

Minutes of the 78th IMB Meeting

The 78th meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Board (IMB) was held on 11.03.2025 at 3.30 PM over videoconferencing. The meeting was chaired by Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Dr Kamakshi Chaithri, Department of Biotechnology and Dr Praveen Roy, Department of Science and Technology attended the meeting.

The Startup India team briefed the IMB members regarding the existing process for evaluating 80-IAC applications and presented a detailed overview of the proposed updated Framework and Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for the evaluation of applications seeking exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

The updated mechanism aims to ensure a structured, transparent, and objective evaluation process by assigning weighted scores to key parameters related to innovation, wealth generation, and employment creation.

The IMB members deliberated on the proposed framework and acknowledged its potential to streamline the evaluation process, reduce subjectivity, and expedite the issuance of eligibility certificates. The representatives from the Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology expressed their support for the adoption of the updated scoring framework and emphasized that it would enable a faster and more transparent evaluation process.

After thorough deliberation, the IMB members approved the framework structure and SoP for immediate implementation for all applications under Section 80-IAC. The IMB may decide or revise the parameters, scores of parameters, weightages of the parameters, as well as the overall score threshold for approval of startup applications. The Startup India team was instructed to integrate the scoring framework into the existing online portal and ensure its swift rollout. A communication will be shared with all pending applications originally submitted before 31st March 2024 and resubmitted by 28th February 2025 for filling up information as per the new framework. Furthermore, startups with applications marked as 'Incomplete' will be allowed to resubmit using the new framework once the portal becomes operational.

The framework is approved for a duration of one year or until the framework is revised, whichever is earlier.