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5th Edition

States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking

Chhattisgarh

Emerging Startup Ecosystem



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1. About the State



Chhattisgarh, was formed on November 1, 2000, after being carved out of Madhya Pradesh. Known as the “Rice Bowl of India” for its high rice production, it is the 9th largest state in the country and home to approximately 25.54 million people, with an urbanization rate of 23.2%.

The state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew from INR 1.58 Lakh Crore in 2011–12 to INR 5.68 Lakh Crore in 2024–25, registering a CAGR of 10.34% over the past decade. The state attracted total FDI inflows of USD 81.27 Mn, and its exports were valued at USD 2.19 Bn during 2024–25.

The Department of Commerce and Industries is the nodal agency responsible for the overall

development of the industrial sector in the state. It plays a key role in attracting industrial investments by creating an industry-friendly environment and formulating progressive policies aimed at modernization and strengthening industrial units.

The Government of Chhattisgarh recognizes the growing role of startups as catalysts for social innovation and major job creators. The state aspires to position itself as a global hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, driving sustainable and inclusive growth while strengthening global competitiveness through research and technology. In line with this vision, the state government introduced the 'Chhattisgarh Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development' policy, with the objective of cultivating a supportive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship within the state.

2. State Startup Policies and Initiatives

2.1 State Startup Policies

The Startup Chhattisgarh portal is designed to support entrepreneurs and incubators under the Industrial Development Policy (IDP) 2024–30. Its key feature is the Chhattisgarh Startup Package, which provides a mix of financial and non-financial incentives to foster innovation and industrial growth in the state.

Key incentives provided under this scheme include:

Corpus Fund:

A corpus fund of INR 50 Crore will be separately created by the state government to promote recognized startup units established in the state.

Credit Risk Fund:

A credit risk fund of INR 50 Crore will be separately created by the state government to promote startups.

Rent Subsidy:

Valid startup units established in Chhattisgarh will receive a rent subsidy of 40% of the monthly rent paid up to a maximum of INR 15,000 per month, for 3 years

Stamp Duty Exemption:

100% exemption from stamp duty on the purchase of land/ leased land (minimum 5 years). Exemption from stamp duty on term loans for up to three years.



● Project Report Subsidy:

1% of the approved fixed capital investment, up to a maximum of INR 5 Lakh.

● Quality Certification Subsidy:

80% of expenses for obtaining certification, up to INR 10 Lakh.

● Technical Patent Subsidy:

50% of expenses for obtaining a patent, up to INR 10 Lakh.

● Technology Purchase Subsidy:

50% of expenses for technology purchase, up to INR 10 Lakh.

● Incubators:

Incubators established at divisional headquarters will receive INR 5 lakh per year for operational expenses for up to 5 years, while incubators established in other districts will be provided a maximum of INR 3 lakh per year to support the startup ecosystem.

● Labor Law Exemptions:

Startups established in Chhattisgarh will be granted exemptions from the labor law regulations.

● Flexible Operations:

Startups may operate in three shifts, including employing women workers, provided they ensure adequate security arrangements for female employees.

● Startup Fests:

Periodic Startup Fests will be organized to promote startup selection and development, offering a platform for entrepreneurs and investors to connect.

● Academic Collaboration:

The State will collaborate with educational institutions to provide guidance and mentorship for startups.



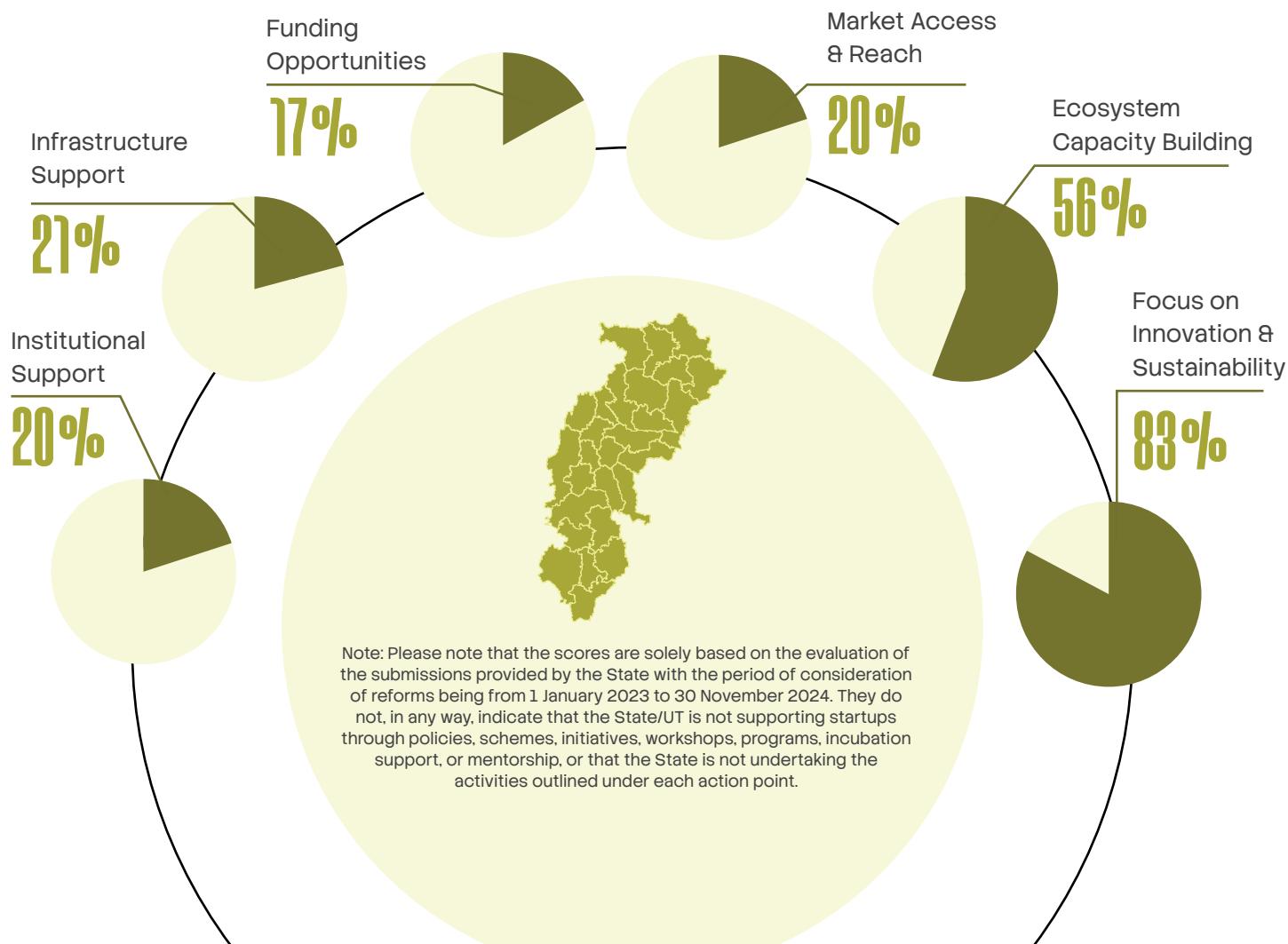
3. States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking Results

Chhattisgarh participated in all 6 Reform Areas and 19 Action Points under the 5th edition of States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking, and has been positioned as an 'Emerging Startup Ecosystem' State in Category A.

The state's performance across different reform areas is presented below as percentile scores, which is the relative performance of the State in each Reform Area as compared to States/UTs in Category A. For example, if the state has a score of 100th percentile in the 'Institutional Support' Reform Area, this implies that the State has scored higher than all the participating States/UTs in that Reform Area.

Overall, Chhattisgarh has been evaluated across 6 Reform Areas that are critical to strengthening and advancing the State's startup ecosystem. A detailed analysis with insights into the initiatives taken by the State to promote its startup ecosystem are discussed in the subsequent sections.

Figure 1: Reform area wise scores for Chhattisgarh



4. Reform Area 1 - 4. Institutional Support

4.1 Introduction

Institutional Support focuses on the foundational support provided by state governments to foster startup ecosystems. It evaluates whether states have active startup policies, designated nodal departments, and

dedicated teams. It also assesses the extent of support provided by other government departments beyond the nodal agency. Key action points include the presence of a startup policy, identification and development of priority sectors, support for women entrepreneurs and initiatives for young student entrepreneurs.

It covers 6 action points:



Action Point 1:
Support Provided to Startups
by State/UT Department(s)



Action Point 2:
For Development with a Futuristic
and Disruptive Focus



Action Point 3:
Women Entrepreneurial
Development



Action Point 4:
For the Growth of
Young Entrepreneurs



Action Point 5:
Entrepreneurial Growth in the
Social Innovation Landscape

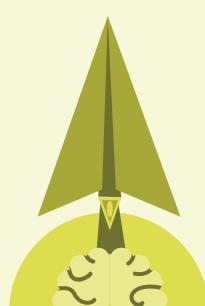


Action Point 6:
Mentorship Support
Provided to Startups

4.2 Performance

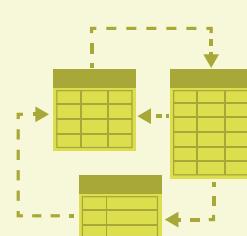
5+

**Startups supported
in priority sectors**



2+

**Schemes/ Initiatives
in Priority Sectors**



Institutional support provided to Startups:

Chhattisgarh has put in place an institutional framework to support startups through its 'Startup Package' under the Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy 2024 - 2030. Several incentives have been extended under this scheme, including Seed funding, rent subsidy, stamp duty exemption, patent, acceleration support, among others.

Department of Commerce and Industries Government of Chhattisgarh acts as the nodal department for supporting all startups within the state. Chhattisgarh also has a nodal officer and a dedicated team responsible for startup promotion and facilitation in the State.

Development with a Futuristic and Disruptive Focus:

The State has identified priority sectors to guide the development of a futuristic and innovation-driven startup ecosystem. These priority sectors include Agriculture & Forest-based industries, Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices, Textiles & Apparel, Electronics & IT, Biotechnology, Renewable Energy & Green Hydrogen, among others.

To promote startups operating within the identified priority sectors, the State **had 2+ schemes, initiatives / policies / activities operational** during the evaluation period. These interventions included funding, interest and capital subsidy and incubation support, among others.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, **5+ unique startups have been supported across the identified priority sectors.**

5. Reform Area 2 - Infrastructure Support

5.1 Introduction

Infrastructure Support evaluates the availability and quality of both digital and physical infrastructure provided by states to startups. Digital infrastructure includes state startup portals with features like online registration, grievance redressal, and accessibility in local

languages and for persons with disabilities. Physical infrastructure focuses on the establishment and upgrading of incubators, especially those supporting manufacturing and hardware startups. It also assesses the number of startups receiving incubation support and the facilities available to them.

It covers 2 action points:



Action Point 7:
Access to Digital Infrastructure



Action Point 8:
Access to Physical Infrastructure

5.2 Performance

730+ Startups registered on the State Startup portal



Access to Digital Infrastructure

The State has enabled digital access for startups through a unified State Startup Portal that serves as a single-window interface for registration, information dissemination, and service delivery. As per the records submitted, **730+ startups are registered on the State Startup Portal.**

The State has ensured that key service delivery features are available through the digital

platform, including a fully online application process for incentives under the State Startup Policy and a grievance redressal mechanism for startups to submit queries or complaints. The portal is accessible in the local or official language of the State and has provisions to support accessibility for persons with disabilities. Additionally, the State's Single Window Portal provides a unified, transparent, and time-bound platform for approvals and industrial services, enhancing ease of doing business for startups and investors.

Figure 2: Grievance tracking mechanism on the state startup portal

The screenshot shows the 'StartUp Query Redressal/Regulatory Issues' form on the StartUp Chhattisgarh portal. The form consists of several input fields:

- Name:** (Required) Please Enter Name
- Email:** (Required) Please Enter Your Email Address
- Phone:** (Required) Please Enter Name of Startup
- Mobile Number:** (Required) Please Enter Your Mobile Number
- Query:** (Required) Please Enter Query
- Attachment:** (Optional) Choose File

At the bottom of the form, there is a CAPTCHA with the text "66-16=?".

6. Reform Area 3 - Funding Opportunities

6.1 Introduction

Funding Opportunities examines the financial mechanisms established by states to support startups. It includes the creation and management of seed funds, venture funds, and funds of funds, especially those

targeting priority sectors. It also evaluates the number of startups that have received funding through these mechanisms and the extent of collaboration with financial institutions. Additionally, it assesses initiatives like pitching sessions and investor connect programs that facilitate access to private capital.

It covers 3 action points:



Action Point 9:
Access to Funding



Action Point 10:
Number of Startups which have Received Funding through State Supported Funds or Mechanisms



Action Point 11:
State Support in Fundraising Initiatives

6.2 Performance

10+ Startups connected with investors



State Support in Fundraising Initiatives

The State has undertaken targeted initiatives to facilitate fundraising for startups by enabling structured interactions with angels, investors, and financial institutions. These initiatives include **10+ state-led programs featuring pitching session**.

One of the major events organized by the state was the Entrepreneurship Development session held in 2023, played a vital role in fostering startup culture among students by emphasizing the significance of entrepreneurship in India's economic growth. Featuring experts from IIM Raipur, NIT Raipur, and Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyaan, the event provided practical guidance, motivational insights, and strategies for starting early and building successful ventures.

7. Reform Area 4 - Market Access & Reach

7.1 Introduction

Market Access & Reach focuses on how states help startups access markets by relaxing public procurement processes, awarding Government Work Orders, and domestic and international exposure. It evaluates the number of tenders

floated with startup-friendly relaxations, the number of startups awarded work orders, and the reach of market access initiatives across districts. It also considers programs that connect startups with government departments, corporates, and international trade bodies for product showcases and pilot projects.

It covers 3 action points:



Action Point 12:
Market Access Opportunity
Provided to Startups through
Public Procurement

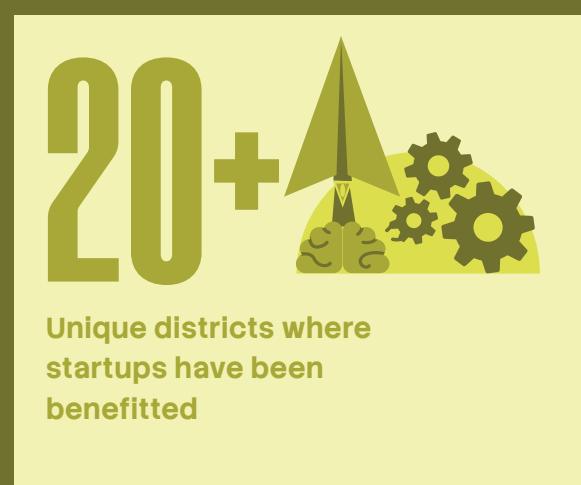


Action Point 13:
Number of Startups
Awarded Purchase Orders
or Work Orders



Action Point 14:
Access to Domestic
and International Market
Access Opportunities

7.2 Performance



Access to Domestic and International Market Access Opportunities

During the evaluation period, the State implemented **20+ market access initiatives, including Workshop on Entrepreneurship for Everyone, MSME Idea Hackathon 3.0, E-Summit 2023 'Startup Expo', E-Summit 2023 'Ignition B-Model', BIZFEST 2024**, among others, designed to improve visibility, customer acquisition, and business expansion opportunities for startups.

For instance, the State has conducted a seminar on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Drone Technology under the Atal Innovation Mission, through the Entrepreneurship Cell of NIT Raipur. The seminar aimed to sensitize school students about emerging technologies and innovation by explaining practical applications of AI-enabled systems and drone technology, thereby fostering early interest in entrepreneurship and technology-driven solutions.

Figure 3: Seminar on AI-ML along with Drone Technology under Atal Innovation Mission



As per the documentary evidence submitted, these initiatives have benefitted **startups across 20+ districts within the State**.

8. Reform Area 5 - Ecosystem Capacity Building

8.1 Introduction

Ecosystem Capacity Building evaluates efforts to strengthen the startup ecosystem through training and sensitization programs. It includes workshops for government officials, capacity

development for incubators, and sensitization programs for ecosystem enablers like mentors, investors, and accelerators. The focus is on building awareness, improving stakeholder capabilities, and fostering collaboration across the ecosystem.

It covers 3 action points:



Action Point 15:
Capacity Building of Officials
of State Government
Departments on Startup
Ecosystem of India



Action Point 16:
Number of State-supported
Incubators Trained Through
Capacity Development
Workshops



Action Point 17:
Number of Programs
Conducted to
Sensitize Ecosystem
Enablers

8.2 Performance

60+



State departments participated
in sensitization workshops

15+

Workshops/
programs
conducted



Capacity Building on Startup Ecosystem of India

As per the documentary evidence submitted, officials from State departments such as Public Health Engineering (PHE), Agriculture Department, Stores (ASTO), Horticulture Department, District Development Authority (DDA), Health Department / Hospital, Water & Environment Department (WED), Rural Engineering Service (RES), Water Resources Department (WRD), among others participated in the sensitization programs. The purpose of these programs was to familiarize officials with

startup-related policies, regulatory frameworks, and the role of government in enabling entrepreneurship.

The State has also conducted targeted programs to sensitize existing and potential ecosystem enablers, including knowledge-based sessions, masterclasses & one-on-one interactions to facilitate investor to investor connects as well as themes covering basics of angel Investment among others.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has **conducted / supported 15+ sensitization programs during the evaluation period.**

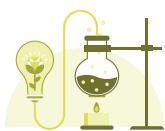
9. Reform Area 6 - Focus on Innovation & Sustainability

9.1 Introduction

Focus on Innovation and Sustainability assesses how states promote innovation and sustainability through support for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Research

and Development (R&D), and startups focused on climate change and circular economy. It evaluates the presence of policies facilitating IPR, the extent of R&D support, and the number of sustainability-focused startups receiving incentives.

It covers 2 action points:



Action Point 18:

Initiatives Undertaken by the State/UT to Facilitate Research and Innovation



Action Point 19:

Support to Startups for a Sustainable Focus

Facilitating Research and Innovation in the State

Chhattisgarh has special provisions to facilitate and fast-track Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) processes such as patents, copyrights, and trademarks for startups. For example, under Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy 2019 24, the state offers a technical patent subsidy covering 50% of the expenses incurred for obtaining a patent, up to a maximum of INR 10 lakh.

Chhattisgarh also provides R&D support for startups and innovators in priority sectors. Industries setting up R&D labs in the state are encouraged and offered land and essential facilities on par with those provided to Small Scale Industries under Chhattisgarh's industrial investment incentives.

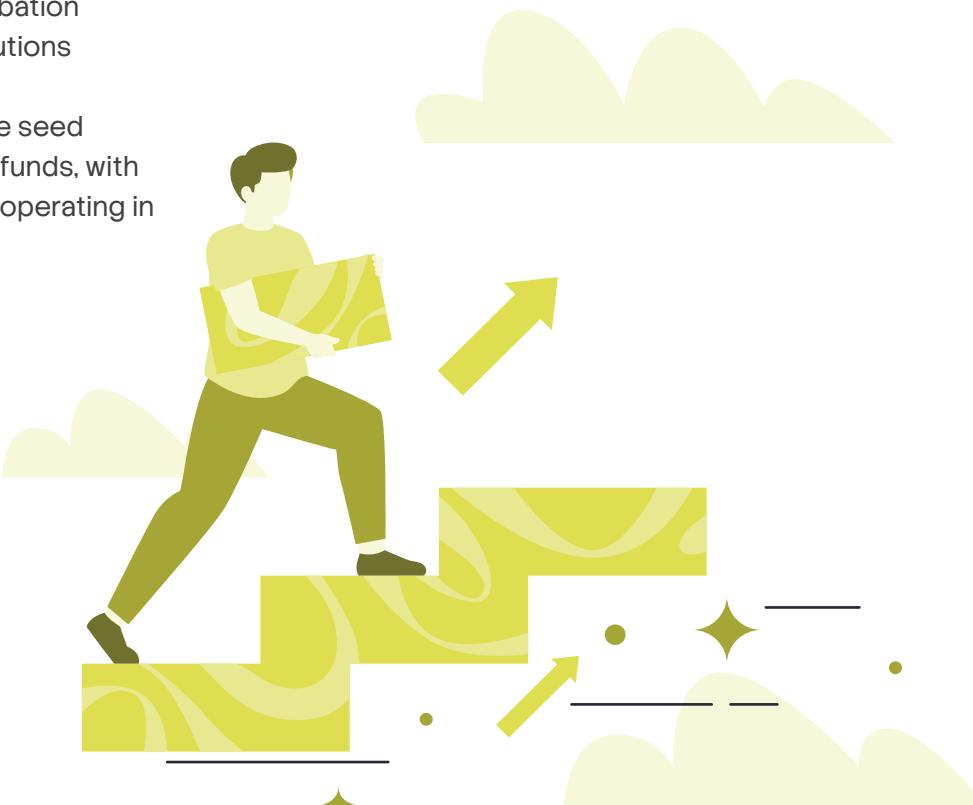
Support to Startups for a Sustainable Future

The State has shared 'Industrial Development Policy 2024-30' as the active policy supporting startups in the circular economy and sustainability domains. It offers 50% reimbursement of expenses, up to INR 5 lakh, for certifications like ISO standards, ZED, BEE, in the field of new and renewable energy, and other national/international certifications. Climate change and sustainability have also been identified as priority sectors with customized fiscal incentives.



10. Way Ahead

- The state may clearly define who qualifies as a woman entrepreneur and place stronger focus on targeted support for women-led startups through state initiatives
- The state may strengthen support for startups operating in the public welfare domain by introducing dedicated schemes and clearly articulated, publicly accessible eligibility criteria to enable solutions with sustained social impact
- The state may expand and deepen mentorship support by onboarding sector-specific experts, putting in place a structured mentor-matching mechanism, and encouraging regular mentor engagement with early-stage founders
- The state may strengthen structured support for student entrepreneurship by enhancing initiatives, programmes, and incubation support within educational institutions
- The state may establish and scale seed funds, venture funds, or funds of funds, with targeted allocations for startups operating in identified priority sectors
- The state may strengthen governance and accountability frameworks for incubators and implementing agencies, including clarity on equity arrangements, exit conditions, and founder safeguards under government-supported schemes
- The state may focus on facilitating regular pitching platforms and investor engagement programmes to improve startup access to angel funding, equity financing, and debt instruments
- The state may intensify efforts to promote startup participation in public procurement by strengthening awareness and use of relaxations in tenders and increasing opportunities for startups to receive work orders



11. Annexures

List of Figures

Figure 1: Reform area wise scores for Chhattisgarh

Figure 2: Grievance tracking mechanism on the state startup portal

Figure 3: Seminar on AI-ML along with Drone Technology under Atal Innovation Mission

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1800 115 565

