

Govt to launch startup mission, hold event attract incubators, innovators

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IN ORDER to provide a much-needed push to the startup ecosystem in the state, the state government is planning to launch a "startup mission" in July, and organise a special two-day event designed to attract entrepreneurs, incubators, innovators and venture capitalists to the state.

"We are expecting to launch the startup mission in July itself. The government resolution for constituting the mission has already been issued a week ago, and now the formation of a registered society and trust will take place," said Arvind Agarwal, additional chief secretary, state Industries & Mines department, while addressing mediapersons on Friday.

According to Agarwal, the startup mission will be a body that will play an advisory role to both the state government and the incubators.

"It will help in taking advantage of schemes under the Centre's startup policy, it will help provide coordination between state and central policies, it will also advise the state government and the incubators

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and will vet the applications coming from startups for the funding schemes," Agarwal added.

Gujarat is trying to position itself as a startup hub for the manufacturing sector, and came out with a startup policy in January 2015, much before the NDA government announced its own policy.

However, over the last 18 month-period, the state government is yet to announce funding for a single startup firm under the new policy, even though it has formed 20 nodal agencies for nurturing startups, and has already disbursed Rs 2.31 crore to 15 of them.

"Under the policy, 15 of the nodal agencies have been given a grant of Rs 2.31 crore, for their own use and for releasing to start-

ups. This is the first installment," Agarwal said.

In October 21-22, the state government is also organising a summit under the Vibrant Gujarat banner, specially dedicated to startups.

The event, organised by the state government arms — Industrial Extension Bureau (iNDEXTb) and Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) — will host more than 3,500 delegates, and more than 50 national and international speakers.

"To provide more focus to startups and to highlight Gujarat as a startup destination, mainly in manufacturing, we have decided to organise an exclusive two-day event in October... so that the national level startups know about Gujarat's incentive scheme, and find good opportunities in Gujarat, especially in manufacturing and other startup sectors," Agarwal added.

In order to promote this event, the state government will also be holding roadshows in startup hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi and Mumbai.

It will also organise pre-event workshops in Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Anand and Mehsana.