



## STARTUP INDIA'S ACADEMIA ALLIANCE PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup>

To fulfil the Government of India's mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country, Start-up India launched the Start-up Academia Alliance programme, a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and start-ups working in similar domains.

The Start-up Academia Alliance aims to reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications in order to increase the efficacy of these technologies and to widen their impact. By creating a bridge between academia and industry, the Alliance strives to create lasting connections between the stakeholders of the start-up ecosystem and implement the third pillar on which the Start-up India Action Plan is based - Industry Academia Partnerships and Incubation.

The first phase of Start-up Academia Alliance was kick started through partnering with Regional Centre for Biotechnology, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water, and TERI School of Advanced Studies. Renowned scholars from these institutes, in fields such as renewable energy, biotechnology, healthcare and life sciences were taken on board to provide mentorship and guidance to start-ups working in relevant arenas.

The applications for Start-up Academia Alliance were hosted on the Start-up India Hub, a one-stop destination for start-ups to apply for opportunities such as incubator and accelerator programmes as well as challenges organized by corporate stakeholders, with a user base of more than 2 lakh entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs from over 433 districts in India. A total of 133 applications from relevant start-ups were received through the Start-up India Hub, out of which, 43 were shortlisted by institutes on the basis of operational areas and technological relevance. Emphasis was placed on finding start-ups that employ innovative solutions to pressing problems in diverse areas.

The mentorship sessions have commenced and it is expected that start-ups will greatly benefit from the expertise and insights brought forth by experienced research scholars working in pertinent fields.

## GEM TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT<sup>2</sup>

As an initiative to improve transparency in procurement, Government has set up Government e-Marketplace as a 100% Government owned company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 for providing online platform for procurement of common use goods and services by government organizations.

Government e- Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform for government users which was launched on 9th August, 2016. It leverages technology to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users, achieve the best value of their money. It is paperless, cashless and contactless platform giving end to end solution.

All the State Governments are utilising the services offered by Government e-Marketplace. In addition, 22 States namely, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Telengana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and West Bengal have signed Memorandum of Understanding for making procurement through GeM portal mandatory in their state.

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1541697>

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1541709>

This information was given by the Minister of State of Commerce & Industry C R Chaudhary in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

***Team ICSI***

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