

# Startup push to fulfill PM Modi's 'atmanirbhar' vision: Yogi Adityanath

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LUCKNOW: In yet another milestone in the state government's initiative to promote start-ups in Uttar Pradesh, chief minister Yogi Adityanath laid the foundation stone of SIDBI's Swavalamban Kendra in Lucknow on Monday.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the designated manager of UP Startup Fund, a corpus of Rs 150 crore which has been set up by the government with the help of Abdul Kalam Technical University to fund start-ups at the stage of ideation and patent registration.

Laying the foundation stone of the centre, CM Yogi Adityanath said: "The initiative is expected to help in the progress of MSME sector in UP and facilitate its growth. SIDBI is also managing the funds for Start-Up India

programme. The bank has also provided a huge push to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Start-Up, Stand-Up and Make in India initiatives."

He said SIDBI had signed an MoU with the UP government for setting up of the 'Startup Fund' which would go a long way in helping people become self-reliant and fulfil the PM's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).

"With SIDBI's support, schemes like ODOP will prove to be game-changers for the state's economy, especially during economic slowdown due to Covid-19 pandemic. SIDBI's new centre will start a new work culture," the CM said.

SIDBI's Swavalamban Kendra will work as a training centre and provide enterprises, working under One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme and in MSME sector, access to working space, conference hall, board room, exhibition area and interaction with specialists in SIDBI.

The centre, which will be developed as a green, eco-friendly building on 1 acre land, will be ready within a year. "With the opening of Swavalamban Kendra in Lucknow, where we are headquartered, we aim to bridge the skill gap and also provide micro and small enterprises access to co-working space, exhibition centre and meeting places," chairperson and managing director, SIDBI, Mohammad Mustafa said.

Under its start-up policy, the state government is preparing infrastructure for cultivation of start-ups. Around 100 incubators are being set up across the state with at least one in each district. The largest one in India is coming up in Lucknow.