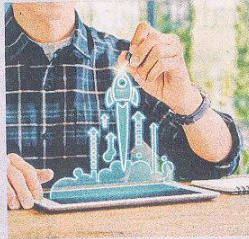


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A cluster exclusively for startups



Kapil Dave & Parth Shastri | TNN

Among the 35 industrial and tribal parks announced by the state government, one is dedicated to startups alone. The cluster, to come up between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, will have a plug-and-play infrastructure, making it easy and convenient for startups to set up their workspace immediately, according to top government sources.

While the startup park will certainly fuel the growth of startups, industry experts opine that it will also propel the growth of an ecosystem around it. Several such initiatives have been taken in other parts of the country.

“For instance, we have a major setup for medical devices-related startups in Visakhapatnam, electronics zone in Karnataka and biotechnology park in Hyderabad. Thus, if such a park comes to Gujarat, it must focus on a core area and on synergizing the efforts. If we assess our position, few startups are doing cutting-edge research due to lack of funds or expertise. Such facilities should incentivize the good startups that can boost the ecosystem,” said a top official at a government-run incubator, requesting anonymity.

Industry players also indicated how a dedicated cluster will be able to leverage inherent strengths of several other industrial sectors here.

Prof Satya Ranjan Acharya, director, EDII's startup incubator Cradle, said, “Gujarat has unique strength in areas such as pharmaceutical and chemical industry. We must leverage on such sectors to improve startup to sector connect to increase longevity and application of startups. Technology transfer is often a key aspect to such initiatives by the state government. We do not have details on the proposed park yet, but a dedicated zone, especially for the mature startups, can surely boost our startup scenario,” he said.

According to the data by Department for Promotion of Industry and Industrial Trade (DPIIT), Gujarat is home to at least 5,444 startups recognised by the DPIIT as on November 30, 2022.