

Ahmedabad becoming hatching hub for entrepreneurs

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Ahmedabad: When it comes to hatching business ideas, aspirant entrepreneurs in the city don't have to look any further. Opportunity to materialise business ideas are increasing in the city as incubation centres are seeking for more incubatees in their centres.

National Design Business Incubator (NDBI) at National Institute of Design (NID), which incubates design-based startup companies, plans to take four more startup companies in addition to its 26 incubatees. The centre is also planning to setup another centre at the Gandhinagar campus of NID shortly. Referring to the plan for a new centre at Gandhinagar, CEO of NDBI Mahesh Krovvidi, said, "The plan is to incubate around three startup companies in the beginning and raise the number to around 10 by the end of one year."

Krovvidi said that the plan is at an early stage and will take a few more months to materialise. Talking about the success of NDBI Krovvidi said, "While three incubatees of the centre have already become independent, another 15 of the current incubatees have started earning a sustainable income."

The incubation centre at Mudra Institute of Communications Ahmedabad (MICA) called Comcubator, which was set up recently, has started looking for right candidates. "We are looking for business ideas based on communications and we have the infrastructure to accommodate around five incubatees in our centre," said Comcubator manager Roshan Ku-

The Centre for Entrepreneurship and Incubation at DAIICT (CEID) is also looking for the right startup entrepreneurs with business ideas in the area of communication technology products. The centre is looking to incubate five such ideas. "We have put up the requirements at our website. The application is open for all. However, we intend to have at least one student from among alumni of DAIICT among these incubatees," said CEO of CEID Nemichand Mehta.

Talking about availability of opportunity for incubating seed ideas at Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, CEO of

CIIE Kunal Upadhyay said, "Taking new startup companies for incubation is an ongoing process at CIIE. We keep taking new incubatees every month. While some of them will be based at CIIE, others are virtual incubatees who have their own offices. In the last three months, we have added around a dozen of incubates."

New centres waiting in wings

Ahmedabad: Apart from the opportunities to materialize business ideas in existing incubation centres, many new incubation centres are also coming up in various institutes in the city.

While Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI) and the Ahmedabad University are planning to come up with their own incubation centres, Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi had earlier announced plans of setting up of a world class incubation centre around the city in the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode in collaboration with IIM-A and experts in other fields.

While Ahmedabad University plans to set up its incubation centre this year, the centre will have the facilities to accommodate 20 incubatees. Chairman of board of directors of Ahmedabad University Prafull Anubhai said, "We will

have the incubation centre by the third quarter of this year."

Gujarat University will have a six months pre-incubation programme which will test the marker viability of the business idea, interest of the entrepreneurs and so on to select the right fellow to be incubated at the incubation centre.

While EDI is also planning to come up with an incubation centre in around a year's time, the centre will accommodate around five incubatees in the beginning. Talking about the plans, director of EDI Dinesh Awasthi said, "While we will start with five incubatees, plan is to increase up to around 20 of them in the next three years following the setting up of the centre."

Talking about the incubation centre and institute's interest in having one Awasthi said, "In fact the entire EDI is like an Incubation centre as students come here with creative business ideas to learn how to start their own businesses. However for studying at EDI the students need to qualify under various criteria including entrance test and minimum academic qualifications and marks.

But ideas are ideas and can be germinated by any creative mind regardless of qualifications. An incubation centre will not have such requirements of qualifications and will enable us to support original and creative ideas for a wider range of people."

Awasthi said, "The incubation centre at EDI will support all kinds of ideas, however we would like to focus on ideas in the area of agriculture and food processing."

