

773 startups begin ops in UP despite lockdown

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Despite the prolonged lockdown in the wake of Covid-19, 773 startups began their operations in the state in the past one year. The total number of start-ups which have come up in the state in the past three years is now 3,406.

Additional chief secretary (IT and Electronics) Alok Kumar said that the development took place despite the Covid-19 pandemic, adding that seven proposals for establishment of incubators had been approved in the current month under new Startup Policy-2020.

These include first incubator in Bundelkhand, in Rajkya Engineering College in Banda, Arai Incubation Center in BHU Varanasi, NASSCOM 10,000 Startup Wareho-

'Appoint nodal officers for paddy purchase centres'

Reviewing paddy purchase in the state, the CM asked the agriculture department to appoint a nodal officer for all 4,000-plus paddy purchase centres. He said the nodal officer should ensure that farmers did not face any inconvenience when they visit centres to sell their produce. **P4**

use in Noida, Jai Puria Incubator and Maharshi Center for Entrepreneur Development in Lucknow; Startup Launchpad in GLA University Mathura and in Krishna Engineering College, Ghazabad.

► 17 incubators set up, P 4

17 incubators set up in UP in past 2 years

► Continued from P 1

Other than these, 17 incubators have been set up in UP in the past two years. Minister for IT and Electronics Dinesh Sharma said that the development of a start-up ecosystem in UP was a result of the IT and Startup Policy-2017 and the New Startup Policy-2020. "The government is developing a world class

start-up ecosystem in the state through strong infrastructure and favorable policy environment," he said.

Kumar said that under the new Startup Policy-2020, three state-of-the-art Centers of Excellence were proposed to be set up in UP. Out of these, the first is being established at the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow in the medical electronics

sector. The second one is being developed in Noida in collaboration with IIT Kanpur and FICCI in the sphere of artificial intelligence.

For approval of applications, the government has constituted an evaluation committee with experts from IIT Kanpur, Abdul Kalam University of Technology in Lucknow, IIM Lucknow, STPI-Lucknow, IIT BHU and SIDBI among others as

its members. A portal has been developed for registration of start-ups which allows for online submission of applications, financial incentives and issuance of clearances.

In 2020-21, the state government gave Rs 41.6 lakh as incentive to incubators under the IT and Start-up Policy-2017. An additional sum of Rs 41.4 lakh will be disbursed soon.