inspection for 3 years; self-certification on 9 laws
- Dedicated fund with Rs 10,000-crore corpus
- 80 per cent reduction in patent fee
- Easy exit option, a start-up can quit in 90 days

SoftBank will India investment to \$10 billion

NEW DELHI Japan-headquartered SoftBank, which has pumped in \$2 billion into Indian start-ups, plans to invest \$10 billion in new ventures in the year to come, the group's chief executive Masayoshi Son said on Saturday.

"The time has come when the Indian economy will be big enough going forward," Son said

at the Start Up India conference. "We will seriously accelerate our investments in India, going forward."

SoftBank, whose \$2 billion investments in Indian start-ups so far have targeted companies like SnapDeal, Housing.Com and Oyo Rooms, had also announced plans for investing \$20 billion in the

country's solar space, as per information provided by the commerce and industry ministry.

Son said the time had come for the "big bang of innovation" in India and that each time he visits this country, the more convinced he becomes that it is in India where he would like to pump in his company's money. **IAN S**