

January 16 to be celebrated as National Startup Day: PM Modi

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January 16 would now be celebrated as National Startup Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Saturday. The move was announced to help the startup culture spread better across India.

PM Modi was interacting with various startups virtually as part of the Startup India Innovation Week when he made the announcement.

Rise of startups in tier 2 and tier 3 cities

“While in the pre-2014 era, only big businesses in the metros were prospering, today there is at least one start-up in 625 districts of the country,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

“Of them, half are in tier 2 and tier 3 cities where youth from poor and ordinary families are engaged in developing start-ups,” he said.

“As a result lakhs are getting employment which is demonstrated by the speed and scale at which startups grew in India even during the global pandemic,” the PM said.

‘Govt wants to give innovation opportunities’: PM Modi

The PM asked innovators and entrepreneurs not to keep their dreams local, adding that hundreds of hackathons organised by the government in record time had provided many solutions for the country.

“You would also be feeling that different government departments and ministries are in touch with the youth and start-ups, encouraging their new ideas such as new drone rules or the new space policy,” he said, as per PTI.

“The government’s priority is to give as many youth as possible the opportunity for innovation,” the PM added.

PM Modi said that the golden era of startups was beginning.

Increase in number of patents registered

PM Modi said that as against 4,000 patents registered in 2013-14, last year (2020-21), the comparative figure was 28,000.

As against 70,000 trademarks registered in 2013-14, over 2.5 lakh were registered last year.

He said that the drive towards innovation has improved India’s ranking on the Global Innovation Index from 81 to 46.

Role of govt in rising innovations

The government has set up various schemes and institutional mechanisms such as ‘Start-Up India, Stand-India’ type of programmes and ‘Make in India’ which ensure the hand-holding of young innovators.

PM Modi said that entrepreneurship and innovation have been taken out of the web of bureaucratic silos, adding that “start-ups are changing the rule of the game and will be the backbone of new India”.