

# Gujarat Adds Startup Event to Vibrant Gujarat 2017

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**Ahmedabad:** The next edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit will include a focus on startups for the first time, with the state seeking to boost entrepreneurship through the event that was a pet initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was the chief minister.

A 'Vibrant Gujarat Startup Summit' will be held on October 21-22 as part of a series of sector specific events to be held in the run-up to the biennial investors' summit which will be held in January 2017. "In this eighth biennial summit, for the first time a startup focused event has been added," said Arvind Agarwal, additional chief secretary to the state's industries and mines department.

The key objective of the startup summit is to attract the brightest entrepreneurial minds from across the nation to

ideate, showcase innovation and help them shape their ideas for the development of the state and the nation, he said.

"It will also aim to develop a startup ecosystem to compete with the best in the world and create a lasting network of relationships for all the stakeholders of the ecosystem," Agarwal said.

Gujarat will ensure that startups at national level come to know about the state's startup policy and its benefits, Agarwal said. To promote the event, the state government will organise roadshows and a social media cam-

paign, he said.

"This is the first state government to

have a national level programme exclusively for startups," Agarwal said.

Officials said the startup summit will host more than 3,500 delegates attending more than 20 power packed sessions with more than 50 national and international speakers.

Gujarat has roped in partners like IIMA's Centre for Innovation Incubation & Entrepreneurship (CIIE), FICCI, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), iCreate, GVFL, National Innovation Foundation, IIT-Gandhinagar, Innovify and NDBI.

The event will have more than 5,000 business-to-business and business-to-government meetings, exhibitions, pre-event road shows, venture capitalists' speed dating, a 'national startup grand challenge', business pitches and awards.

Roadshows will be held in cities including Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Anand, Mehsana, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.



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