

# Lucknow becoming startups hub; CM backs scientists: Min

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**Lucknow:** Union minister of science and technology Jitendra Singh, addressing the CSIR Startup Conclave in Lucknow, said the city holds immense potential to emerge as a major startup hub on the lines of Hyderabad and other southern cities.

Singh praised CM Yogi Adityanath for his consistent support to the scientific community, noting that “scientists in UP always receive the CM’s guidance and blessings.” He recalled that it was from Lucknow that mint tablets reached global markets and credited the CM’s leadership for reviving Central Electronics Limited in Sahibabad, which shifted from losses to profits within two years. Highlighting UP’s legacy in science and innovation, Dr. Singh said that India’s first solar cell was ma-

de in the state in 1977. He announced that a new biotechnology park and a science museum will soon be established in Lucknow to further boost research and innovation.

He also pointed out that the country’s oldest botanical garden, located in Lucknow, along with the recently developed Swastik Lotus Garden featuring lotus species from across the world, can be transformed into a major tourist attraction in the future.

“This is not only a unique conservation effort, it is also a platform for creating new opportunities in floriculture, wellness, and agri-based industries.” The minister cited the development of the Namoh 108 lotus, pest-resistant cotton, and innovative work in floriculture under the Floriculture Mission, which offers new livelihood options to farmers and entrepreneurs.