

Government Schemes & Initiatives **for** **Startups**

A founder's route-map through 69 Central Government schemes – grants, equity, credit, incubation, IP and market access – organised by need and by stage, so you always know your next stop.

69

SCHEMES MAPPED

30

STARTUP-SPECIFIC

39

STARTUP-RELEVANT

5

STAGE CHECKPOINTS

How to Read This Playbook

Most founders don't lose funding opportunities because a scheme didn't exist — they lose them because no one showed them the route. This playbook is built to fix that.

It consolidates 69 Central Government schemes, programmes and support mechanisms relevant to Indian startups — from ideation grants to growth-stage equity, credit guarantees, incubation and market access — into one navigable reference. Section 1 helps you find your scheme in under five minutes. Section 2 is the full catalog, organised as compact, scannable cards instead of dense tables. Section 3 links every state's own startup portal. Section 4 defines the terms you'll meet along the way.

How each card works — every scheme card carries a support-type badge (Grant, Equity, Credit, Incubation, IP Support or Market Access), a stage badge (who it best suits), a plain-language summary, the top eligibility and benefit points, and the fastest way to apply.

Disclaimer. This playbook is a consolidated reference compiled on a best-effort basis from publicly available government sources current as of June 2026. Scheme guidelines, windows, and eligibility criteria change — always verify current details on the official website or scheme guideline linked in each card before applying. This publication does not substitute official notifications from the concerned Ministry, Department or implementing agency.

Table of Contents

Section 1 — Quick Navigation

Decision Tree — Find Your Scheme in 5 Questions	05
“What Do You Need?” Index	06
Startup Lifecycle Map	07

Section 2 — Scheme Catalog

Part A — Startup-Specific Schemes (30)	10
Part B — Startup-Relevant Schemes (39)	21

Section 3 — State & UT Startup Portals

All 32 State / UT Initiative Links	34
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Section 4 — Glossary

Key Terms & Definitions	35
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SECTION 01

Quick Navigation

Your fastest route to the right scheme. Three tools, one goal: stop searching, start applying.



Decision Tree — Find Your Scheme in 5 Questions

Answer in order. Each branch points to the most relevant schemes — you can belong to more than one.

Q1 Are you a student, early-stage researcher, or aspiring entrepreneur — not yet a registered startup?

YES

NIDHI-EIR · E-YUVA · SITARE · Atal Tinkering Labs

NO — I'M REGISTERED / INCORPORATED

Continue to the next question below

Q2 What is your current startup stage?

IDEA / POC — GRANTS TO START

BIG · PRAYAS 2.0 · RKVY · SPARSH · GREAT

PROTOTYPE & BEYOND — READY TO BUILD

SISFS · NIDHI-SSP · TIDE 2.0 · IDEX · IN-SPACe Seed Fund · DCIS

Q3 What type of support do you primarily need?

GRANT — FUNDING, NO REPAYMENT

SISFS · BIG · IDEX · ADITI · PRAYAS 2.0 · DCIS · RKVY · SPARSH · GREAT · NQM

EQUITY — YOU GIVE A STAKE

FFS · Startup India FoF 2.0 · AcE · AgriSURE · BIRAC SEED · LEAP Fund · SAMRIDH · Antariksh VCF

Q4 Do you need a loan / credit, or IP & market-access support?

LOAN / CREDIT GUARANTEE

CGSS · CGTMSE · PMMY · Stand-Up India

IP PROTECTION / MARKET ACCESS

SIPP · GeM Startup Runway

Q5 Are you in a specific strategic or deep-tech sector?

DEFENCE / SPACE / QUANTUM

IDEX, ADITI, TDF · IN-SPACe Seed Fund, Antariksh VCF, Space TAF · NQM

BIOTECH · AGRI · SEMICON

BIG, BIRAC SEED, LEAP Fund, SPARSH, AcE, SBIRI · RKVY, AgriSURE, BHARATI · DLI, C2S, GENESIS

"What Do You Need?" Index

Find schemes based on the type of support you're looking for.

I NEED...	STARTUP-SPECIFIC	STARTUP-RELEVANT
Grant (funding, no repayment)	SISFS, BIG, PRAYAS 2.0, iDEX, ADITI, DCIS, IN-SPACe Seed Fund, RKVY, SPARSH, GREAT, NQM	TIDE 2.0, BIPP, SBIRI, PRISM, PACE, E-YUVA, SITARE, NM-ICPS, MAHIR
Equity investment (VC / angel)	FFS, Startup India FoF 2.0, AcE, AgriSURE, BIRAC SEED, LEAP Fund, SAMRIDH	Antariksh VCF, SRI Fund, SBIRI
Loan or credit support	CGSS	CGTMSE, PMMY, Stand-Up India, PMFME, NLM, Yuva Sahakar
Incubation / lab / mentoring	GENESIS, SAMRIDH, STPI-NGIS, C2S	NIDHI-TBI, i-TBI, BioNEST, AICs, ACICs, EICs, TIDE 2.0, NM-ICPS, ESDP
IP protection (patents, trademarks)	SIPP	—
Market access / sell to government	GeM Startup Runway	International Cooperation Scheme, BHARATI
Sector-specific support	iDEX / ADITI / TDF (Defence) · IN-SPACe Seed Fund / NQM (Space, Quantum) · RKVY / AgriSURE (Agri) · DCIS (Telecom) · DLI / C2S (Semiconductor)	BioNEST (Biotech), MAHIR (Energy), NLM (Livestock), SVEP (Rural)

Startup Lifecycle Map

Find schemes aligned to where you are in your startup journey.

STAGE	STARTUP-SPECIFIC	STARTUP-RELEVANT
Ideation You have an idea but no prototype or product yet	NIDHI-EIR, BIG, PRAYAS 2.0, PRISM, RKVY, SPARSH, GENESIS, E-YUVA, SITARE	Atal Tinkering Labs, ESDP, ACICs, i-TBI
Prototype / PoC Idea validated, building or testing a prototype	SISFS (grant part), PRAYAS 2.0, IDEX SPARK, IN-SPACe Seed Fund, DCIS, TDF, C2S, GREAT, S&T-PRISM	TIDE 2.0, SBIRI, BIPP, PACE, NM-ICPS
Seed / Early-Stage Prototype done; entering market or scaling pilot	SISFS (debt part), NIDHI-SSP, LEAP Fund, SAMRIDH, AgriSURE (early), iDEX Prime, ADITI	CGTMSE, PMMY, BioNEST, STPI-NGIS
Growth / Scaling Product in market; scaling operations and team	FFS, Startup India FoF 2.0, AcE, AgriSURE, Antariksh VCF, NQM, RDI Scheme, CGSS	SRI Fund
Market Access & IP Ready to sell, export, or protect your innovation	GeM Startup Runway, SIPP (IP), BHARATI (agri exports)	Space TAF, MSME Champions



GRANT / EQUITY / CREDIT / INCUBATION / IP / MARKET ACCESS – support type



STAGE – best-suited founder stage

SECTION 02

Scheme Catalog

69 schemes, each distilled to what actually matters – what it is, who qualifies, what you get, and how to apply. Part A covers schemes written specifically for startups; Part B covers broader schemes startups commonly access.



SECTION 02 • PART A

Startup-Specific Schemes

Schemes where startups are the primary or sole named eligible beneficiary. · 30 schemes.



Startup Specific Schemes

01

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
(DPIIT)

EQUITY

SEED / EARLY-STAGE

The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme helps new startups get early funding so they can turn ideas into real products and grow, filling the gap when they typically struggle to find initial investment.

WHO CAN APPLY

- DPIIT recognised startups
- Incorporated not more than 2 years ago at the time of application

WHAT YOU GET

- Up to ₹20 lakh as grant for validation of Proof of Concept, or prototype development, or...
- Up to ₹50 lakh of investment for market entry, commercialisation, or scaling up through...

APPLY Visit to apply. Last date for startups to apply under SISFS was 31 May 2026....

<https://seedfund.startupindia.gov.in/>

02

Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
(DPIIT)

EQUITY

SCALING

The Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) provides capital to venture funds so they can invest in startups, helping increase the availability of funding and support the growth of India's startup ecosystem.

WHO CAN APPLY

- SEBI-registered AIFs can apply for capital under the Scheme
- The funding is provided to DPIIT recognised startups by selected AIFs

WHAT YOU GET

- The Scheme has a corpus of ₹10,000 crore, which is aimed to be provided to startup through...

APPLY The application process for AIFs has been digitalised and a detailed...

<https://www.sidbivcf.in/en/funds/ffs>

03

Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
(DPIIT)

EQUITY

SCALING

Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 supports startups by channeling government capital into venture funds to boost investment in emerging businesses, aiming to fuel innovation in priority sectors.

WHO CAN APPLY

- SEBI-registered AIFs can apply for capital under the Scheme
- The funding is provided to DPIIT recognised startups by selected AIFs

WHAT YOU GET

- The Scheme has a corpus of ₹10,000 crore, which is aimed to be provided to startup through...

APPLY The application process for AIFs has been digitalised and a detailed...

<https://www.dpiit.gov.in/static/uploads/2026/04/d02f1b35bcc661c31e8cb>

Startup Specific Schemes

04 Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)

CREDIT

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

CREDIT SUPPORT SCHEME FOR...

The Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) helps startups access loans by assuring lenders that the government will cover part of the risk, making it easier for young businesses to get funding without collateral.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Eligible (i) Scheduled Commercial Banks and Financial Institutions; (ii) RBI registered...
- Eligible borrowers are DPIIT recognised startups

WHAT YOU GET

- Maximum guarantee of ₹20 crore or actual outstanding credit amount, whichever is less. For...

APPLY Visit the website for details: ...

<https://www.ncgtc.in/en/product-details/CGSS/Credit->

05 Scheme for Facilitating Startups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP)

IP SUPPORT

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

ANY STAGE

The Scheme for Facilitating Startups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) helps startups protect their ideas by providing support and cost relief for filing patents, trademarks, and designs, encouraging innovation and safeguarding...

WHO CAN APPLY

- DPIIT recognised startups
- Applicants must self-declare that they have not availed funds under any other government...

WHAT YOU GET

- Support for filing and processing patent, trademark and design applications
- Professional fees of facilitators are paid/reimbursed by the office of CGPDTM; startups...

APPLY Visit IP India SIPP Page / Facilitator Details: ...

<https://www.dpiit.gov.in/offering/schemes->

06 GeM Startup Runway

MARKET ACCESS

Department of Commerce

ANY STAGE

The GeM Startup Runway enables startups to showcase and sell their innovative products directly to government buyers, helping them access public procurement opportunities and grow their business.

WHO CAN APPLY

- DPIIT-recognised startups registered as sellers/service providers on GeM
- Startups with products/services in existing GeM categories or in dedicated startup sectors...

WHAT YOU GET

- Access to a large base of government buyers across ministries, departments, PSUs and other...
- Exemption/relaxation from requirements such as prior turnover, prior experience, and Earnest...

APPLY Visit GeM Startup Runway:

https://gem.gov.in/Startup_Runway

Startup Specific Schemes

07

NIDHI – Seed Support Program (SSP)

Department of Science & Technology (DST)

INCUBATION

SEED / POST-INCUBATION...

The NIDHI – Seed Support Program (SSP) provides early-stage funding and support to innovators to help them develop and validate their ideas, encouraging the creation of viable startups.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Incubatee should be a DPIIT recognised startup with minimum of three months of residency at...

WHAT YOU GET

- Under the program, the startups are supported primarily for product development, testing and...

APPLY Applications details are released on the website

<https://nidhi.dst.gov.in/nidhissp/>

08

NIDHI – Promotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring Technology Entrepreneurs (PRAYAS) 2.0

Department of Science & Technology (DST)

GRANT

IDEATION TO PROTOTYPE...

The NIDHI PRAYAS 2.0 scheme provides early-stage funding and prototyping support to young innovators, helping them turn their technology ideas into working products and viable startups.

WHO CAN APPLY

- A DPIIT recognised startup or an individual innovator are eligible to apply under the program
- In case of a recognised startup, it has to be incorporated in India, not more than 5 years of...

WHAT YOU GET

- Level 1 – PCs: Each innovator/startup supported by a Level 1 Centre PC may receive up to ₹20...
- Level 2 – APCs: Provides prototyping grants of up to ₹40 lakh per innovator/ startup. DST...

APPLY Applicant incubators can submit the proposal online in the prescribed proforma,...

<https://nidhi-prayas.org/>

09

Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) Scheme

Department of Science & Technology (DST)

EQUITY

DEEP-TECH SCALING

The Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) Scheme provides funding and support to help organizations create and improve new technologies or ideas so they can boost innovation, economic growth, and global competitiveness.

WHO CAN APPLY

- The RDI Fund is provided to Second Level Fund Managers (SLFM) which include Alternative...
- The SLFM then provides funds to private companies including DPIIT recognised startups...

WHAT YOU GET

- Loan – Debt funding (via loan or optionally convertible debt) from the SLFM, calculated as 50%...
- Equity – Funding via equity or equity linked instruments from the SLFM, calculated as 50% of...

APPLY Visit -

<https://rdifund.anrf.gov.in/>

Startup Specific Schemes

10

National Quantum Mission (NQM)

Department of Science & Technology (DST)

SUPPORT

DEEP-TECH R&D PROMOTING...

The National Quantum Mission (NQM) supports research and development of advanced quantum technologies (like quantum computing and secure communication) so India can build cutting-edge capabilities and stay competitive in future tech.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Academic institutions, R&D labs, and consortia working in quantum computing, communication,...
- Startups working in quantum technology, preferably DPIIT-registered and...

WHAT YOU GET

- Funding and institutional support for quantum R&D, prototypes, product development, and...
- Startup support can include seed/prototype funding and scale-up support routed through...

APPLY Startups apply through online calls/challenges; applications are evaluated on... <https://www.psa.gov.in/mission/national->

11

Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Start-ups and MSMEs (PRISM)

Department of Science & Technology (DST)

GRANT

IDEATION TO PROTOTYPE

The PRISM scheme provides funding and support to individual innovators, startups, and small businesses so they can turn new ideas into useful products and grow their businesses.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Public funded institutions or organizations viz. Autonomous Organizations or Society...

WHAT YOU GET

- Support of ₹12 lakh per annum would be given to TOCICs to cover expenses. In addition, 10% of...
- Category-I Up to ₹2 lakh or 90% of the approved project cost

APPLY Website: [services/details/promoting-innovations-in-individuals-start-ups-and-...](https://www.dsi.gov.in/offering/schemes-and-) <https://www.dsi.gov.in/offering/schemes-and->

12

Biotechnology Ignition Grant Scheme (BIG)

Department of Biotechnology / Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance...

GRANT

IDEATION TO POC...

The Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) Scheme provides early-stage funding and support to biotech innovators and startups so they can turn promising scientific ideas into viable products and businesses.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Individual Entrepreneurs and startups
- The applicant must be incubated in an incubator (may/ may not be supported by BIRAC)

WHAT YOU GET

- Grant-in-aid of up to ₹50 lakh provided to startup for a period of up to 18 months
- During the BIG tenure, BIRAC extends several networking opportunities to connect with experts,...

APPLY BIRAC issues a national call inviting applications under BIG at least twice a... https://birac.nic.in/webcontent/1761936564_big_new_guidelines_nov_20

Startup Specific Schemes

13

Biotechnology Innovation Fund – Accelerating Entrepreneurs (AcE)

Department of Biotechnology / Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance...

INCUBATION

SCALING

The Biotechnology Innovation Fund – Accelerating Entrepreneurs (AcE) provides financial support to biotech startups so they can develop and scale innovative solutions faster and bring them to market.

WHO CAN APPLY

- AcE Fund invests and partners with SEBI-registered Category I and II AIFs in biotech sector
- Startups and SMEs in subsectors such as Healthcare, Life Sciences, Pharma, Biopharma,...

WHAT YOU GET

- The AcE Fund shall make a maximum capital commitment of up to ₹30 crore or up to 30% of the...
- Ticket size of up to ₹7 crore, with provision of additional follow-on funding up to ₹3.5 crore...

APPLY Apply on:

https://birac.nic.in/webcontent/ace_fund_guidelines.pdf

14

BIRAC Incubator SEED Fund (SEED)

Department of Biotechnology / Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance...

EQUITY

SEED LEAP FUND – ...

The BIRAC Incubator SEED Fund (SEED) provides early-stage funding through incubators to biotech startups so they can develop their ideas into viable products and launch successful businesses.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Biotech/Med-Tech/Life Sciences startups

WHAT YOU GET

- Seed funding as equity and equity linked instruments up to ₹30 lakh per startup

APPLY Refer to the BIRAC Incubator SEED Fund Scheme website for more information of...<https://www.birac.nic.in/seedFundNew.php>

15

LEAP Fund – Launching Entrepreneurial Driven Affordable Products

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) / BIRAC

EQUITY

COMMERCIALISATION SPARSH...

The LEAP Fund supports entrepreneurs in creating affordable, innovative products so more people can access useful technologies while encouraging business growth.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Startups in Biotech/med-tech/life science sectors

WHAT YOU GET

- Funding support of more than ₹30 lakh and up to ₹1 crore per startup. Startup eligible and...
- BioNEST Bioincubators (LEAP fund partners) will be given up to ₹5 crore fund/ partner for...

APPLY Apply on:

https://birac.nic.in/webcontent/1616486900_leap_fund_guidelines.pdf

Startup Specific Schemes

16

SPARSH – Social Innovation Programme for Products Affordable & Relevant to Social Health

GRANT

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) / BIRAC

IDEATION TO VALIDATION...

The SPARSH programme supports innovators in developing affordable health-related solutions so that essential healthcare products can reach and benefit underserved communities.

WHO CAN APPLY

- CAN
- There are two components under the initiative – (i) Affordable Product APPLY? Development and...

WHAT YOU GET

- Grant-in-aid assistance up to ₹50 lakh for a period of up to 18 months

APPLY The call for Letter of Intent (LoI) is announced twice a year on a thematic...

<https://www.birac.nic.in/>

17

AgriSURE – Agri Fund for Startups & Rural Enterprises

INCUBATION

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

SCALING INNOVATION &...

The AgriSURE Fund supports agri-startups and rural enterprises with funding and resources so they can develop innovative farming and rural solutions, improving livelihoods and strengthening the agricultural sector.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Startups working in agriculture and rural development sectors
- SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), sector-specific, sector-agnostic and debt...

WHAT YOU GET

- Investment through two routes: Fund of Funds Scheme with ₹450 crore corpus and Direct Scheme...
- Supports around 85 startups, with ticket size up to ₹25 crore, subject to investment merit and...

APPLY Eligible startups or AIFs can approach NABVENTURES

<https://www.nabard.org/agrisure.aspx>

18

Innovation & Agri-Entrepreneurship Program (RKVY)

INCUBATION

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

IDEATION TO SEED SAMRIDH...

The Innovation & Agri-Entrepreneurship Program (RKVY) supports agri-startups with funding, mentorship, and incubation so they can develop innovative farming solutions and strengthen the agricultural sector.

WHO CAN APPLY

- CAN
- DPIIT-recognised startups. APPLY?

WHAT YOU GET

- Pre-seed support up to ₹5 lakh and seed-stage support up to ₹25 lakh via R-ABIs
- Provides grant-in-aid, incubation and mentoring support to eligible agri startups

APPLY Visit to apply

<https://agristartup.gov.in/LetterAndCircular/OperationalGuidelineRKVY>

Startup Specific Schemes

19

SAMRIDH – Startup Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development & Growth

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)

INCUBATION

SCALING GENESIS – ...

SAMRIDH is a government program that supports startups by funding and accelerating innovative tech products so they can grow faster and succeed in the market.

WHO CAN APPLY

- CAN
- Accelerators – registered as Section 8 company under Companies Act APPLY? 2013 or as Society...

WHAT YOU GET

- To startups: An investment of up to ₹40 lakh to the beneficiary startup (with an average of...
- To Accelerators: Accelerators develop customized acceleration programs to fit the needs of...

APPLY Startups to refer to the MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) to access the list of...

<https://msh.meity.gov.in/schemes/samridh>

20

GENESIS – Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)

SUPPORT

IDEATION TO SCALING STPI...

GENESIS is a government scheme that helps early-stage startups turn innovative ideas into viable businesses by providing funding, support, and guidance so new ventures can grow and create economic value.

WHO CAN APPLY

- CAN
- Entities registered under Section 8, Incubators, Accelerators, APPLY? Educational Institutes...

WHAT YOU GET

- Recurring financial support will be offered to approximately 50 IAs for the duration of the...
- Investment and pilot funding support to startups ranging from ₹10 lakh (for early-stage...

APPLY Applications are accepted throughout the year

https://www.meity.gov.in/static/uploads/2024/02/GENESIS_Admin_Appr

21

STPI – Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS)

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) / STPI

INCUBATION

IDEATION TO SCALING

NGIS is a government scheme that helps nurture early-stage tech startups by providing incubation support, funding, and mentorship so they can develop strong, scalable business ideas.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Indian startups working on software product development / technology- based solutions
- DPIIT-recognised startups are encouraged; individuals, academicians, researchers,...

WHAT YOU GET

- Seed / risk funding up to ₹25 lakh for promising startups
- Access to state-of-the-art incubation infrastructure, labs, equipment, and testing facilities

APPLY Applicants submit proposals online through the STPI/NGIS application portal...

<https://startup.stpi.in/>

Startup Specific Schemes

22 Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(MeitY)

INCUBATION

R&D TO PROTOTYPE

The program is to build India's semiconductor/chip-design ecosystem by training skilled manpower and supporting chip development.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Academic institutions and R&D organisations across India, including IITs, NITs, IIITs,...
- Startups and MSMEs can participate through academia-industry collaborative projects, grand...

WHAT YOU GET

- Financial and technical support for chip-design projects under approved categories
- Access to chip-design ecosystem support such as EDA tools, IP repository, fabrication/MPW...

APPLY Applicants submit project proposals online through the C2S portal in the...

<https://www.c2s.gov.in/>

23 Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

Ministry of Defence / Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)

INCUBATION

PROTOTYPE TO PROCUREMENT...

iDEX is a government initiative that supports startups and innovators in building defence solutions so the military can access advanced, homegrown technologies and reduce reliance on imports.

WHO CAN APPLY

- DPIIT recognised startups
- Any company incorporated under the Companies Act, primarily a MSME as defined under the MSME...

WHAT YOU GET

- Beneficiaries are provided grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D development
- Innovation activities like accelerator programs, challenges etc., are carried under the...

APPLY Visit for more information on Challenges organized under iDEX

<https://idex.gov.in/res>

24 Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI)

Ministry of Defence / Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)

INCUBATION

ADVANCED PROTOTYPE

ADITI is a government program that supports startups and innovators in building new defence and aerospace technologies so India can become more self-reliant and technologically advanced.

WHO CAN APPLY

- DPIIT recognised startups
- Any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013

WHAT YOU GET

- For Partner Incubators: The limit of payment amounting to ₹9 lakh per PI, based on...
- For Startups/Innovators: Quantum of Grant up to 50% of product development budget (PDB) with...

APPLY Visit for more information

<https://idex.gov.in/>

Startup Specific Schemes

25 Technology Development Fund (TDF)

DRDO, Ministry of Defence

GRANT

PROTOTYPE TO PRODUCT

Technology Development Fund (TDF) is a government scheme that gives funding and support to Indian companies and startups to develop defence technologies locally so the country can reduce dependence on imports and strengthen self-reliance.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Public limited company, a private limited company, a partnership firm, a limited liability...
- DPIIT recognised startups that should be incubated at one of the Central/State Government...

WHAT YOU GET

- The funding will be through provision of grants
- Project cost of up to ₹10 crore will be considered for funding, subject to a maximum funding...

APPLY Application process for the TDF is digitized. Applicants can register on the...

<https://tdf.drdo.gov.in/>

26 IN-SPACE Seed Fund Scheme

IN-SPACE, Department of Space

INCUBATION

SEED

IN-SPACE Seed Fund Scheme helps early-stage space startups build and test new space-tech ideas by giving them grant funding, mentoring, and support to move from concept to prototype.

WHO CAN APPLY

- DPIIT recognised early-stage startups with innovative ideas and projects that use space...
- Startups should not have received more than ₹50 lakh of monetary support under any Central or...

WHAT YOU GET

- Funding, mentorship, training and networking opportunities
- Grant of ₹1 crore provided to selected startups on milestone-basis

APPLY Announcement of opportunities made from time to time on

https://www.inspace.gov.in/inspace?id=announcement_for_opportunities

27 Digital Communication Innovation Square (DCIS)

Department of Telecommunications (DoT)

SUPPORT

PROTOTYPING TO PILOT...

Digital Communication Innovation Square (DCIS) supports startups and innovators in developing new digital communication technologies so India can strengthen its telecom sector and drive self-reliance.

WHO CAN APPLY

- DPIIT recognised startups
- Any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013, primarily a Micro, Small...

WHAT YOU GET

- Milestone based support:
- Startups up to ₹50 lakh

APPLY Apply on:

<https://www.dot.gov.in/offerings/schemes-and-services/details/dcis->

Startup Specific Schemes

28

GREAT – Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles

Ministry of Textiles (National Technical Textiles Mission)

INCUBATION

PROTOTYPE TO...

GREAT gives funding and incubator support to innovators and startups in technical textiles so they can turn prototypes into market-ready products and technologies.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Individual innovators who are Indian citizens aged 21 years or above, incubated with an...
- Startup companies incorporated as a private limited company, partnership firm or LLP, with...

WHAT YOU GET

- Grant-in-aid of normally up to ₹50 lakh per approved proposal for up to 18 months
- Funding is released milestone-wise, generally in 40:40:20 instalments

APPLY Apply online through the GREAT portal when applications are invited by...

<https://nttm.texmin.gov.in/StartupRegistration/StartupUserRegistration>

29

BHARATI – Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement & Incubation for Export Innovation

APEDA, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

INCUBATION

MARKET ACCESS S&T-PRISM - ...

BHARATI helps agri-food and agritech startups become export-ready by giving them acceleration support, market access, and connections to the ecosystem needed to sell innovative products globally.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Agri-food startups developing innovative/high-value products for export, technology and...
- Solution providers for SPS challenges, including startups, individual researchers, innovators...

WHAT YOU GET

- Acceleration support covering product development, export readiness, regulatory compliance and...
- Access to APEDA's ecosystem, including industry bodies, state agricultural boards,...

APPLY Visit for more information

<https://apeda.gov.in/bharati/>

30

S&T-PRISM – Promotion of Research & Innovation in Mining, Minerals & Recycling Sector

Ministry of Mines

INCUBATION

PROTOTYPE TO PILOT

S&T-PRISM helps early-stage startups in mining, minerals, metals, and recycling turn innovative ideas into working prototypes and pilot-ready solutions through funding and incubation support.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Startups operating at the early stages in the mining and metal industry

WHAT YOU GET

- To Startups: Grant of up to ₹2 crore on milestone basis to startups showing capability,...
- To Incubators: Grant of up to ₹10 crore to incubators disbursed on milestone-basis

APPLY Follow the instructions provided in the scheme guidelines 7565.pdf

<https://mines.gov.in/admin/storage/app/uploads/655212bdb9e5b169987>

SECTION 02 • PART B

Startup-Relevant Schemes

Broader schemes — MSMEs, companies, institutions — that startups commonly access and benefit from. · 39 schemes.



Startup Relevant Schemes

31

NIDHI – Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR)

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

INCUBATION

IDEATION NATIONAL MISSION...

NIDHI-EIR is a fellowship scheme that gives young people with startup ideas monthly financial support, workspace, and mentoring so they can turn their idea into a business

WHO CAN APPLY

- The entrepreneur should be an Indian citizen. They should have completed minimum 4 years of...

WHAT YOU GET

- Grant ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹30,000 per month for a period of 12 months, extendable up to 18...
- The selected NIDHI-TBI will received a grant of ₹39.6 lakh each year, of which ₹36 lakh is to...

APPLY The program is announced by the NIDHI-TBI locally. Applications by the EIR are...

<https://nidhi.dst.gov.in/>

32

National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) – Technology Innovation Hubs

Department of Science & Technology (DST)

SUPPORT

PROTOTYPE TO SCALING...

NM-ICPS Technology Innovation Hubs support people and startups working on advanced technologies by giving them funding and non-financial support to turn ideas into real products and businesses.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Under the 25 TIHs, individuals and entities including startups, students, entrepreneurs, and...

WHAT YOU GET

- Eligible beneficiaries are provided with financial and non-financial support for research and...

APPLY Technology Innovation Hubs release call for proposals periodically for...

<https://nmicps.in/>

33

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations – Technology Business Incubator (NIDHI-TBI)

Department of Science and Technology

INCUBATION

INCUBATION NIDHI -...

NIDHI-TBI supports institutions in setting up incubators so they can help technology-based ideas grow into startups.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Host Institute (HI) such as Academic/Technical/R&D Institutes and other institutions with a...
- A legal entity registered in India with the clear purpose and objective of promoting research,...

WHAT YOU GET

- Non-recurring capital: For publicly funded institutes, 100% support can be provided for...
- Recurring: Out of the total recurring expenditure incurred by the NIDHI- TBI against the...

APPLY Proposal is to be submitted in the prescribed proforma available at

<https://nidhi.dst.gov.in/nidhitbi/>

Startup Relevant Schemes

34

NIDHI – Inclusive-Technology Business Incubator (i-TBI)

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

INCUBATION

INCUBATION (UNDERSERVED...)

NIDHI i-TBI supports institutions in underserved regions to set up incubators so local innovators and startups can get the space, funding, and support needed to build new ventures.

WHO CAN APPLY

- The HI is to provide up to 10,000 square feet (minimum 7,000 square feet) of built-up space to...
- The HI shall agree to establish separate Section 8 company to professionally manage the i-TBI...

WHAT YOU GET

- DST will provide the necessary capital fund to establish the infrastructure of i-TBI
- The i-TBI is provided with a maximum funding of ₹5 crore over a period of 3 years

APPLY Visit the online portal i.e.,

<https://nidhi.dst.gov.in/nidhiitbi/>

35

NIDHI-Accelerator

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

INCUBATION

ACCELERATION

NIDHI-Accelerator helps incubators run short, intensive programs that give promising startups mentoring, networks, and demo-day support so they can grow faster.

WHO CAN APPLY

- TBIs previously funded or currently funded by DST or any other Central or State government...

WHAT YOU GET

- Contribution towards the overall budget for running accelerators shall not exceed ₹40 lakh per...
- Accelerator Program with a maximum limit of ₹30 lakh, that includes manpower, logistics,...

APPLY Visit the online portal

<https://nidhi.dst.gov.in/>

36

NIDHI-Centres of Excellence (CoE)

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

INCUBATION

SCALING

NIDHI-CoE supports established incubators in building world-class facilities and services so that high-potential technology startups can turn innovations into scalable businesses.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Existing incubator with incubation experience of at least 5 years
- For non-academic institution, it should be a legal entity registered in India with the clear...

WHAT YOU GET

- An enhanced support of maximum of ₹50 crore in 5 years
- Public funded institutions: Would be eligible for 100% support including building

APPLY Proposals are received throughout the year. Format for the proposal is provided...

<https://nidhi.dst.gov.in/>

Startup Relevant Schemes

37 BioAngels

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) /
BIRAC

INCUBATION

EARLY-STAGE

BioAngels helps biotech and related startups raise investment by connecting them with angel investors who also provide expert mentoring and industry access.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Startups and entrepreneurs operating in Biotech, Medtech, Healthtech, Pharma, Cleantech &...

WHAT YOU GET

- BioAngels provides financial incentives, mentoring, and market access
- It aims to fuel the ecosystem through interactions with high-quality investors and industry...

APPLY Apply here:

<https://bioangels.vc/about-us/>

38 BioNEST Programme

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of...

INCUBATION

INCUBATION BIOTECHNOLOGY...

The BioNEST program enables certain entities (educational institutions, incubators etc.) to create globally competent bio-incubation facilities for targeted scaling up of biotech startup ecosystem.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Relevant incorporated Indian legal entities including: Educational institutions, Business...

WHAT YOU GET

- Grant-in-aid, based on the need and scope of the project as adjudged by the BioNEST committee
- BIRAC funding to cater to refurbishment/ renovation of space, equipment, furniture and...

APPLY Interested applicants may submit their applications online via

https://www.birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=1120

39 Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP)

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of...

GRANT

VALIDATION TO...

Under BIPP, the Government offers support to startups in partnership with industries for research in frontier futuristic technology areas.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Single company or consortia of companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013; or...
- Public/private university/colleges in India

WHAT YOU GET

- One time grant-in-aid (subject to a maximum of ₹50 lakh) is provided by BIRAC to those...
- If the startup has received funding from BIRAC before, BIRAC contribution will be restricted...

APPLY Call for Applications are announced twice a year (1st April – 15th May; 1st...

https://birac.nic.in/webcontent/1745298172_BIPP_scheme_guidelines_1

Startup Relevant Schemes

40

Empowering Youth for Undertaking Value Added Innovative Translational Research (E-YUVA)

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of...

INCUBATION

IDEATION (STUDENTS)...

E-YUVA supports students and young researchers with funding, mentoring, and incubation support so they can turn useful biotech ideas into real solutions or startups.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Innovation Fellows: An Indian Student who has completed Masters/ Ph.D. in any discipline
- E-YUVA Fellows: Indian students pursuing under graduation in any domain

WHAT YOU GET

- The Scheme provides funding support – through fellowship and research grants
- Monthly fellowship grant provided under the Scheme ranges between ₹30,000-₹50,000. Annual...

APPLY Two Calls for Applications announced in a year

https://birac.nic.in/e_yuva.php

41

Students Innovations for Translation & Advancement of Research Explorations (SITARE)

Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

INCUBATION

IDEATION TO TRANSLATION...

SITARE supports student innovators in biotechnology with funding, training, and mentoring so they can turn promising research ideas into practical solutions or startups.

WHO CAN APPLY

- SITARE-GYTI: An Indian Student pursuing Ph.D./Masters in any discipline
- SITARE-Appreciation Grant: Students pursuing undergraduate programme in any discipline,...

WHAT YOU GET

- SITARE-GYTI: Innovative student projects receive funding support of up to ₹15 lakh each for...
- SITARE-Appreciation Grant: Students selected to attend Biotech Innovation Ignition School...

APPLY For SITARE-GYTI: The call for application opens once a year in August/September...

<https://www.birac.nic.in/>

42

Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise (PACE)

Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

GRANT

RESEARCH TRANSLATION...

PACE helps academic institutions turn important research into early-stage products and then supports industry partnerships to validate and take those innovations closer to real-world use.

WHO CAN APPLY

- For AIR: Academia (Public or Private Institute, University, NGO, or Research Foundation) with...
- For CRS: Mandatory collaboration with Industry/LLP is needed. The Industry collaborator must...

WHAT YOU GET

- PACE provides for BIRAC contribution of up to 100% of the project cost
- Financial support under AIR: Total cost of the project must not exceed ₹50 lakh (non-recurring...

APPLY Call for Applications are announced twice a year (1st April – 15th May; and 1st...

https://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=286

Startup Relevant Schemes

43 Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)

Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

GRANT

PROTOTYPE TO VALIDATION...

SBIRI supports biotech startups by funding product and process innovation, often with research partners, so they can develop and validate ideas for commercial use.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Biotechnology startups with/without partnerships with public/private universities, public or...

WHAT YOU GET

- For a project cost of up to ₹50 lakh, 100% BIRAC grant-in-aid is given to select applicants...
- For a project cost over ₹50 lakh, BIRAC grant-in-aid would be ₹50 lakh along with 70% of the...

APPLY Call for Applications are announced twice a year (1st April – 15th May; and 1st...

https://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=217

44 TIDE 2.0 – Technology Incubation & Development of Entrepreneurs

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

INCUBATION

EARLY-STAGE

TIDE 2.0 helps early-stage tech startups get funding, incubation, and mentoring so they can turn ideas and prototypes into market-ready products.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Information Technology based, DPIIT-recognised startups

WHAT YOU GET

- Extended to Entrepreneurs-in-residence (EiR) at various stages:
- Up to ₹4 lakh for idea to Proof of Concept

APPLY Startups to refer to the MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) to access the list of...

<https://msh.meity.gov.in/schemes/tide>

45 Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

SUPPORT

PROTOTYPE TO...

DLI provides incentives and access to advanced design infrastructure for domestic startups and MSMEs.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Domestic companies, startups and MSMEs engaged in semiconductor design or semiconductor-linked...
- Target areas include ICs, chipsets, SoCs, systems, IP cores and semiconductor-linked designs

WHAT YOU GET

- Chip Design Infrastructure Support: Access to EDA tools, IP cores, MPW prototyping and...
- Product Design Linked Incentive: Reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible expenditure, capped at...

APPLY Visit the official DLI portal and register/login

<http://chips-dli.gov.in/>

Startup Relevant Schemes

46

Antariksh Venture Capital Fund/ Space VCF

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE),...

EQUITY

SCALING

Antariksh Venture Capital Fund is a SEBI registered Alternative Investment Fund that invests in unlisted Indian space companies.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Indian companies operating in the Space sector with Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 4 and...

WHAT YOU GET

- The Fund would invest primarily by way of investments in privately negotiated equity...

APPLY Interested companies can apply on the website:

https://www.sidbventure.co.in/antariksh_venture_capital_fund.html

47

Space Technology Adoption Fund (TAF)

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE),...

SUPPORT

TRL ADVANCEMENT CREDIT...

The Space Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) helps Indian space companies turn early-stage technologies into commercial products by giving funding to support development and market readiness.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Indian non-government entities (NGEi) including startups, MSMEs and large industry

WHAT YOU GET

- Partial funding provided to the NGEi to work towards transforming early- stage technologies...

APPLY Interested companies can register and apply on the website:

https://www.inspace.gov.in/inspace?id=inspace_taf

48

Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro & Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

CREDIT

CREDIT SUPPORT

Under the CGTMSE, collateral free loan is provided to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) units.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Loans sanctioned to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) units, as per the definition of the...

WHAT YOU GET

- Collateral free loan is available for individual MSE on payment of guarantee fee to bank by...
- The cap of ₹10 crore is the maximum guarantee coverage limit (irrespective of the unit...

APPLY Apply to a MLI (Banks, NBFCs, FIs) registered with CGTMSE for MSE loan (Term...

https://www.cgtmse.in/Default/ViewFile/?id=1743176302611_CGTMSE

Startup Relevant Schemes

49

Self-Reliant India Fund (SRI Fund)

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

EQUITY

SCALING MSME CHAMPIONS...

The Self-Reliant India Fund (SRI Fund) helps MSMEs raise equity or quasi- equity capital through government-backed investment funds.

WHO CAN APPLY

- MSMEs, defined as per the MSMED Act, as amended from time to time

WHAT YOU GET

- Provision of growth capital in the form of equity or quasi-equity through Daughter Funds

APPLY Interested MSMEs can fill the form to show their interest:

https://dcmsme.gov.in/CLCS_TUS_Scheme/SRI_Fund/Scheme_Guideli

50

MSME Champions Scheme (erstwhile Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation (CLCS-TU))

Ministry of MSME

INCUBATION

COMPETITIVENESS

The MSME Champions Scheme helps MSMEs improve quality, adopt better technology, become more competitive, and grow through support for certification, innovation, design, and lean manufacturing.

WHO CAN APPLY

- MSMEs

WHAT YOU GET

- Subsidy on cost of ZED certification, Financial Assistance in Testing/Quality/Product,...

APPLY Apply here: handholding/msme-problem-complaint-welcome.htm

<https://champions.gov.in/Government->

51

International Cooperation Scheme

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

MARKET ACCESS

MARKET ACCESS

The International Cooperation Scheme helps MSMEs explore export markets by supporting their participation in international trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer- seller meets, and other activities that build global market access.

WHO CAN APPLY

- MSMEs, State/Central Government Organizations/ Institutions and Registered Industry/Enterprise...

WHAT YOU GET

- The scheme provides financial assistance on reimbursement to beneficiaries
- The Scheme has envisaged three components to provide support: 'Market Development Assistance'...

APPLY Applications can be made through the portal

https://ic.msme.gov.in/IC_APP/IC_Welcome.aspx

Startup Relevant Schemes

52

National SC-ST Hub Scheme

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

CREDIT

CAPACITY BUILDING / ...

The National SC-ST Hub Scheme helps SC/ST entrepreneurs start and grow businesses by providing support with funding, training, technology, marketing, and access to government procurement opportunities.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Existing and aspiring SC/ST entrepreneurs are the targeted beneficiaries

WHAT YOU GET

- Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy for technology enablement
- Capacity building of the beneficiaries

APPLY The scheme is implemented through online provision developed on NSSH website

<https://www.scsthub.in/>

53

Atal Innovation Mission – Atal Tinkering Labs

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog

GRANT

IDEATION (SCHOOL-LEVEL)

Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) are being established in schools across India as a workspace where students can learn innovation skills.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Schools in India (having at least Grade/Class VI to X) managed by State/Union...

WHAT YOU GET

- An ATL school is eligible for grant-in-aid of ₹20 lakh, with ₹10 lakh for capital expense and...

APPLY Interested schools intending to apply for ATLs may visit the AIM website and...

<https://aim.gov.in/atl-overview.php>

54

Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog

INCUBATION

INCUBATION

Academic and non-academic institutions can apply to AIM to set up Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) that provide infrastructure and access to sectoral expertise to innovative startups.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Academic institutions such as higher educational institutes, R&D institutes, etc
- Non-academic institutions such as corporate sector enterprises, alternative investment funds...

WHAT YOU GET

- Successful applicants would be provided grants-in-aid to set up the AIC for a period of 5...
- Up to ₹5 crore (in case no lab facilities are established) and Up to ₹10 crore (in case of...

APPLY Interested applicants may visit to know more

<https://aim.gov.in/pdf/AIC-Guidelines->

Startup Relevant Schemes

55

Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACIC)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog

SUPPORT

IDEATION TO INCUBATION...

Academic and non-academic institutions can apply to AIM to set up ACICs that provide infrastructure facilities and capacity building opportunities to entrepreneurs in aspiring cities.

WHO CAN APPLY

- The following academic and non-academic applicants with a minimum of 3 years of existence are...
- Academic applicants: UGC and AICTE affiliated Universities / College; Educational Institutions...

WHAT YOU GET

- Support up to ₹2.5 crore in multiple tranches, based on the approved budget made by the...
- Funding from AIM to cover 50% of total project

APPLY Interested applicants may submit their applications online via

<https://aim.gov.in/pdf/Flag->

56

Scheme for Scale-up Support to Established Incubation Centres (EICs)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog

INCUBATION

INCUBATION

This Scheme helps established incubators expand their space, services, funding support, and infrastructure so they can support more startups.

WHO CAN APPLY

- EICs registered in India as a legal entity in public, private or public-private partnership...
- Operational for a minimum of three years as of 1st August 2017

WHAT YOU GET

- Grant-in-aid support of up to ₹10 crore will be provided to EICs
- Balanced utilisation of fund as per suggestive activity-wise breakup is to be ensured

APPLY Interested applicants may visit [centres.php](https://aim.gov.in/pdf/EIC_guidelines_2019.pdf) to know more

https://aim.gov.in/pdf/EIC_guidelines_2019.pdf

57

Agriculture Infrastructure Financing Facility

Agricultural & Farmers Welfare Department

CREDIT

SCALING

The facility offers an interest subvention of 3% per annum on loans for viable projects focused on post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Funds to be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural...

WHAT YOU GET

- Interest subvention of 3% per annum on loans up to ₹2 crore, available for a maximum period of...

APPLY Applications are open round the year

<https://agriinfra.dac.gov.in/Content/DocAttachment/FINALSchemeGuideli>

Startup Relevant Schemes

58

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

Ministry of Finance

CREDIT

CREDIT SUPPORT

PMMY helps small businesses and entrepreneurs get collateral-free loans so they can start, run, or expand income-generating activities.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Individuals, Proprietary, Partnership Firm, Private Ltd. Company, Public Company, any other...

WHAT YOU GET

- Term Loan / Overdraft / Working Capital / Composite Loan for acquiring assets are required
- Loans shall be granted across the following types of loans:

APPLY Mudra loans are available at all bank branches across the country. Mudra loans...

<https://www.mudra.org.in/>

59

Stand-Up India

Department of Financial Services

CREDIT

CREDIT SUPPORT PRADHAN...

Stand-Up India helps SC/ST and women entrepreneurs get bank loans to start a new business for the first time.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Applicant must be from the SC/ST category or a woman, above 18 years of age. Finance is...

WHAT YOU GET

- Eligible applicants are provided composite loan (inclusive of term loan and working capital)...
- The loan is repayable in 7 years with a maximum moratorium period of 18 months

APPLY The Stand-Up India Scheme was launched on 05.04.2016 and was valid/ operational...

<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/apr>

60

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)

INCUBATION

FORMALISATION / SCALING

PMFME helps small food processing businesses become formal, improve their products, and grow by giving them financial support, training, and access to incubation facilities.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Existing individual microentrepreneurs/micro units/ SHGs/ FPOs/ Individuals

WHAT YOU GET

- Individual Units are provided with credit linked capital subsidy at 35% of the project cost...
- FPOs and Producer Cooperatives are provided with 35% grant with credit linkage

APPLY To know more:

<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/sep>

Startup Relevant Schemes

61

IFSCA Fintech Incentive Scheme

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

INCUBATION

PROTOTYPE TO MARKET ENTRY...

The IFSCA Fintech Incentive Scheme gives grants to fintech startups to help them build products, test solutions, and grow from prototype to market at GIFT IFSC.

WHO CAN APPLY

- FinTech startup with a novel FinTech idea or solution with the focus on converting that idea...

WHAT YOU GET

- Fintech Startup Grant of up to ₹15 lakh
- Proof of Concept (PoC) grant of up to ₹50 lakh

APPLY To know more:

<https://ifsc.gov.in/Pages/Contents/FinTech>

62

Technology Development-cum-Incubation Centers

Department of Atomic Energy

INCUBATION

INCUBATION START-UP...

Technology Development-cum-Incubation Centers provide startups and industries research facilities, and mentoring to turn strong technology ideas into real products and businesses.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Startups/MSMEs/Industries that have robust proposals, based on sound original ideas

WHAT YOU GET

- Providing infrastructure and value-added services through prototyping facilities, test beds,...
- Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the nearest incubation centres to collect more...

APPLY Interested stakeholder can visit the different Technology Development-...

<https://dae.gov.in/video/dae-launches-technology-development-cum->

63

Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)

Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

SUPPORT

IDEATION TO ENTERPRISE...

SVEP helps rural SHG members and their families start small non-farm businesses by giving them local business support and access to capital.

WHO CAN APPLY

- States/Union Territories (UTs) select blocks for the implementation on the SVEP which meet...
- Early-stage rural enterprises are the beneficiaries under the programme

WHAT YOU GET

- A dedicated fund called Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) is set-up to provide capital for...

APPLY Apply here:

<https://svep.nrlm.gov.in/landing>

Startup Relevant Schemes

64

Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC)

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

EQUITY

SCALING SCIENCE...

The Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC) helps SC entrepreneurs get affordable funding to start or grow businesses.

WHO CAN APPLY

- The projects/units being set up in manufacturing, services and allied sector, including...
- For Companies applying for assistance up to ₹50 lakh: Companies having at least 51%...

WHAT YOU GET

- Loans from ₹10 lakh to ₹15 crore to SC entrepreneurs, at a 4% coupon rate
- For financial assistance up to ₹5 crore, up to 75% of the project cost are funded

APPLY Apply here:

<https://vcfsc.in/index.html>

65

Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs for Development of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) Communities

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

SUPPORT

INCUBATION / LIVELIHOOD...

STI Hubs support local institutions in using science, technology, and innovation to improve livelihoods, preserve community knowledge, and create practical development solutions for SC and ST communities.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Local Academic or S&T institutions, R&D Labs, S&T based Voluntary Organizations (NGOs) etc...

WHAT YOU GET

- Financial support to establish an STI Hub
- This support can be used for equipment purchase, creation of small infrastructure, and common...

APPLY Please visit the DST website to know more: ...

<https://dst.gov.in/callforproposals/science-technology-and->

66

National Livestock Mission

Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

SUPPORT

CREDIT / SUBSIDY MISSION...

The National Livestock Mission helps startups and institutions in animal husbandry build businesses, improve innovation, and strengthen the livestock value chain from production to market.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes, Central Institutes, State...

WHAT YOU GET

- The Central Government will provide 100% assistance for conducting Extension, R&D and...

APPLY The Central Agencies/ University farms will submit the proposal to the NLM...

<https://nlm.udyamimitra.in/>

Startup Relevant Schemes

67

Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

SUPPORT

R&D TO PILOT YUVA SAHAKAR...

MAHIR supports startups, industry, and research institutions in developing and testing advanced power and clean-energy technologies.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Academia, Industry, Startups and R&D Institutions, and similar entities, working in the...

WHAT YOU GET

- The financial support rendered under this program is subjective to the nature of the project,...

APPLY Interested applicants may learn more about the initiative and its application...

<https://cpri.res.in/en/content/mahir>

68

Yuva Sahakar – Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme

Ministry of Cooperation

CREDIT

CREDIT ENTREPRENEURSHIP...

Yuva Sahakar helps newly formed cooperative societies get easier long-term finance and interest support.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Newly formed cooperative societies

WHAT YOU GET

- Provides long-term financial support to cooperative startups
- Offers a 2% interest concession on term loans

APPLY See website for current process

<https://www.ncdc.in/documents/booklet/3812280223E-Book-NCDC.pdf>

69

Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP)

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

MARKET ACCESS

CAPACITY BUILDING

ESDP helps aspiring and existing entrepreneurs build business and practical skills so they can start, manage, and grow MSMEs.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Existing or aspiring entrepreneurs
- 40% of the beneficiaries are required to be from weaker sections of society including...

WHAT YOU GET

- Training is provided under three modules – Entrepreneurship Awareness Program,...
- Hands-on practice or demonstration to upgrade skills of prospective entrepreneurs

APPLY Apply through the websites of MSME-DFOs, MSME-TC and other Implementing...

<https://msmedi.dcmsme.gov.in/>

State & UT Startup Portals

Beyond Central schemes, every state runs its own startup policy, grants and incentives. Start here.

STATE / UT	PORTAL	STATE / UT	PORTAL
Andhra Pradesh	startupap.ap.gov.in	Maharashtra	msins.in
Arunachal Pradesh	startup.arunachal.gov.in	Manipur	startupmanipur.in
Assam	startup.assam.gov.in	Meghalaya	primemeghalaya.com
Bihar	startup.bihar.gov.in	Mizoram	startupmizoram.com
Chhattisgarh	startupcg.in	Nagaland	startupnagaland.in
Delhi	startup.delhi.gov.in	Odisha	startupodisha.gov.in
Goa	startup.goa.gov.in	Puducherry	industry.py.gov.in
Gujarat	startup.gujarat.gov.in	Punjab	pbindustries.gov.in/startup
Haryana	startumpharyana.gov.in	Rajasthan	istart.rajasthan.gov.in
Himachal Pradesh	emerginghimachal.hp.gov.in/startup	Sikkim	sikkimentrepreneur.org
Jammu & Kashmir	startupjk.com	Tamil Nadu	startuptn.in
Jharkhand	abvil.jharkhand.gov.in	Telangana	startup.telangana.gov.in
Karnataka	missionstartupkarnataka.org	Tripura	startup.tripura.gov.in
Kerala	startupmission.kerala.gov.in	Uttar Pradesh	startinup.up.gov.in
Ladakh	ediiladakh.org	Uttarakhand	startuputtarakhand.uk.gov.in
Lakshadweep	lakshadweep.gov.in	West Bengal	startupbengal.in
Madhya Pradesh	startup.mp.gov.in		

Glossary — Key Terms & Definitions

Terms used throughout this playbook, explained plainly.

DPIIT-Recognised Startup	A startup officially recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) as per notified eligibility criteria.
Fund of Funds (FoF)	A fund that invests in other venture funds (AIFs) rather than directly in startups. Startups receive funding when their venture fund invests.
AIF (Alternative Investment Fund)	SEBI-registered private investment fund that pools capital from investors and deploys it into startups or companies.
Credit Guarantee	A government-backed promise to repay a lender if the startup defaults — enabling loans without pledging collateral.
Grant	Non-repayable financial assistance from government. No repayment, no equity given up.
Equity Investment	Capital provided in exchange for an ownership stake; the investor becomes a part-owner.
Convertible Debt	A loan that can convert into equity later — used when valuation is uncertain at the time of investment.
Proof of Concept (PoC)	Early demonstration that an idea or technology works, typically in a lab or controlled setting.
TRL (Technology Readiness Level)	A 1-9 scale measuring technology maturity. TRL-1 = basic research; TRL-9 = fully commercial system.
TBI (Technology Business Incubator)	An institution providing space, mentoring, seed funding and networks to early-stage tech startups.
Incubator / Accelerator	Incubators support early-stage startups; accelerators fast-track growth of already-validated startups.
EMD (Earnest Money Deposit)	A security deposit required in government tenders. DPIIT-recognised startups are exempt from EMD on GeM.
Startup-Specific	In this Playbook: schemes where startups are the primary or sole named eligible beneficiary.
Startup-Relevant	In this Playbook: schemes with broader eligibility (MSMEs, companies, institutions) that startups commonly access.

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