

Half of the 24k startups in UP being run by women: Yogi

CM Bats For Skilling And Innovation Push

► Continued from P 1

Foreign delegations, ambassadors and high commissioners often ask me about the challenge posed by Uttar Pradesh's population of more than 25 crore. I tell them that the bigger the challenge, the bigger the opportunity. What people call a challenge, we see as a demographic dividend," he said.

Yogi said the state's young workforce should be linked with skilling to fully realise its potential. "We have the world's most talented and energetic young workforce. Providing them a platform is the govt's responsibility," he said.

Yogi attributed UP's growth to a supportive policy environment and the Centre-state "double-engine" govt, saying the ecosystem was helping young entrepreneurs turn their ideas into businesses.

CM said the change in UP's startup ecosystem reflected the transformation in the state's broader business environment. He recalled that before 2017, discussions around employment, incubators, education and innovation were difficult amid what he described as a "negative perception of the state". "Talking about employment, incubators, education or innovation in those circumstances was itself a dream," he said, referring to the situation before 2017. He said the lack of will and policy pre-



CM Yogi Adityanath presents a cheque during the release of the 'Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy-2026' booklet and the launch of the 'Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission' portal on Thursday

vented the state from tapping its vast potential.

Yogi said several startups had now contributed to changing UP's image. He added that he had personally visited some of the startups selected under Bharat Innovates and was impressed by the work being undertaken by young entrepreneurs.

"Women are driving a significant part of the ecosystem, with half of the startups being run by them. Govt has supported proposals from institutions including IIT-Kanpur, BHU, IIT, AKTU and IIMs and established a Fund of Funds with SIDBI in 2019 to support startups," Yogi said.

He also called upon universities and higher educational institutions to move beyond conventional courses and create an environment conducive to innovation and research and development.

"The govt provided separate funds to universities for innovation and research activities. The state is supporting centres of excellence in emerging technologies, including quantum computing, space

technology, drone technology, robotics and green hydrogen," he added.

"Wherever support is needed, the govt will stand with you," he said, adding that UP needed to raise its share of India's startup ecosystem in line with its population.

"While the state accounts for nearly one-sixth of India's population, its share of startups is around one-tenth. At least 20% of India's startups should be in Uttar Pradesh. We should prepare for this," he said. Twelve new incubators were also recognised.

He also unveiled a booklet on Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy 2026 and launched Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission portal. He said the govt would consider increasing Fund of Funds with SIDBI if required and facilitate leased land and plug-and-play spaces for startups. "UP has moved from being among the bottom three economies to becoming one of India's top three economies. The new Uttar Pradesh is not going to retreat. It is establishing itself as one of the fastest-emerging economies," he said.

CM felicitates startup stars, incubators

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday felicitated entrepreneurs and startups contributing to Uttar Pradesh's growing innovation ecosystem, recognising their work across startups, incubation and technology at an event in Lucknow.

Yogi presented incentive cheques to five startups, honouring Anushi Verma of Singh Dynamic Pvt Ltd, Riya Kumari Vanshghopal of Decode Software Pvt Ltd, Divyam of Trishul Space, Dr Diksha Bharti of Genomiki Solution Pvt Ltd, and Tushar Raj of PHSI Technology and Research Pvt Ltd.

CM also distributed incentive cheques to incubators, honouring representatives of Nav Yug Innovation Foundation, Dr Pushkar from IET Lucknow and Dr Sanjay Kumar from NIET.

As part of efforts to expand the state's incubation network, Yogi presented incubator recognition certificates to representatives of VBSPU Incubation and Innovation, Jaunpur, and MSU Academic Foundation, Saharanpur.

Startups supported by UP Startup Fund (UPSF) were also felicitated. The CM honoured Tarun Senani of Magnum Technology and Akshat Raj and Gaurav Joshi of Alphadroid India. He also presented a letter of intent to Sunil Premji of Brisk Olive.