

Boost for Assam youth entrepreneurship



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The U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata in collaboration with social enterprise Contact Base, is launching a youth entrepreneurship initiative – Y4BIZ (Youth for Business) in four cities Guwahati, Patna, Ranchi and Kolkata. The program in Guwahati took place in association with the local organization, Startup Assam.

The Y4BIZ program aims to support a promising [group](#) of 50 young entrepreneurs, and transform their business ideas from the initial stage to a sustainable business model.

The 50 entrepreneurs will be selected by a rigorous screening process after the launch events in all four cities. This will be followed by an online capacity building and mentoring program run by the IC2 Institute, University of Texas, Austin. A [group](#) of [ten](#) mentors will also be selected to be trained at the Nexus Incubator Hub, which is housed inside the American Center in [New Delhi](#).

Finally, the top 10 business ideas will be showcased before industry [leaders](#), investors and [policy](#) makers; to celebrate entrepreneurship and recognize the youth [leaders](#) in 2018.

The Director of the American Center and Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Consulate General Kolkata Jamie Dragon said, “Youth entrepreneurship development is a proven strategy that positively impacts the lives of young people. This project seeks to foster a culture of entrepreneurship in eastern [India](#) and to strengthen linkages between American and Indian youth [leaders](#).”

This initiative is [launched](#) during the celebration of the November 13-17 Global Entrepreneurship [Week](#), and is part of a series of activities leading up to the upcoming Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) that is scheduled for November 28-30.

The Director of Nexus in [New Delhi American Centre](#), Erik Azulay mentions.

Suman Mukhopadhyay, Director & Vice [President](#) (Finance & Strategy) of Contact Base mentioned, “An entrepreneurs' journey is a journey of loneliness. For first generation early stage entrepreneurs this can be a daunting challenge to surmount. If one is attempting to [start](#) an enterprise in the eastern region of [India](#), odds are stacked too unfavorably.”

The next Y4BIZ launch event is scheduled for November 16 in Patna.

Syed Miraz Ahmed

Writes, edits and researches. In 2013 he was conferred the Rotary International District 3240 Young Achiever Award for his work in the area of environment and digital journalism. In 2006 he was awarded first in the category of Wildlife Photography by the Department of Environment & Forests and Tourism, Government of Assam.

BY SYED MIRAZ AHMED

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