

## PRESS RELEASE

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## CM launches COHORT 3.0 and Trailblazers 2.0 of Assam Start Up

Industry Dept must come up with a new Industrial Policy to support Start-ups: CM

**Dispur, August 16:** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today launched COHORT 3.0 and Trailblazers 2.0 programmes of Assam Start Up - The Nest (incubation centre). The Nest, which was set up under Assam Start-up Policy 2017, has been facilitating a conducive environment for young aspiring entrepreneurs to realise their start-up dreams while contributing towards Assam's economic progress.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech, highlighted his vision for a start-up driven economy to create more jobs and boost financial progress of the country. That vision would be realised through initiatives like The Nest that would turn the youths into job creators instead of job seekers, he said.

Informing that 39 start-ups received government support through The Nest that earned a total of Rs 42 crores in revenue, the Chief Minister congratulated the start-ups for their success stories while lauding the effort of young entrepreneurs from Assam to achieve big at national and international stage. He credited the The Nest for bringing about a start-up eco-system in Assam.

The Chief minister also urged the Industry Department to come up with a new industrial policy in 2021, synchronising with 75th year of India's independence, to support entrepreneurs. As banks show reluctance in investing in start-ups, the government's support to the start-ups through the policy would convince the financial institutions to come forward, he said.

Calling on the start-ups to focus on Assam's agri products such as Bhut Jolokia, tea, kazi nemu, Joha rice etc to bridge the gap between farmers and buyers, the Chief Minister stressed on the need for young entrepreneurs to harness Assam's strengths in agri-horticulture sector to scale up the eco-system for start-ups in a big way. People in forest villages can also be helped through start-ups to provide eco-friendly earning opportunities, he opined.

The Chief Minister also interacted with some young start-up owners as they demonstrated their products and shared business ideas.

Industry and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary also spoke on the occasion and said that Assam Start Up incubation centre has been taking giant strides towards success and he informed that tie-ups with state and central PSUs are being explored for supporting the trainees.

Principal Secretary of Industry and Commerce Department K.K. Dwivedi, CEO of IIM Calcutta Innovation Centre Subhranshu Sanyal also delivered speeches.

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