



**DPIIT**  
#startupindia



5<sup>th</sup> Edition

# States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking

# Gujarat

Best Performer

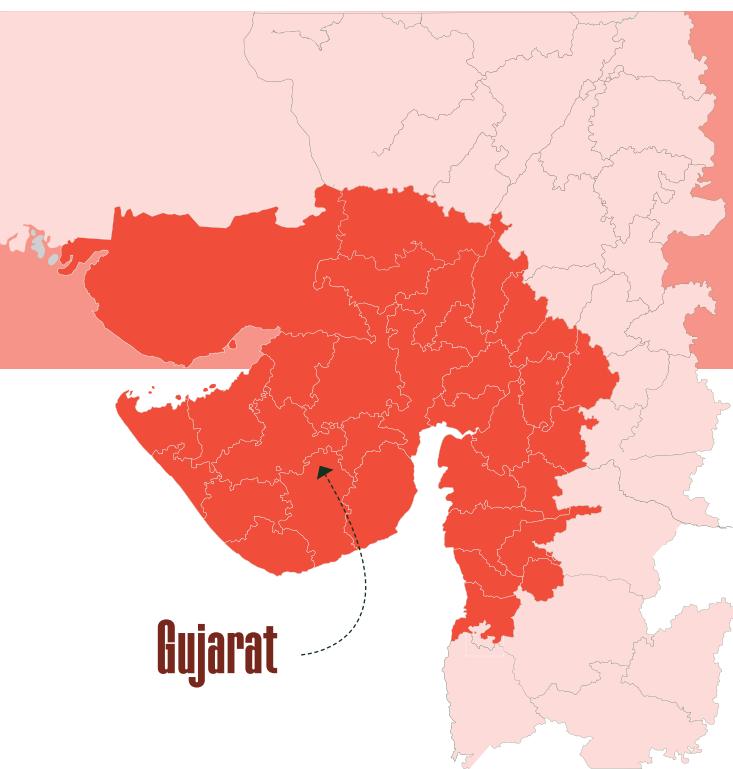




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# 1. About the State



Gujarat is one of India's most diverse and industrially advanced states, strategically located with the country's second longest coastline of 2,340.62 km, serving as a natural gateway to the northern and central hinterland. It is the fifth-largest state in India and home to over 6.04 Cr people (Census 2011).

Gujarat is a leading contributor to India's economic growth. The state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) stood at INR 22.03 L. Cr. in 2022-23, growing at a CAGR of 12.3% between 2011-12 to 2022-23. The

Gujarat is one of India's most diverse and industrially advanced states, strategically located with the country's longest coastline of 2,340.62 km.

state ranks as the second-largest producer of onshore crude oil and the fourth-largest producer of natural gas in the country. The state's maritime infrastructure is another key strength.

It is also one of the top states in attracting FDI, with investments inflow of USD 5.7 Bn during FY 2025. The state is also a major exporter, with exports of USD 116.4 Bn. in 2024-25.

Gujarat has developed a vibrant and thriving startup ecosystem, backed by strong institutional frameworks and consistent policy execution. As per the Startup Gujarat portal, the state supports over 12,900 startups, facilitated through more than 180 incubators and innovation centres operating across various domains. These initiatives have strengthened Gujarat's position as one of India's leading hubs for entrepreneurship and innovation.



# 2. State Startup Policies and Initiatives

## 2.1 State Startup Policies

Gujarat has emerged as a leading startup hub with a strong culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. The state promotes startups through the Scheme for Assistance to Startups/Innovation, which is aligned with the broader Gujarat Industrial Policy 2020. The scheme is implemented by the Industries Commissionerate, Government of Gujarat, which acts as the nodal agency. Building upon the earlier 2015 framework, the policy provides financial support, incubation infrastructure, and mentoring assistance, enabling the growth of innovation-driven enterprises across sectors.

**Its main components include:**

### 01 Seed Support:

Startups receive seed funding up to INR 30L for product development, marketing and professional assistance.

### 02 Sustenance Allowance:

A monthly allowance of INR 20,000 per month for one year to support founders in early stages; higher allowance of INR 25,000 per month applies if a woman co-founder is involved.

### 03 Mentoring & Institutional Assistance:

Funding to recognized nodal institutions for supporting/mentoring approved startups; support for incubator infrastructure such as labs, prototyping equipment, and coworking space.

04

## Infrastructure & Portal Support:

Approval for creation of a dedicated digital portal, access to state facilities (labs, libraries, co-working) for startups; allocation in industrial parks and innovation hubs.

**Some of the other schemes for supporting Startups in the State of Gujarat include:**

- **Drone Usage and Promotion Policy of Gujarat:**

Aims to promote the safe and commercial use of drones while encouraging innovation and startup participation in drone-based solutions.

- **Biotechnology Policy (2022), Government of Gujarat:**

Focuses on fostering innovation, research, and commercialization in the biotech sector through fiscal incentives and infrastructure support.

- **Science, Technology and Innovation Policy of Gujarat:**

Encourages sustainable development by leveraging science and technology to boost innovation across sectors including agriculture, fisheries, and energy.

- **Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0):**

Supports student-led startups by funding proof-of-concept and prototype development, fostering innovation across higher education institutions.

- **Scheme of Assistance for Incubators and Startups under Electronics & IT/ITeS Policy (2016):**

Promotes product development and business linkages in electronics and IT/ITeS sectors through incubation and funding support.

## 2.2 Key Initiatives Driving Growth

Gujarat's startup ecosystem is being strengthened through a series of structured initiatives that promote innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, and market readiness. The State focuses on capacity building, entrepreneurship, sectoral innovation and institutional support to catalyse sustainable startup growth.

**Some of the key initiatives include:**

- **Startup Gujarat (State Startup Cell & Portal):**

Single-window portal and state startup cell that implements statewide startup schemes, maintains an incubator network, provides seed/grant facilitation and investor connect.

- **iCreate – International Centre for Entrepreneurship & Technology (GFEI / iCreate):**

Large technology & product-focused incubator/accelerator supporting hardware, IoT, robotics and deep-tech startups with prototyping, mentoring and acceleration programmes.

- **CIIE / IIMA (IIMA Ventures) – IIM Ahmedabad incubation & early-stage funding:**

IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (CIIE / IIMA Ventures) provides incubation, acceleration, mentorship and early-stage funding linkages.

- **Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) – DST Gujarat:**

State biotech R&D and translational research centre facilitates technical collaboration, important for biotech / health-tech startups.

● **84 Partnerships with Indian or International companies, institutions or organizations including PSUs:**

Government of Gujarat has established various partnerships with institutions

or business enterprises for supporting Startups. These include IIM-Bangalore, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII, TiE, NASSCOM among others.



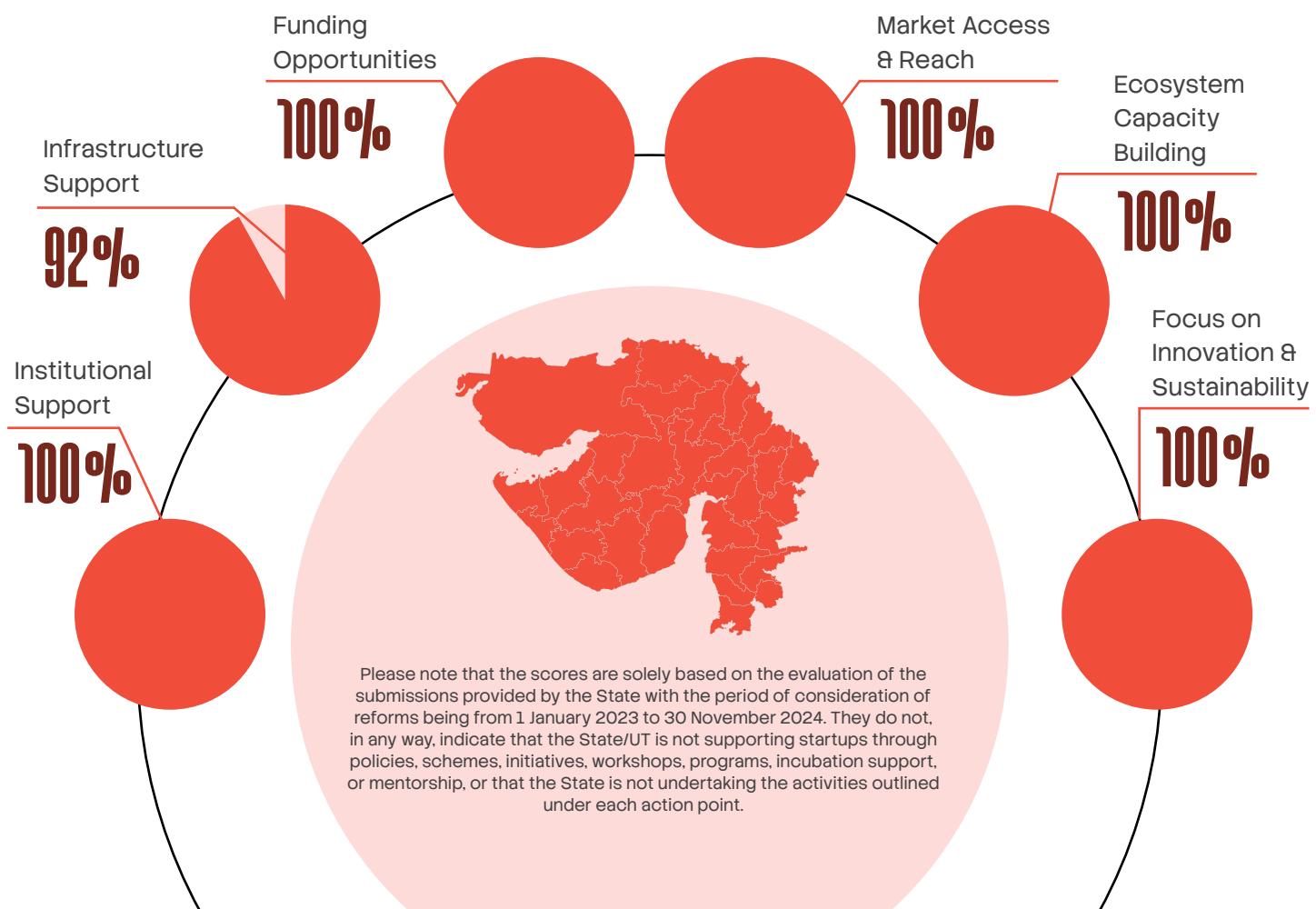
# 3. States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking Results

Gujarat participated in all 6 Reform Areas and 19 Action Points under the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking, and has been positioned as a 'Best Performer' State in Category A.

The State's performance in each of the Reform Areas has been graphically represented, with the results presented in the form of percentile scores. These percentile scores reflect Gujarat's relative performance in each Reform Area vis-à-vis other participating States and UTs in Category A. For instance, a 100<sup>th</sup> percentile score in the 'Institutional Support' Reform Area indicates that Gujarat has outperformed all other participating States and UTs in Category A on this parameter.

Overall, Gujarat 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 Gujarat**



# 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

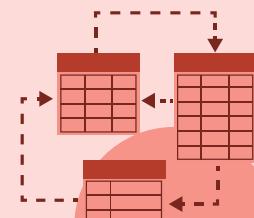
1100+

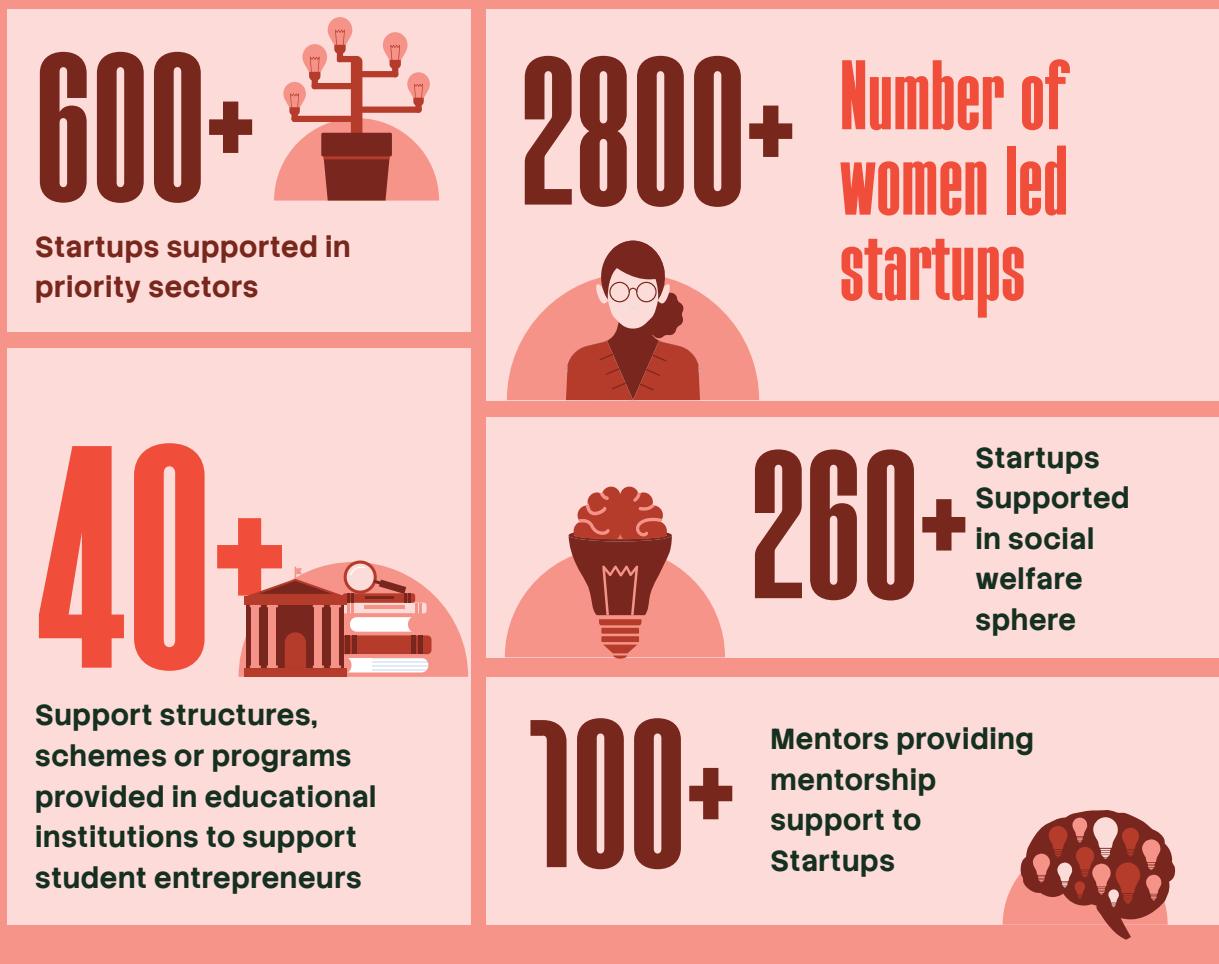
**Startups supported  
(Other than those by the  
Nodal Department)**



20+

**Schemes/  
Initiatives  
in Priority  
Sectors**





### Institutional support provided to Startups:

Gujarat has put in place an institutional framework to support startups through its 'Scheme for Assistance to Startups/ Innovation 2020' under the Gujarat Industrial Policy. Several incentives have been extended under this scheme, including Seed funding, sustenance allowance, acceleration support, skill development as well as mentorship by Nodal Institutes, promotional events, among others.

The Industries Department of Gujarat acts as the nodal agency for supporting all startups within the state. Gujarat also has a nodal officer and a dedicated team responsible for startup promotion and facilitation in the State.

In addition to the nodal department, multiple line departments and institutions such as Gujarat Student Startup and Innovation Hub (i-Hub), Education Department and GSBTM, Department of Science & Technology have extended institutional support to startups in the form of financial assistance under Biotechnology Policy, SSIP 2.0, IT-ITeS Policy, incubation access support etc., **benefitting more than 1,100+ startups during the evaluation period.**

### 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, Healthcare,

Engineering, Clean and Green Energy, Climate Change, Semiconductors, Robotics among others.

To promote startups operating within the identified priority sectors, the **State had 20+ schemes, initiatives / policies / activities operational during the evaluation period.** These interventions included funding or Incubation support under 'Scheme for Assistance to Startups/ Innovation' (Gujarat Industrial Policy 2020-25), funding support under Biotechnology Policy (2022-27), events and initiatives such as Vadodara Healthcare Innovation Festival, Evangelise'23, Demo day of Climate action Startups as well as series of capacity development workshops in Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare sector among others.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, **a total of 600+ unique startups have been supported across the identified priority sectors.**

## Women Entrepreneurial Development

Dedicated incentives and support mechanisms for women-led startups have been introduced through Schemes / initiatives such as:

- **Scheme for Assistance to Startups/ Innovations**, providing sustenance allowance of INR 25,000 per month per startup, applicable where at least one co-founder is a woman
- **Student Startup Innovation Policy 2.0:** Promotes innovation and Start-ups by women, specially-abled, marginalized community and those innovators trying to address persistent challenges of the State and the Nation. i-Hub acts as a PMU for implementation of flagship programs such as Westart (Women startups)

- **Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Scheme for Assistance to MSMEs 2020 (amended in 2022):** 1% additional interest subsidy is offered to differently abled, women entrepreneurs and registered startups in manufacturing sector
- **Women Startup Meet 4.0**, has been a key capacity building, and networking event conducted by the state to enhance participation of women entrepreneurship in the state.

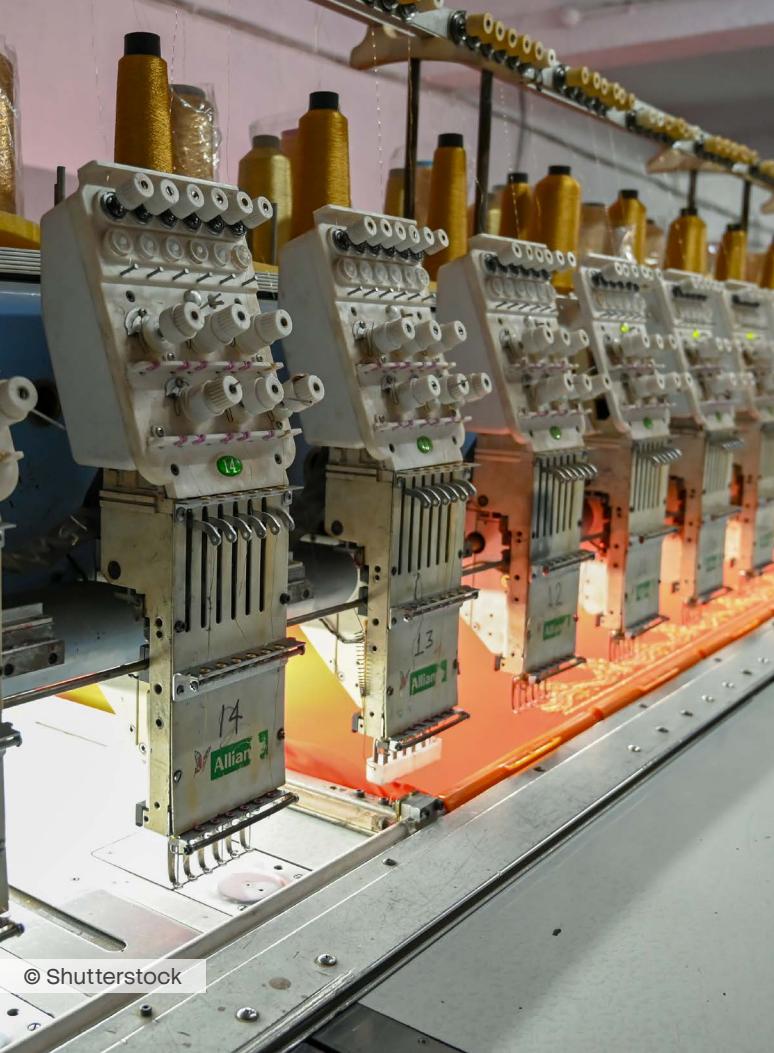
As per the documentary evidence submitted, **the State has supported 2,800+ unique women-led startups across 32 districts during the evaluation period.**

## For the Growth of Young Entrepreneurs

Several initiatives have been undertaken for the growth of young entrepreneurs in the State. One such is the Entrepreneurship Development programs (EDP) undertaken in Education Institutions to support student entrepreneurs.

The Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) aims to provide 15-day training sessions to foster entrepreneurship. Conducted by CED at Atmiya University, the program covers topics like starting a business, idea-to-product conversion, prototype development, business management, market survey, and project report preparation. At Atmiya University, Rajkot, an Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) was conducted for final-year BBA students specializing in "Entrepreneurship and Family Business."

Overall, during the evaluation period, the **State implemented 40+ such comprehensive support structures / schemes / programs aimed at supporting student entrepreneurs.**



## **The State has a clear criterion to define which startups qualify to be public welfare Startups**

A startup generating substantial social impact in following areas shall be considered for the evaluation under this category of assistance:

- i. Provision of means of livelihood to community/society
- ii. Upliftment of community/ group of people of the society
- iii. Conservation of environment
- iv. Animal welfare and protection
- v. Rural development with technology
- vi. Women empowerment
- vii. Protection from pandemics and fatal diseases
- viii. Grassroot startups/ Startups with rural impact
- ix. any other sector approved by SLEC

**As per the documentary evidence submitted,**

**The State has supported 260+ startups operating in the public welfare sphere during the evaluation period.**

## **Mentorship Support Provided to Startups**

The State has facilitated structured mentorship support for startups as part of its ecosystem development initiatives. As per the documentary evidence provided, **100+ mentors have been engaged to provide mentorship support to startups within the State** during the evaluation period.

## **Entrepreneurial Growth in the Social Innovation Landscape**

The State has extended targeted support to startups operating in the public welfare and social innovation space, through its Scheme for assistance for Startup/ Innovation- Gujarat Industrial Policy-2020, in form of financial assistance and incubation support.

### **Some of the key provisions include:**

- Additional assistance up to INR 10 lakh, subject to approval of the State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC)
- INR 25,000 (against INR 20,000 for others) per month per startup will be provided as sustenance allowance.
- In case of event being organized for these Startups, the Nodal Institution will be eligible for reimbursement of 90% (against 75% for others) of expenses incurred for organizing promotional event to the extent of maximum INR 5 lakh.

# 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

10,000+



Startups registered on  
the State Startup portal

15+

Existing  
Incubators  
Upgraded

1,100+



Startups provided incubation Support

## 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, 10,000+ 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.

**Figure 2: Grievance tracking mechanism on Gujarat startup portal**

## Access to Physical Infrastructure

The State has strengthened physical infrastructure support for startups, particularly those engaged in manufacturing and hardware sectors, through the establishment and upgradation of incubators and acceleration facilities.

During the evaluation period, **the State has set up 3+ new manufacturing incubators**, including 'Shaily Sigma Incubation Center', 'Micro Nano Center' at Parul University and New Facility at Karnavati University, **while 15+ existing incubators were upgraded**. These include Anand Pharmacy College, Anand, Anant National University, Ahmedabad, R K University, Rajkot,

Sankalchand Patel University, Visnagar among others.

As per the documentary evidence submitted,

**1,100+ unique startups have received incubation or acceleration support across State-supported incubators and accelerators during the period of consideration.**

# 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

**200+**

Startups received funding from the State



**20+**

Number of state level fundraising initiatives



**50+**

Startups connected with investors



## Access to Funding

The State has instituted dedicated funding mechanisms to improve access to capital for startups. These include ICT & Deep Tech (IT) Sector Funds through Gujarat IT/ITeS Policy.

In addition to direct funding instruments, the State has initiated collaborative funding provisions for startups in partnership with banking and financial institutions such as Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank and YES Bank.

Kotak Mahindra Bank has emerged as a strong partner in Gujarat's startup ecosystem, offering startup-focused financial products alongside investor connect, mentoring, and ecosystem support that help innovators scale with confidence and access to capital. In parallel, HDFC Bank's SmartUp initiative, anchored in its MoU with i-Hub, provides tailored banking solutions, incubation support, and market access, enabling startups to connect with a wide customer base and grow sustainably.

## Startups Receiving Funding through State Supported Funds or Mechanisms

The State of Gujarat has provided funding support to 200+ Startups during the period of consideration

## 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 20+ state-led programs featuring pitching session for Startups by Nirma University, GIAN as well as part of programs in Startup Samvardhan, Rising Bharat 2024, Startup Sphere and various other pitching sessions organized by iHub.

One of the major events organized by the state was Vibrant Gujarat Pre-Summit on Biotechnology. The one-day Presummit event was structured into 4 different sessions comprising of Inauguration ceremony, and well-defined session-I, II, and III (Plenary talks, Fire-side chats, and panel discussion) followed parallelly by Start-up Exposition of more than 50 start-up participants, supported by boot camp arrangements for startups & other stakeholders, live pitching session to connect with Investors, technology showcase, and many more. Experts from the UK and USA also participated along with the 400 plus industry and academic experts in the event hand holding for 51 biotech startups with Investors.

**Figure 3: Glimpses of notable delegates at the Pre-Summit on Biotechnology**



As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has

facilitated successful connections between 50+ startups and investors through its initiatives and partnerships during the evaluation period.

# 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

350+

Startups awarded purchase orders



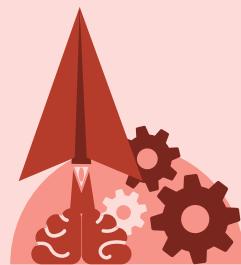
**350+**

**Tenders floated by state agencies with relaxations for startups**



**20+**

**Unique districts where startups have been benefitted**



### **Market Access Opportunity Provided to Startups through Public Procurement**

Government of Gujarat, vide Industries and Mines Department Resolution-102018-UOR-1-Ch, Dt. 11/04/2018 has relaxed "Prior Turnover" and "Prior experience" criteria for encouraging Startups to participate in public procurement. Further, vide Industries and Mines Department Government Resolution No. PURCHASE-102018-UOR-1-CH, Dt. 30/04/2018, the State has relaxed 'Submission of EMD and Tender Fees' criteria for Startups for public procurement. The Government of Gujarat Departments can purchase from eligible startups without inviting bids or tenders, up to a financial ceiling of INR 15 lakh per annum, as per the Gujarat State Procurement Policy 2024.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, various departments such as Labour and Employment, Ports and Transport, Science and Technology, Health & Family Welfare Department among others floated 350+ such tenders during the period of consideration.

### **Number of Startups Awarded Purchase Orders or Work Orders**

The State has enabled tangible market access for startups by awarding purchase orders or work orders through State government departments, agencies, and public sector undertakings. The awarded work orders or purchase orders span multiple sectors and departments such as Panchayats and Rural Housing Department, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Health Family Welfare Department, Education Department and Home Department among others.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, **350+ startups have been awarded purchase orders or work orders during the evaluation period.** These startups were distributed across **25 districts within the State.**

## Access to Domestic and International Market Access Opportunities

During the evaluation period, the State implemented **80+ market access initiatives**, including Startup Gujarat Conclave 2023, Bhartiya Vigyan Sammelan 2023 (BVS), GEZIA Demo Day, EVangelise '23 EV Expo, Pitch to Rise 3.0 sessions among others, designed to

improve visibility, customer acquisition, and business expansion opportunities for startups.

For instance, the Startup Gujarat Conclave 2023 was organized to bring together the best practices of Indian states in nurturing Startups, foster industry collaborations, facilitate MOUs, showcase innovative products, services & technology, and offer engaging knowledge sessions and investment opportunities.

**Figure 4: Vibrant Gujarat Startup Conclave at Gandhinagar**



India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest ecosystem for startups globally with over 99000 DPIIT recognized startups across 670 districts. The Vibrant Gujarat Startup Conclave 2023 aims to bring together the best practices of Indian states in nurturing Startups, foster industry collaborations, facilitate MOUs, showcase innovative products, services & technology, and offer engaging knowledge sessions and investment opportunities.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, these initiatives have benefitted startups across 25 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

12+

Sensitization  
workshops conducted



300+

Unique State-sponsored  
incubators trained



20+

State departments participated in  
sensitization workshops



12+

Workshops/  
programs  
conducted



## Capacity Building of Officials of State Government Departments on Startup Ecosystem of India

During the evaluation period, **12+ sensitization workshops or programs** have been conducted to familiarize officials with startup-related policies, regulatory frameworks, and the role of government in enabling entrepreneurship.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, officials from State departments such as Education Department, Labour, Skill Development & Employment Department, Home Department, Energy and Petrochemicals, Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Cooperation Department among others participated in these sensitization programs.

## Number of State-supported Incubators Trained through Capacity Development Workshops

The State has undertaken capacity development initiatives to strengthen the

operational and managerial capabilities of State-supported incubators through structured training workshops and programs.

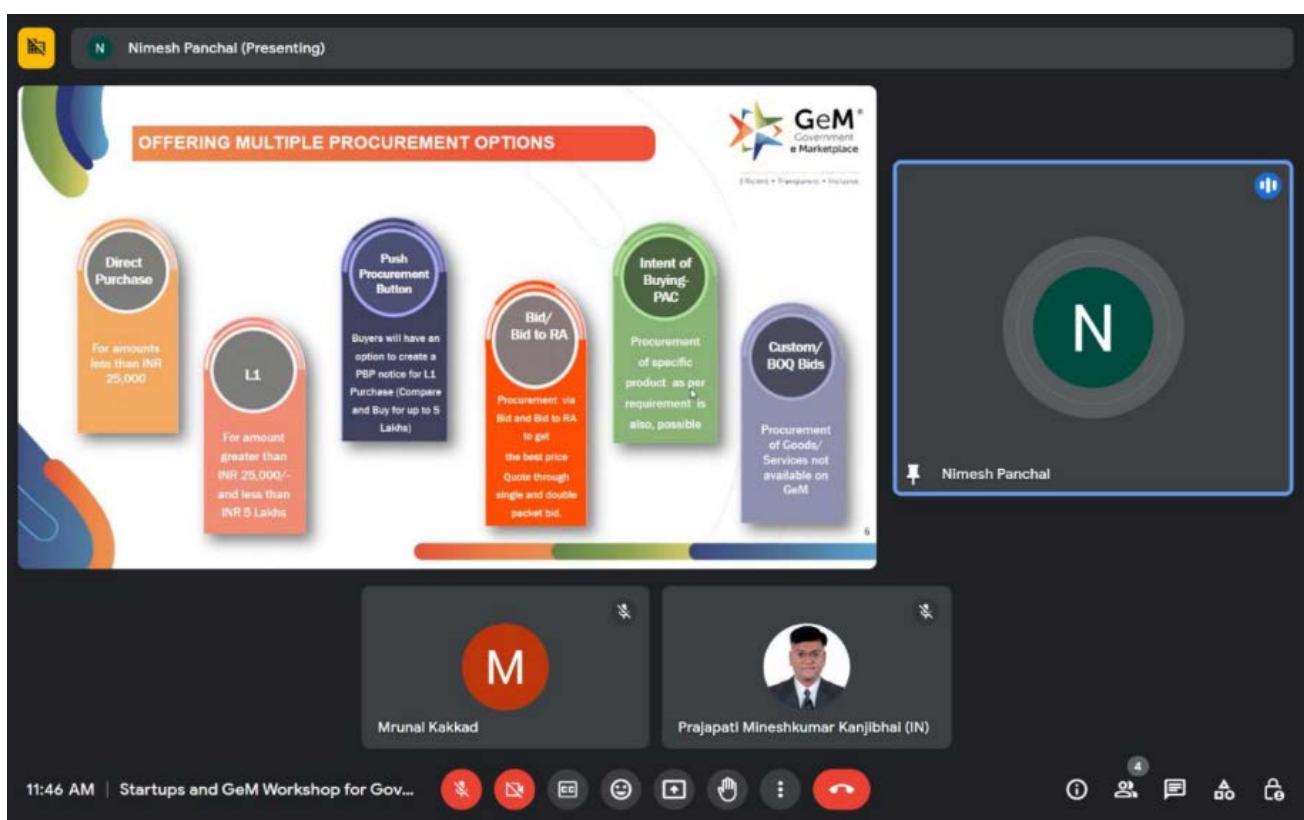
As per the documentary evidence provided, **300+ State-supported incubators have participated in capacity development workshops** during the evaluation period.

## Number of Programs Conducted to Sensitize Ecosystem Enablers

The State has 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 **12+ sensitization programs during the evaluation period**.

Figure 5: Glimpse of Startup and GeM Workshop for Govt. officials in Ahmedabad District



# 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

## 9.2 Performance

200+

Startups focused on  
renewable energy,  
climate change, and  
sustainability



## Facilitating Research and Innovation in the State

Gujarat has the special provisions for facilitating and fast-tracking Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) like patent, copyright, trademark, etc. for Startups. For instance, the Student Startup and Innovation Policy 2022 - SSIP 2.0 (2022-27) by Education Department has the following provisions to support innovation:

- Patent - INR 75,000 for Domestic, INR 1.5 Lakh for other countries
- Copyrights - INR 8,000
- Trademarks - INR 12,500
- International Registration of Marks - INR 50,000
- Industrial Design - INR 9,000
- Plant Variety Registry - INR 33,000

Gujarat also provides R&D support for Startups/ Innovators working in the identified priority sectors. For instance, Gujarat IT/ITeS Policy

by Dept. of Science & Technology includes provisions for ICT & Deep-tech startups, providing one time support of 25% up to INR 25 lakhs for their total expenses incurred on R&D, creating prototypes, and developing the product.

## Support to Startups for a Sustainable Future

Climate Change and sustainability has been called out explicitly as one of the priority sectors of the Government and has customized set of fiscal incentives.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, **the State has supported 200+ startups working in areas such as renewable energy, climate resilience, climate technology, resource efficiency, waste management, and other sustainability-focused solutions.**

**Figure 6: Incentives for startups focused on Climate Change from the Gujarat Startup Portal**

The screenshot shows the Start Up Gujarat website. The top navigation bar includes links for Policies and Support, Ecosystem, Information Wizard, Notification, Media, Grievance, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "How It Works" and discusses the "Student Startup Innovation Policy". It highlights a priority for assistance of Rs. 10 Lakhs for deserving innovators and Start-ups to further their innovation. The sidebar on the left lists various sectors, with "Climate change" being the highlighted category.

# 10. Way Ahead



- The state may intensify its focus on promoting startups in the sector of sustainability and renewable energy, by bringing in more focused policies on relevant areas like circular economy, waste management. Further, it may create a dedicated sustainability fund to provide targeted grants and low-interest loans for startups developing renewable-energy, climate-tech, and circular-economy solutions, building on the existing support for sustainability-focused ventures.
- The state may streamline fund disbursement processes through time-bound service-level agreements and simplified compliance requirements for early-stage startups.
- The State may clearly define woman entrepreneur and publish the definition in the public domain to ensure transparency, consistency and effective implementation of support measures.
- The state may expand the women-entrepreneurship ecosystem by introducing a mentorship-plus-seed-capital scheme that pairs experienced women founders with emerging ventures, leveraging the strong foundation already in place.
- The State may clearly outline the types of support and services offered by incubators listed on its State-Startup Portal, enabling startups to make informed choices and improving transparency within the ecosystem.
- The state may introduce a structured performance evaluation and accountability framework for incubators, linked to parameters such as fund disbursement efficiency, startup outcomes, patents filed etc.
- The state may scale the existing student entrepreneurship programmes to include intensive bootcamps across all districts, integrating industry-led projects and access to prototype labs, thereby broadening the current institutional support structures.
- The state may facilitate regular venture-capital matchmaking events that bring together investors and startups, building on the successful investor connections recorded so far.
- The state may introduce capacity-building certifications for incubator staff and ecosystem enablers, ensuring that trained incubators continue to meet evolving best-practice standards.
- The state may promote cross-district collaboration hubs that rotate pilot projects and market-access programmes among districts, fostering knowledge sharing and balanced regional growth.

# 11. Annexures

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