

Workshop on Sikkim Startup Ecosystem

21st Nov, 2022.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Division under Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Sikkim in coordination with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India organized a day-long workshop on Sikkim Startup Ecosystem at a local hotel in Gangtok today.



The inaugural session was graced by MLA, Martam Rumtek Constituency, Shri Sonam Venchungpa, as chief guest. He was accompanied by Director, MSME, Commerce & Industries, Shri M. Ravikumar, Additional Secretary, Commerce & Industries, Smt. Choden Gyatso, and dignitaries from various line departments along with resource persons namely CEO, AIC SMUTBI, Shri Tej Chingtham, Smt. Anisa Bawari from Khaitan Legal Associates, Mumbai, Shri Neeraj Kumar Khater and Ms. Inayat Pawar from Startup India (GoI). The programme had the participation of State entrepreneurs and representatives from Self Help Groups and the students' community.



In his keynote address, Director, MSME, Shri. M. Ravikumar, said that Sikkim has been recognized as an emerging startup ecosystem and the State government has taken praiseworthy initiatives to promote, groom and upscale the capacities of aspiring entrepreneurs and help them standardize their businesses. He briefed the gathering about the State policies and incentives focused on aspiring and growth-stage entrepreneurs involving provision of financial assistance and subsidies to startups.

He listed out various fields of entrepreneurship in the State that one can tap in as their potential startup venture and deliver diverse products and services at both national and international levels. He stated that the State government will extend full support in

addressing various constraints to small and growing businesses and urged the participants to follow up after trainings for further support and skill development.

Addressing the gathering, Martam Rumtek MLA, Shri Sonam Venchungpa, began with citing the classic example of American business magnate, Warren Buffett, and how his transformational leadership style and investment strategies have strongly influenced and inspired millions of his followers, globally. He also gave examples of some of the most inspiring entrepreneurs of the nation, ranging from tech start-ups to retail businesses, and said that with strong intrinsic motivations and an efficient entrepreneurial mindset, one can tap into the booming entrepreneurial wave to not only become self-employed but also create employment opportunities for others. Asserting that age is no bar for entrepreneurship, Shri Venchungpa said, “You’re not too young or too old to pursue your passion as an entrepreneur and succeed. Grit and grace combined with strong vision and bold leadership is what allows for a successful entrepreneurial journey.”

Shri Venchungpa assured that the State and Central governments are committed to provide support and overcome any challenges faced by aspiring entrepreneurs in their Startup journey in any capacity and further urged the participants to take full advantage of the workshop activities beneficial for improving their skills and qualities. He extended gratitude to the resource persons and officials of the Commerce & Industries and other line departments for incorporating such valuable workshop and contributing in developing entrepreneurial mindset among the Sikkimese populace.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Shri Neeraj Kumar Khater from Startup India wherein he gave a brief overview through a presentation on Startup India benefits and incentives. The workshop featured awareness and sensitization sessions on various aspects of entrepreneurship followed by boot camps and an open-floor Q&A session.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Deputy Secretary, MSME, Shri Topden Zangpo.