



सत्यमेव जयते

DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF
INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Startup Ecosystem Overview

Date: 22nd September 2026



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DPIIT

#startupindia

AGENDA

- Introduction
- Funding Support and Incentives
- Simplification and Handholding
- Industry-Academia Partnerships and Incubation
- Marquee Initiatives

What is a Startup?

Startup recognition frameworks have evolved from foundational 2016 definitions to broader eligibility and dedicated deep-tech support by 2026.

Parameter	2016 Notification (G.S.R. 180(E))	2019 Notification (G.S.R. 127(E))	2026 Notification (G.S.R. 108(E))
Age Limit (General)	5 years	10 years	10 years
Age Limit (Deep Tech)	Not applicable	Not applicable	20 years
Turnover Ceiling (General)	Rs. 25 crore	Rs. 100 crore	Rs. 200 crore
Turnover Ceiling (Deep Tech)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Rs. 300 crore
Eligible Entities	Pvt. Ltd., Partnership, LLP	Pvt. Ltd., Partnership, LLP	Pvt. Ltd., Partnership, LLP, Cooperative Societies
Deep Tech Category	Not defined	Not defined	Explicitly defined
Primary Objective	Legalize startup definition	Expand eligible universe	Deep tech & scale-up support

According to the 2026 Gazette Notification (G.S.R. 108(E)) Startups means an entity which works towards innovation, development or improvement of products or processes or services, or is a scalable business model with a high potential of employment generation or wealth creation.

What is a DeepTech Startup?

‘Deep Tech Startup’ means a ‘Startup’ that has the following attributes, as per G.S.R. 108(E).

- It is working on producing a solution based on new knowledge/advancements within a scientific or engineering discipline or multiple disciplines, which is yet to be developed or is in the process of being developed;*
- It has a high percentage of expenditure on research and development (R&D) activities as a percentage of revenue/funding;*
- It owns or is in the process of creating significant novel intellectual property (IP) and taking steps to commercialize the same; and*
- It is facing extended development timelines, long gestation periods, high capital and infrastructure requirements, and carrying large technical or scientific uncertainty.*

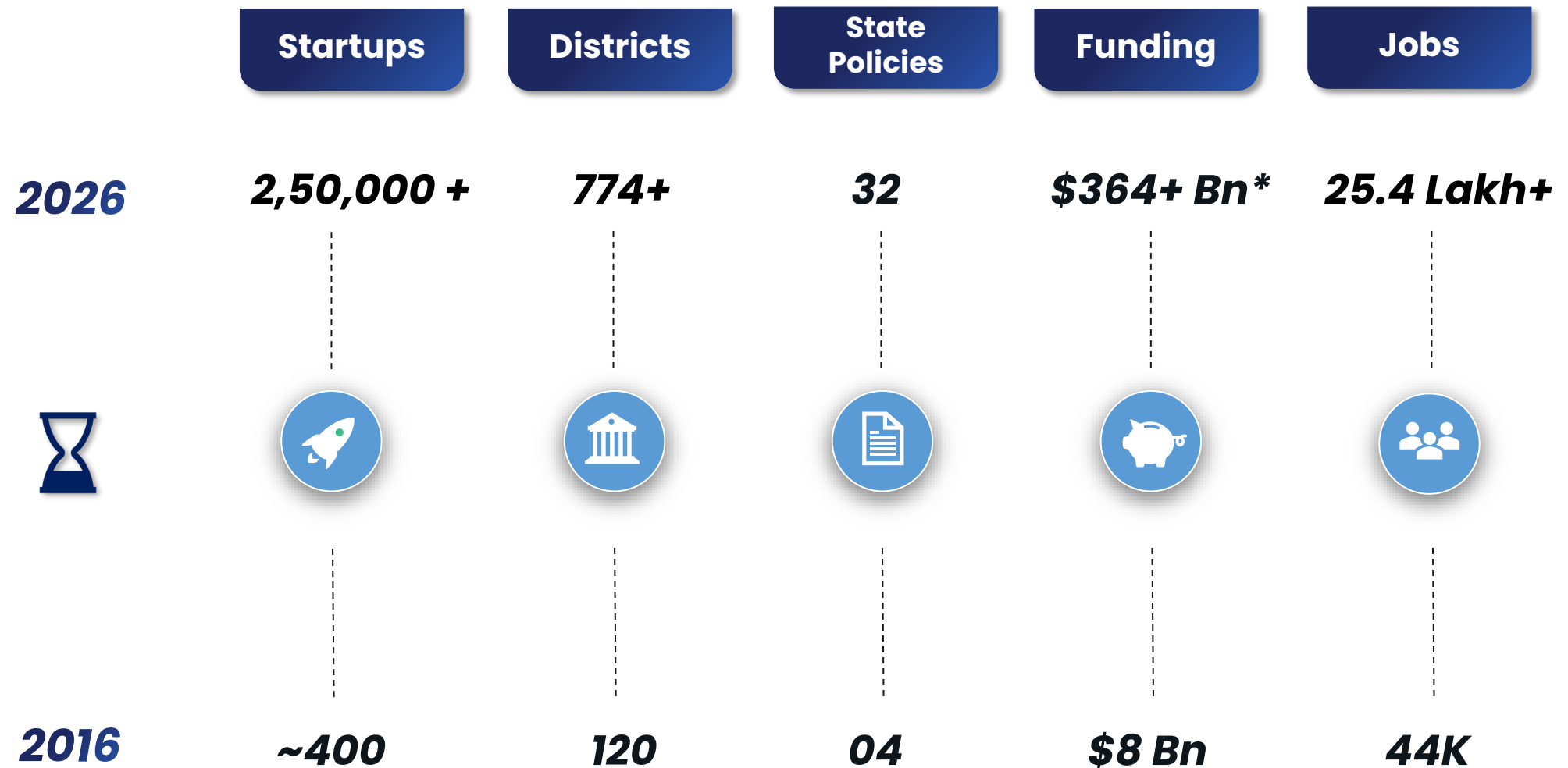
Provided that, for the purposes of this notification, a ‘Deep Tech Startup’ shall be deemed to be a ‘Startup’, and references to a ‘Startup’ shall include a ‘Deep Tech Startup’, unless otherwise stated.

Provided further that, the determination of whether an entity satisfies the attributes of a ‘Deep Tech Startup’ shall be made in accordance with such framework, parameters, and guidelines as may be issued by the Department, and based on the documents and information furnished by the applicant in the manner specified by the Department.

- Total Applications received until now: 2778**
- Evaluated: 2778**
- Applications Approved: 47**

Data as on 22/9/2026

Ecosystem Snapshot



Startup India Funding Schemes

Scheme	Outlay (INR)	Primary Eligibility	Focus Area	Beneficiaries
Fund of Funds for Startups 1.0 (FY 2016)	10,000 Crore	DPIIT-recognised startups	Early-stage & growth equity	• 166 AIFs • 1,475+ startups
Fund of Funds for Startups 2.0 (FY 2027)	10,000 Crore	DPIIT-recognised startups	Deep tech, AI, clean energy	• Investments through SEBI-registered AIFs for startups
Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (FY 2022-FY2029)	945 Crore	DPIIT-recognised Startups which are less than 2 years old	Proof of concept prototype development	• 219 incubators • 4194 startups
Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (FY 2023)	Demand Driven	DPIIT-recognised startups	Access to Collateral-free debt	532 loan accounts

Key Regulatory Relaxations

Tax Benefits

- Section 80-IAC: 100% income tax exemption on profits for 3 consecutive years within first 10 years and eligibility extended to startups incorporated before 1 April 2030.
- **As of 31st August 2026, 4,467 Startups have been granted Certificate of Eligibility under Section 80-IAC by the IMB.**
- ESOP perquisite tax deferral for employees of 80-IAC certified startups
- Angel tax abolished from 1 April 2025 (Finance Act 2024)

Compliance Relaxations

- Self-certification under 9 labour laws and 3 environment laws; no inspections for 5 years

Procurement Access

- Exempt from prior experience and prior turnover criteria in government tenders
- EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) waiver; registered as sellers on GeM
- **43,260 startups are onboarded on GeM that have delivered 6,23,491 orders worth INR 68,105 Crores**

Global Standing and IP

- **Global Standing and IP Creation Trends (Global Innovation Index)**
 - Rank improved from 81 (2015) to 38 (2025) across 139 economies
 - India leads globally in ICT services exports
 - Four clusters in GII world top 100: Bengaluru (21st), Delhi (26th), Mumbai (46th), Chennai (84th)
- **Patents and IP**
 - 19,400+ patent applications filed by startups cumulatively
 - Filings grew from 2,850 in FY 2024-25 to 4,480 in FY 2025-26 (57% increase)
 - India ranked 6th globally in patent filing activity

How Startup India Supports Global Market Access

Backed by 21 Startup Bridges, 1 Strategic Alliance with Malaysia & 1 Innovation Handshake with USA



Global Forums & Flagship Events

Places Indian founders on the world's most influential stages - SLUSH, GITEX, VivaTech, TechBBQ, Web Summit, SWITCH to build investor networks and generate deal flow.

864 startups showcased

e.g. Isonomy Legal 271 raised USD 10Mn at SLUSH 2023; Stemroboo & BeYouTea entered the Dubai market via GITEX 2024.



Market & Investor Access

Structured programs - fellowships & residencies, joint R&D grants (AI, Industry 4.0), investor pitching & mentorship

300+ startups in Japan Pitching Series; provided mentorship and training to 2,000+ students virtually (Canada)

e.g. Niramai raised a USD 6Mn Series A after selection via the India-Japan Startup Bridge.



Multilateral Forums & Alliances

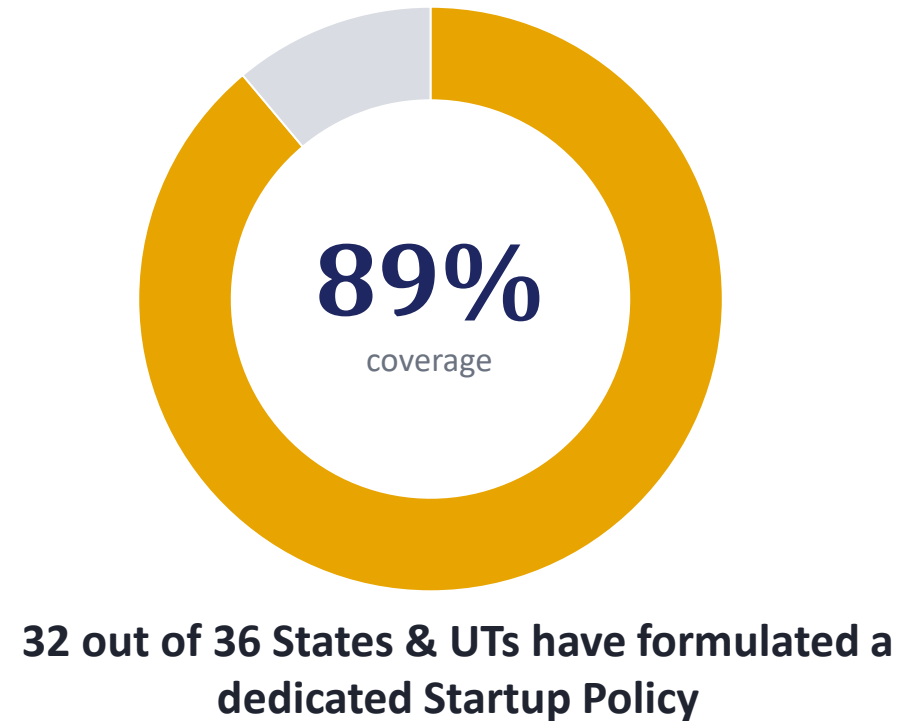
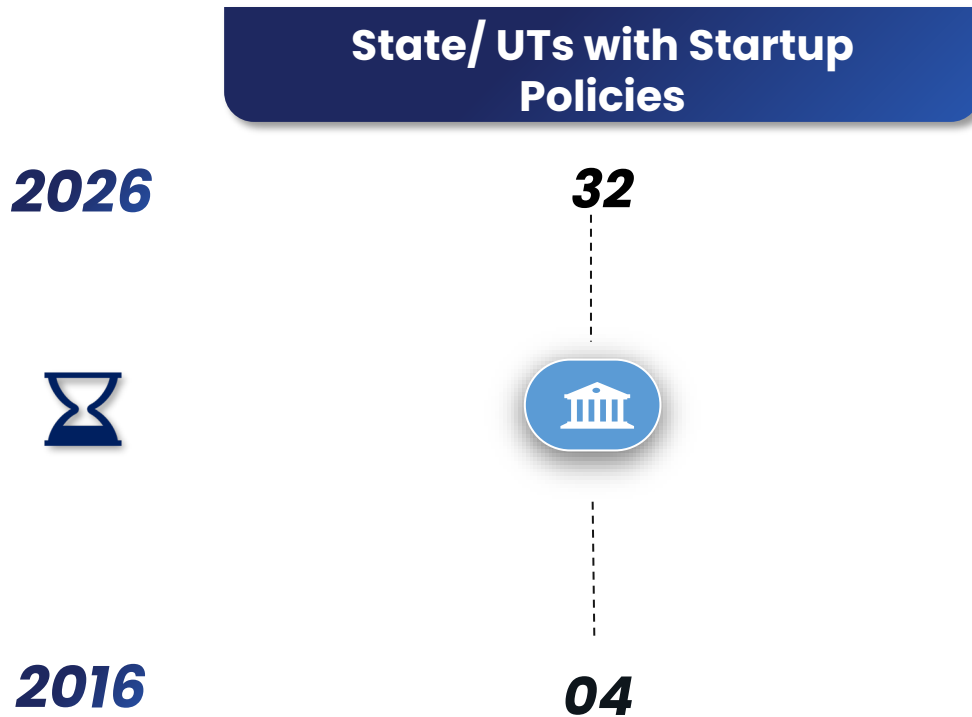
Participation in Startup20 (G20), BRICS, ASEAN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and WAIPA to align India's ecosystem with global policy dialogues and investment networks.

5 SCO Startup Forums since 2020 (India: Permanent Chair)

50+ ASEAN startups hosted (2024)

BRICS Startup Forum 2025 launched the BRICS Startup Knowledge Hub

States and Union Territories with Startup Policies



Ecosystem Building: Transforming Entrepreneurial Journey across States and Districts (TEJAS)

TEJAS, as introduced by Startup India, DPIIT, is the first step in building awareness at the district level, helping stakeholders, especially youth, women, and first-time founders, to understand available opportunities provided by the government and actively participate in the startup ecosystem.

OBJECTIVES

- Promote local innovation across 112 Aspirational Districts (as per Niti Aayog) and 20 other additional districts with nascent startup ecosystems, as identified by DPIIT through workshops tailored to the specific challenges faced in the regions
- To ensure awareness, access to funding opportunities, mentorship and other opportunities, especially for aspiring communities, women, students, and youth in Tier 2, 3, and 4 regions
- To foster entrepreneurship as a core pillar of district-level development through decentralized governance & local institutions

Thank You

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