

Gujarat scheme for technology demonstration

OUR BUREAU

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The Gujarat government on Monday announced a scheme to boost new technology demonstration and pilot deployment under the Innovation Fund. The policy, named Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), will incentivise start-ups so as to evolve solutions to complex issues of the public sector.

Innovation fund

Targeted at the public sector, the innovators will design and develop solutions, which otherwise cannot be implemented in the public sector due to lack of adoption opportunities or

procedural challenges. Announcing the scheme, Chief Secretary JN Singh said, "The State government has announced a 'Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy, under which a dedicated Innovation Fund of ₹50 crore has been created. The fund will cater to the requirements of two schemes – one for supporting research and development and the other for pilot deployment and testing of technologies. This will go a long way in differentiating the Gujarat government's approach to the STEM – specifically the R&D and Innovation in the State."

The new scheme on Technology Demonstration and Pilot

Deployment programme will be implemented by the Gujarat Council on Science & Technology (Gujcost) under the State Department of Science & Technology.

Pilot deployment for complex solutions will open up a huge public sector for the start-up ecosystem.

Low-cost testing

It will allow low-cost testing of innovations before the government commits for commercial solutions. It will also allow the

State to find solutions to problems complex in nature and specific to the State's environment such as waste management, urban planning, urban mobility, and pollution control etc.

"The Innovation Fund will inspire the faculties and scientists working in the research lab and university departments in the State to conduct research and development in emerging fields of science and technology and address the State-spe-

cific challenges," Singh said while inaugurating the newly built 49,000 sq ft 'Vigyan Bhavan' at Ahmedabad Science City.

The scheme will reduce the time required for R&D and encourage not to reinvent the wheel again. Start-ups, SMEs and entrepreneurs having proven technology can apply to test their technologies meant for public sector only through this scheme.

A technical advisory committee will evaluate such proposals for uniqueness and desirability and an empowered committee headed by the Chief Secretary will approve such pilot deployments.

