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## Govt approves 6 start-up centres

Our Bureau



Union Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan

*Will promote and fund new ventures under DST's NIDHI initiative*

New Delhi, September 6:

The Central government has approved six proposals to set up centres of excellence to under the National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovation (NIDHI), Department of Science and Technology. "The proposals for six centres of excellence 1 September 3 by the National Expert Advisory Committee include SINE-IIT Bombay, CIIE-IIM Ahmedabad and a research park at IIT-Gandhinagar," Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science and Technology, told reporters here on Tuesday.

Vardhan said the government has earmarked ₹500 crore to scale up the start-up ecosystem. Funding of up to ₹10 lakh will be given to develop a prototype and access fabrication thereafter the department will also help connect the innovators with angel investors. The department has already held camps to promote NIDHI in 4,000 colleges, he added.

The Minister said the department has partnered with large international corporates, Boeing and Texas Instruments, to initiate technology-driven, innovation-based programmes. "The existing total incubation space in the country of about 7 lakh square feet will so square feet," he added.

**Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Science and Technology Ministry said: “As opposed to past 30 years, the government plans to develop 200 in the next five years.”**

(This article was published on September 6, 2016)

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