

**GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRIES**  
**419, FIE, PATPARGANJ INDUSTRIAL AREA, UDYOG SADAN DELHI-110092**  
**DELHI STARTUP POLICY, 2025**

### 1. Vision

The Delhi Startup Policy envisages making Delhi emerge as a Global Innovation Hub and the most preferred destination for Startups by 2035 by creating an enabling ecosystem for an innovation-based economy and fostering entrepreneurial spirit through a robust support mechanism. The Policy aims to promote a congenial, innovative and supportive ecosystem through pro-active and measurable initiatives for startups to thrive.

### 2. Mission

The mission of the Startup Policy for NCT of Delhi is envisaged as under:

- 2.1 To encourage, facilitate and support the emergence of at least 5000 startups by 2035.
- 2.2 To encourage entrepreneurship that enables sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development across the State.
- 2.3 To generate new avenues of employment through Startup initiatives.
- 2.4 To develop human capital by creating the right environment and support systems for learning, experimentation, and innovation from the early phases of education.
- 2.5 To instil and foster innovative ideas in the field of Science & Technology and socio economy among students.
- 2.6 To maximize the pro-active engagement of academia and industry to create the right environment to provide the requisite impetus for incubators and startups growth.
- 2.7 To facilitate easy access to funds and establish world-class incubators/accelerators equipped with all required infrastructure and leading practices by partnering with public and private stakeholders.
- 2.8 To nurture graduating startups to become Unicorns by engaging with domestic and global investors to promote innovation.

### 3. Policy Period

The Delhi Startup Policy shall come into force from the date of notification and will remain in operation for a period of 10 years from the date of notification. A new Startup Policy shall supersede thereafter. The incentives proposed will continue to be paid in years after and of policy in 2035 as sunset years either standalone or as part of new policy.

### 4. Definition

- 4.1 **Government** means the Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD), unless otherwise specified.
- 4.2 **Co-Working Space** means shared office space, typically used by startups instead of leasing a dedicated office space. A Co-Working space provides shared infrastructure like plug and play workstations, shared office equipment, Wi-Fi, meeting rooms, and other usual workplace services.
- 4.3 **Innovation** means the process of developing new products and that represents performance or functional improvements over existing ones. It involves the deliberate application of information, imagination and initiative to derive greater or different values from resources to generate new ideas and convert them into a useful product, process or service.
- 4.4 **Investor** means any organization providing funding to startups. The investor should be registered under prevalent laws.
- 4.5 **(Recognized) Entrepreneurs** mean individual(s) working on a startup idea willing to avail benefits under this Policy applying to be recognized as Entrepreneurs as long as they meet the criteria defined by the Startup Task Force.



**4.6 (Recognized) Incubator** means any organization engaged in nurturing the growth and success of a Startup with innovative ideas through an array of technical and business Support, resources and services such as co-working spaces, fabrication laboratories and training and mentorship, common services, market linkages and others.

For the purpose of this Policy, an entity shall be considered as Incubator, only if it fulfils the following conditions:

- i) The organization must be registered under one of the following categories or equivalent as notified by the Central Government or GNCTD:
  - a) Society (under The Societies Registration Act, 1860)
  - b) Section 8 Company (under The Companies Act, 2013)
  - c) Private Limited Company (under The Companies Act, 2013)
  - d) Public Company (under The Companies Act, 2013)
  - e) Limited Liability Partnership (under The Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008)
  - f) Public Charitable Trust (under The Indian Trusts Act, 1882)
- ii) The organization funded or registered under any Central or State Government initiative supporting incubation shall also be considered an Incubator for this Policy.
- iii) The organization must offer a minimum of 2000 sq. ft. covered area for its incubates.
- iv) Besides the above, the Startup Task Force may consider the case of any reputed academic institution/ Higher Education Institute (HEI university/ deemed university for recognition as an incubator even if it does not fall under any of the above categories.

**4.7 (Recognized) Startup** means an entity involved in innovation, development, or improvement of products, processes, or services to facilitate positive impact and achieve commercial success.

For the purpose of this Policy, an entity shall be considered as 'Startup', only if it fulfils the following conditions:

- i) The entity is registered as an OPC or Private Limited Company (under the Act, Companies Act, 2013) or registered as a Partnership Firm (under the Partnership Act, 1932) or a Limited Liability Partnership (under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008) in India.
  - ii) The entity was registered no more than 10 years before the date of application and had an annual gross turnover not exceeding INR 100 Crore for any preceding financial year; however, the priority shall be given to small and young Startup and Entrepreneur.
  - iii) The entity is working towards innovation, development or improvement of products or processes or services, or if it is a scalable business model with a high potential of employment generation or wealth creation. Provided that an entity formed by splitting up or the reconstruction of an existing business shall not be considered a 'Startup'.
  - iv) The entity has not been formed by splitting up or restructuring a business already in existence.
  - v) The entity is incorporated or registered in Delhi and has GST registration for Delhi.
- 4.8 Startup Policy Monitoring Committee** means an inter-departmental committee constituted under the chairmanship of Commissioner of Industries, GNCTD including the Commissioner of Industries, GNCTD and senior representatives from other State Departments such as Planning Department, Department of Industries, Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC). It may also include other subject matter experts, domain experts and members from the private sector as decided by the chair for monitoring the progress of the Delhi Startup Policy.
- 4.9 Startup Task Force** means a task force constituted under the chairmanship of any officer nominated by the Commissioner of industries, GNCTD for evaluating and approving applications for recognized entrepreneur, Startup and incubator.
- 4.10 Nodal Agency** means the Department of Industries ensuring effective implementation of the Startup Policy.
- 4.11 University/ Higher Education Institution (HEI)** means the following:

**University** means any institution that is recognized by the University Grant Commission.

A government university refers to any university established or incorporated under a Central Act or a State Act.

**Higher Education Institution (HEI)** means university/university-level institutions and colleges/institutions affiliated and recognized with the university.

**4.12 Green Technology** means the startups that create innovative solutions to reduce the environmental impact to fight climate change by improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

**4.13 Fintech** means startups that use technology to offer innovative financial products and services. Technology shall be Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud Computing, and big data to deliver their solutions.

## 5. Focus Areas

Delhi is one of the fastest-growing states in the country. The proximity to government institutions, the presence of a business-friendly infrastructure, and a burgeoning entrepreneurship culture make the city a viable IT hub. The IT & ITES sector in Delhi has emerged as a rapidly developing industry. The key sectoral areas for this Policy mirror the Government's priorities relating to Science & Technology and IT/TES and align with the strengths of the State. Against this backdrop, the Startup Policy is designed to cater for the following key areas.

- Healthcare Services
- Hospitality
- Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Automotive (Electric Vehicle, Autonomous Cars and Connected Vehicles)
- Fintech/ Financial Services/ Innovation & Research
- e-Waste Management / solid & liquid waste management
- Robotics & Automation
- Green Technology
- Bio-pharma and Medical Devices / Healthcare Services/ HealthTech
- IT&ITES
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Machine Learning (ML)
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)
- Biotechnology
- Augmented Reality
- Drones/ Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- Gaming
- Emerging areas of energy such as Hydrogen, etc.

This is not an exhaustive list, and other focus areas may be identified and included as per the market demand and leading technologies after approval of the Startup Monitoring Committee.

## 6. Incentives for Startup

**6.1 Fiscal Incentive support:** The Startup Policy may extend such as the following financial incentives to the recognized startups, entrepreneurs and incubators.

- i) Reimbursement of 100% on lease rentals up to INR 10 lakhs per annum for a maximum period of three years, for occupying co-working space recognized under this Policy.
- ii) 100% reimbursement for filing Patent/Trademark/Copyright industrial Design up to INR 1 Lakh on Indian Patent/Trademark/Copyright/Industrial Design filing and up to 3 Lakh on international Patent/Trademark/Copyright/Industrial Design filing



- iii) 100% reimbursement towards the exhibition stall/rental cost for participating in the notified national/international exhibitions. Whereas women would be eligible for 100% reimbursement towards the exhibition cost. The said reimbursement shall be up to INR 5 Lakh for Domestic Events and INR 10 Lakh for International Events once a year.
- iv) Monthly allowance of INR 2,00,000 per month for a period of 1 year towards operational costs.
- v) 100% Reimbursement shall be provided based on the size of the Incubation Centre, Fabrication Lab or Co-Working Spaces (1000/ 2000/ 3000) sq. ft with average lease/ rental price at INR 150 per sq ft per month for a maximum period of 2 years.
- vi) Enterprises/startups led by Women or group as defined in this Policy will be provided 100% reimbursement for the exhibition stall/rental cost for participating in the notified national/international exhibitions in a year. The said reimbursement shall be up to INR 5.5 Lakh for Domestic Events and INR 11 Lakh for International Events once a year.
- vii) The Government of Delhi will establish INR 200 Crore Delhi Startup Venture Capital Fund for providing access to finance to startups in Delhi.

6.2 In order to be considered for incentives under the Policy, eligible applicants may apply through the Delhi Single Window System with relevant supporting documents. The Nodal agency would primarily scrutinize the application received and forward the eligible applications seeking approval from the Startup Task Force for finalizing applicants for disbursement of benefits. The applicants will be notified of the decision via the Startup Portal.

6.3 The relevant operational details outlining the eligibility criteria, guidelines and provisions of incentives mentioned hereinabove and guidelines for scrutinizing, selecting, and processing applications would be issued separately after approval from the Startup Policy Monitoring Committee. The above incentives may be reviewed, revised and amended by the Startup Policy Monitoring Committee as and when required.

## 7. Infrastructure and Support

The GNCTD shall provide state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities and support systems to nurture the entrepreneurial ecosystem within the NCT of Delhi. **Incubation Centre/ Fabrication Lab/ Co-Working Spaces:** The GNCTD will provide support in formulating incubation centre(s), fabrication labs and co-working spaces on the Private Model by providing capital and operational subsidy over and above the existing subsidy provided by Central Government for the period of first 5 years to incubate recognized Startups at subsidized rates. The Government may also provide subsidies and incentives for either setting up independent or upgrading the existing incubators in a phased manner.

**7.1.1 Research and Development:** To leverage the ingenuity and the opportunity to develop technology and research-based solutions for major challenges, support for research and development would be provided to startups at various stages. GNCTD would strive to provide an ecosystem that encourages research and development by providing access to necessary resources.

7.2 The operational guidelines for incubation centres, fabrication labs and co-working spaces and the criteria for selection and qualification would be issued separately after approval from the Startup Policy Monitoring Committee.

**7.3 Mentorship:** The State will play a critical role in establishing strong linkages between the startups and well-renowned industry players worldwide. The GNCTD may leverage external mentorships and technical resources through partnerships with other academia, incubators, government labs, and financial institutions, among others. The partnership would be for knowledge and resource exchange and market access for startups.



- 7.3.1 The GNCTD may facilitate engagements with various industry associations, including but not limited to FICCI, CII and NASSCOM, among others, to facilitate industrial connections to cater to need-based innovation in the NCT of Delhi. Industrial associations will be encouraged to mentor, support, or incubate startups in their domain.
- 7.3.2 The GNCTD will identify and empanel industrial experts such as lawyers, CA(s), CS(s) and other subject matter experts to provide requisite guidance either for free or at subsidized rates. The Startup Task Force shall finalize the rules of empanelment with approval of Startup monitoring committee.
- 7.3.3 The Government may also organize curated training and mentorship program by engaging specific mentors to provide hands-on mentoring sessions to pave the way for successful startups.
- 7.3.4 The Government may work with international partners to devise market exchange programmes to help promising startups expand into global markets.
- 7.4 Investors: The GNCTD, in association with leading investor networks, may organize experiential learning workshops to guide aspiring investors and other high net-worth individuals on the dynamics of investing in startups.
- 7.4.1 The GNCTD may also partner with leading investor networks across the nation and organize annual events for entrepreneurs to present business plan/models to a panel of investors and Govt. representatives, including 1 to 1 investor connect meet-up sessions.
- 7.5 **Virtual Incubation:** As part of the Delhi incubator Hub Network, the Government shall promote virtual incubation services for startups. Through virtual incubation, startups will tap into a network of leading experts and mentors for guidance based on their requirements.

## 8 Startup Policy Governance Mechanism

**8.1 Startup Policy Governance Mechanism:** The Policy Monitoring Committee will be a body under the chairmanship of Commissioner of Industries, GNCTD. The committee will be responsible for acquiring inter-departmental support and approvals for various aspects of the policy.

8.1.1 The committee will include the Commissioner of Industries, GNCTD along with senior representatives from other State Departments such as Planning Department and Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC). It may also include other subject matter experts, domain experts and members from the private sector as decided by the chair.

8.1.2 It will be responsible for periodically issuing clarifications and directions in the Delhi Startup Policy and intervening wherever inter-departmental collaboration and approvals would be required. This will be contingent upon the Commissioner of Industries review of the report commissioned by the Startup Task Force.

S.No.	Designation	Role
1.	Commissioner of Industries	Chairman
2.	Secretary, Planning Department	Member
3.	Special Commissioner II, Industries Department	Member
4.	Deputy Commissioner, Industries Department	Member Secretary
5.	DCA, Industries Department	Member
6.	Industry Expert 1	Member (Co-Opted)
7.	Industry Expert 2	Member (Co-Opted)



**8.2 Startup Task Force:** The Startup Task Force will be responsible for evaluating and approving applications received from the Nodal Agency for recognized entrepreneurs startups and incubators. It will also be responsible for facilitating and aiding the implementation of the Startup Policy provisions.

8.2.1 The Startup Task Force shall be formulated under the Chairmanship of any suitable officer as appointed by the Commissioner of Industries, GNCTD. The Task Force will consist of relevant members from the Government, academia and the private sector, nominated periodically by the Commissioner of Industries.

8.2.2 The composition may constitute 5% of government representation, 10% from academic institutes and 85% of experts from the private sector. Members may include individuals from leading universities, incubators, industry associations, banks, venture capitalist firms and notable startups

8.2.3 The Commissioner of Industries will finalize the members constituting the Startup Task Force.

S.No.	Designation	Role
1.	Special Commissioner-II, Industries Department	Chairman
2.	Deputy Commissioner, Industries Department	Member
3.	Industry Expert 1	Member
4.	Industry Expert 2	Member
5.	Industry Expert 3	Member
6.	Industry Expert 5	Member
7.	Industry Expert 6	Member

8.2.5 The Startup Task Force shall be responsible for the following

i) Scrutinizing the application for approval as forwarded by the Nodal Agency. The Task Force shall meet once a month to ensure all applications are quickly considered and ruled upon. If physical presence is not possible, then virtual meetings would suffice. In case a virtual meeting is not possible, the applications may be circulated to members to give their assent/dissent within a period of 21 days from the date of the application. The schedule of meetings shall be communicated through the Startup portal.

ii) All applicants will be given the decision within 30 days of applying

ii) The Startup Task Force will also act as an advisory body to the Nodal Agency and provide necessary recommendations to the Nodal Agency from time to time for effective implementation and facilitation of the Startup Policy.

iii) It will also ensure that the Startup Policy is goal-oriented & suggest key metrics to track ecosystem performance

iv) The Startup Task Force will periodically evaluate and suggest amendments to the Startup Policy.

v) The Task Force will also suggest a Monitoring & Evaluation framework laying out the requisite KPIs, including the medium and source of data collection

**8.3 Nodal Agency:** The Department of Industries will be the Nodal Agency for the purpose of the Delhi Startup Policy. The Nodal Agency would be the first point of contact for the startups and other stakeholders within the ecosystems to ensure effective implementation of the Startup Policy. The Nodal Agency shall also constitute a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) with other supervisory, secretarial staff and industry experts as per requirement on a contractual basis for exclusively implementing the Startup Policy.

8.3.1 The Commissioner of Industries would monitor the functioning of the Nodal Agency from time to time

8.3.2 The Nodal Agency would facilitate the following responsibilities:



- i) Scrutinizing the application received under the Policy and forward the eligible applications to Startup Task Force for approval
- ii) Operationalization of incentives elaborated in the Startup Policy and formulate necessary guidelines thereof
- iii) Coordinating with the Task Force for formulating necessary guidelines and communicating with relevant stakeholders within the startup ecosystem
- iv) Grievance redressal for startups
- v) Facilitating inter-departmental coordination required for implementation for the Policy
- vi) Creating infrastructural support such as including but not limited to developing IT systems, Startup Portal for facilitation, incubation centres, fabrication laboratories and co-working spaces and others
- vii) Facilitate networking, awareness and outreach programs under the Startup Policy
- viii) Collection and compilation of KPI data for monitoring
- ix) Ensuring adequate resources channelled to the Startup ecosystem
- x) Establishing global accessibility, connections and partnerships.
- xi) Provide additional inputs regarding Policy changes and amendments
- xii) Formulating quarterly reports for monitoring and evaluation purposes

## 9 Awareness and Outreach

The Government of Delhi shall support city-wide events that create awareness and excitement around entrepreneurship in the general public; various events and competitions will be organized in State to stimulate and provide national and international exposure to the startup ecosystem.

**9.1 Delhi Startup Festival:** The GNCTD may partner with Industry Associations and Corporates to organize Delhi Startup Festivals, where:

- 9.1.1 Startups from Delhi will be given a platform to showcase their ideas, innovations and businesses.
- 9.1.2 Talk shows and Panel discussions may be organized, featuring eminent startups or industry leaders from around the world.
- 9.1.3 A separate section may be dedicated to student-led innovations and ideas
- 9.1.4 Technical and sector-specific including limited-entry networking events may be organized to connect and exchange ideas for startups, mentors, and other stakeholders.
- 9.1.5 Banks may be invited to festivals to set up desks that focus on special startup needs like opening bank accounts for proprietorships, easier foreign exchange facilitation, easier handling of startup loan requests, and providing trained staff specializing in startup issues.
- 9.1.6 Organize Open House, Junkyards for startups.

## 11 Enabling Mechanism

To ensure smooth execution of the Delhi Startup Policy, the State Government will develop the following:

- 11.1 Delhi Startup Portal: The Nodal Agency shall develop a Startup Portal, which will act as a one-stop-shop for individuals, startups and incubators seeking information or incentives under the Delhi Startup Policy. The portal shall facilitate, among other things:
  - 11.1.1 Online applications for registration of entrepreneur, startup, incubator, incentives, mentors and programs under the Policy.
  - 11.1.2 Mentor support and help startups to collaborate with concerned professionals and take guidance on their ideas. Portal shall also have a section around the best practices that can be adopted, and a database of innovations being carried out in the State.
  - 11.1.3 Provision to provide regular updates on changes in regulatory and compliance requirements for a startup or incubators.
  - 11.1.4 Online time-bound grievance redressal mechanism and a query response system for startups or incubators.



- 11.2 Startup Helpline/Helpdesk: A dedicated helpline and helpdesk shall be set up to address all businesses and industries related queries with a dedicated helpdesk for startups. The Startup helpline/helpdesk may also be set up as part of the Industry Facilitation Centre.
- 11.2.1 The Helpdesk shall provide a "one stop" facilitation process which includes,
- Information Services
  - Transactional Services
  - Grievance Related Services
- 11.2.2 The Helpline shall also act as the Grievance redressal mechanism to help resolve issues and answer queries of startups.
- 11.2 **Ease of Doing Business for Startup:** Initiatives to reduce the administrative burden on startups will be explored by the Nodal Agency.
- 11.2.1 These will include but not be limited to streamlining licensing requirements to avoid duplicity and providing single window assistance to startups through their entire lifecycle (from registration to closure).
- 11.2.2 Reducing the repetitive documentation ensures Ease of Doing Business.
- 11.2.3 Required information on services, departments and state agencies will be provided, along with information on accessing and submitting relevant forms.

## 12 Implementation & Monitoring

This Policy shall be reviewed biennially. A status report shall be commissioned by the Startup Task Force to critically appraise the usefulness of the Policy, the ease of implementation and the outcomes achieved.

- 13.1 The State Task Force will be responsible for reviewing the implementation status every six months. A report shall be placed before the Startup Policy Monitoring Committee for assessment on a quarterly basis.
- 13.2 The Startup Task Force will also draft a Monitoring & Evaluation framework to layout the KPIs and the medium and source of data collection.
- 13.3 While an incubator's economic and social impact is long term, outcomes are immediately measurable and critical to understanding if the incubator is making progress. The Startup Task Force may finalize the following KPIs for measuring the performance of an Incubator:
- i) Overall operational quality indicators, including number of employees, turnover, number of customers and overall public funding.
  - ii) Ecosystem coordination and awareness indicators, including information about awareness creation events, social media participation, matchmaking activities.
  - iii) Service provision indicators, information about number of individual services provided, additional investments created, customer satisfaction, training, projects.
  - iv) Interregional collaboration indicators, number of interregional collaborations (and turnover), participation in international events, international partners.

## 14 Special Consideration

- 14.1 **Women Entrepreneurs:** The rationale for targeted policies and programmes for strengthening the ecosystem for women entrepreneurs is to support them in business creation, self-employment and creation of enabling networks to promote an inclusive and sustainable balanced growth in Delhi. Women entrepreneurship can make a particularly strong contribution to the economic well-being of the family and communities by contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- 14.1.1 Special Considerations will only be made for women entrepreneurs or a group of such person as decided by the Startup Task Force.
- 14.1.2 Mentorship from Industry experts and senior members in corporations will be made available for persons of mentioned category.
- 14.1.3 Incentive, funding & financial assistance for women entrepreneurs or women led startups or group of such persons as defined in this Policy are as under:



- 14.1.3.1 **Funding & Financial Assistance:** Government may facilitate/handhold such startups to access Funding & Financial assistance under various schemes of the Government of India in existence as may be applicable.

## 15 Disclaimer

This Startup Policy is only for providing support to the Startups. The Committee will not be responsible for any failed ideas/ Startups in future.