

# Gujarat govt to support

To allocate them to incubators for mentoring, support

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**Ahmedabad:** Gujarat government will bring about 200 start-ups under its policy and allocate them to designated start-up incubators; a move that actors in the local start-up ecosystem say will give them a big boost. About 85 innovative start-ups and start-up ideas will also be exhibited during the Vibrant Gujarat Startup Summit being organised in Gandhinagar on October 21 and 22. The government will act as matchmaker with start-ups on one hand and investors and incubators on the other. "From a pool of over 800 start-ups, the government has short-listed about 200 of the most prom-

ising ones, whose data has been shared with 20 incubators in the state. All incubators have been told to incubate and mentor start-ups," said an official from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), one of the principal partners in the two-day event to be organised at Mahatma Mandir.

A reverse pitching session has been organised where incubators and venture funds will pitch to start-ups and these emerging companies will get to choose from those who bid for them. Sources in the know of things say the move will be a boost to incubators that have been struggling to find start-ups. As of now, about 55 start-ups are being supported by incubators under Gujarat's Startup Assistance Scheme.

"It is for the first time that the state government is coming out with such an intervention. This is

## In attendance...

- Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog
- Amit Jain, president, AT Uber India
- Victoria Lennox, co-founder and CEO, Startup Canada
- Poyni Bhatt, CEO, SINE (the incubator of IIT - Mumbai)
- Padmaja Ruparel, CEO, Indian Angel Network
- Prasanna Krishna Moorthy, CTO, Microsoft Accelerator India
- Sijo Kuruvilla George, founding CEO, Startup Village

a morale-boosting effort for start-ups. Till about a few months ago, not many in the bureaucratic machinery and political set up even knew about start-ups," said Jatin Choudhary, founder of eChai, a network of local entrepreneurs.

# 200 start-ups

With this event, the message that is being sent is that the government is considering start-ups as an industry. It will create a buzz which will give them a much-needed push." **-Chirag Patel,** president, TIE (Ahmedabad)

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