



5th Edition

States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking

Manipur

Leader

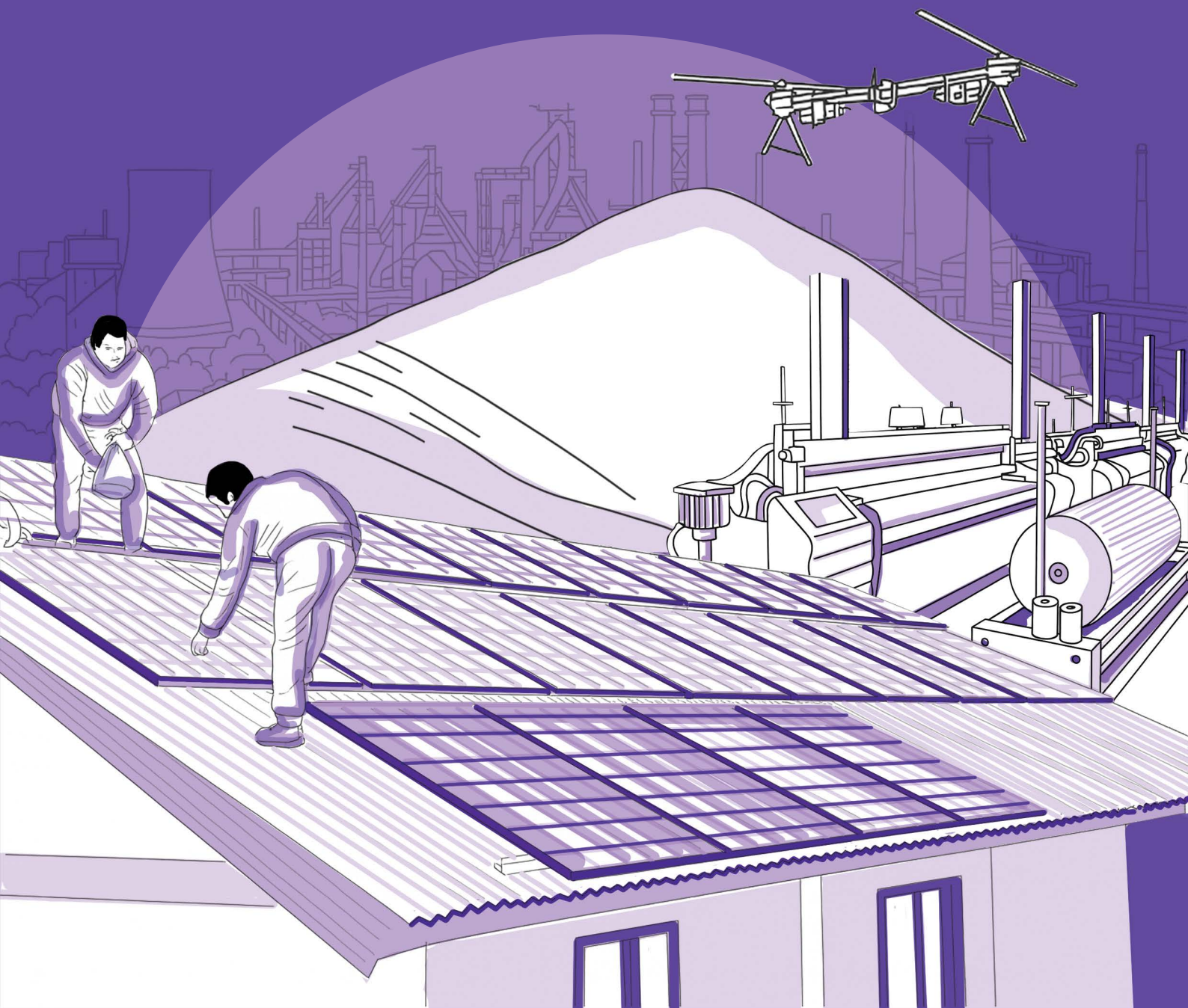


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1. About the State



Manipur has supported 100+ women-led startups/ women entrepreneurs, fostering inclusive growth within the startup ecosystem.

Manipur

Situated in the northeastern region of India, Manipur has Imphal as its capital. Manipur spans an area of 22,347 Sq. Km., with a population of 23.88 Lakh as per the 2011 Census. The state has a literacy rate of 77%. It produces about 25% of the total bamboo stock of Northeast India and 14% of India's overall bamboo stock and is also the largest producer of passion fruit in the country. Manipur's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) registered a 11.34% CAGR between 2013-14 and 2023-24.

The Manipur Startup 2.0 Policy 2022 is the state's official startup policy, with the Planning Department designated as the Nodal

Department for its implementation. The state has a Startup Cell to foster the growth of the startup ecosystem. Startup Manipur serves as the official startup portal of the state.

State-supported incubators and accelerators in Manipur, such as Manipur Technical University (MTU), Dhanamanjuri University (DMU), and the Manipur Technology Innovation Hub, provide mentorship, infrastructure, and funding support to startups. The state has supported 100+ women-led startups/ women entrepreneurs, fostering inclusive growth within the startup ecosystem.

2. State Startup Policies and Initiatives

2.1 State Startup Policies

The Manipur Startup 2.0 Policy 2022 is the state's official startup policy aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening the startup ecosystem. Its mission includes encouraging youth entrepreneurship, supporting incubators and accelerators, fostering startup recognition, providing training and infrastructure, enabling hassle-free clearances, and facilitating financial support, with a target of 40% women-led startups in the next five years.

Some of the fiscal and non-fiscal incentives under the policy include:

- **Stamp Duty Reimbursement**
Startups are eligible for 100% reimbursement of Stamp Duty, Registration Fee, or Conversion Fee paid on sale/lease deeds for the first transaction.
- **Patent Filing Reimbursement**
Startups can claim 100% reimbursement of actual patent filing costs, including filing, attorney, search, and maintenance fees, up to INR 2 Lakh for domestic patents and INR 5 Lakh for international patents.

- **Market Access**

Specific interventions will provide market opportunities for registered startups.

- **Self-Certification and Compliance**

Startups may file self-certifications under prescribed formats in line with Startup India.

2.2 Key Initiatives Driving Growth

The State has undertaken several strategic initiatives to nurture innovation, empower entrepreneurs, and accelerate the growth of the startup ecosystem.

- **Manipur Startup Venture Fund (MSVF)**

Established by the Government of Manipur with a corpus of INR 30 Cr, it provides funding support to startups.

- **Accelerators and Incubators**

The state has established Manipur Technical University (MTU), Dhanamanjuri University (DMU), and the Manipur Technology Innovation Hub providing incubation and acceleration support to startups.

- **Startup Achievements**

The state highlights the achievements and success stories of startups on the Startup Manipur portal, showcasing their growth and impact.

- **EMD Exemption**

Startups are exempted from submitting Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) while participating in government tenders in the state.

3. States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking Results

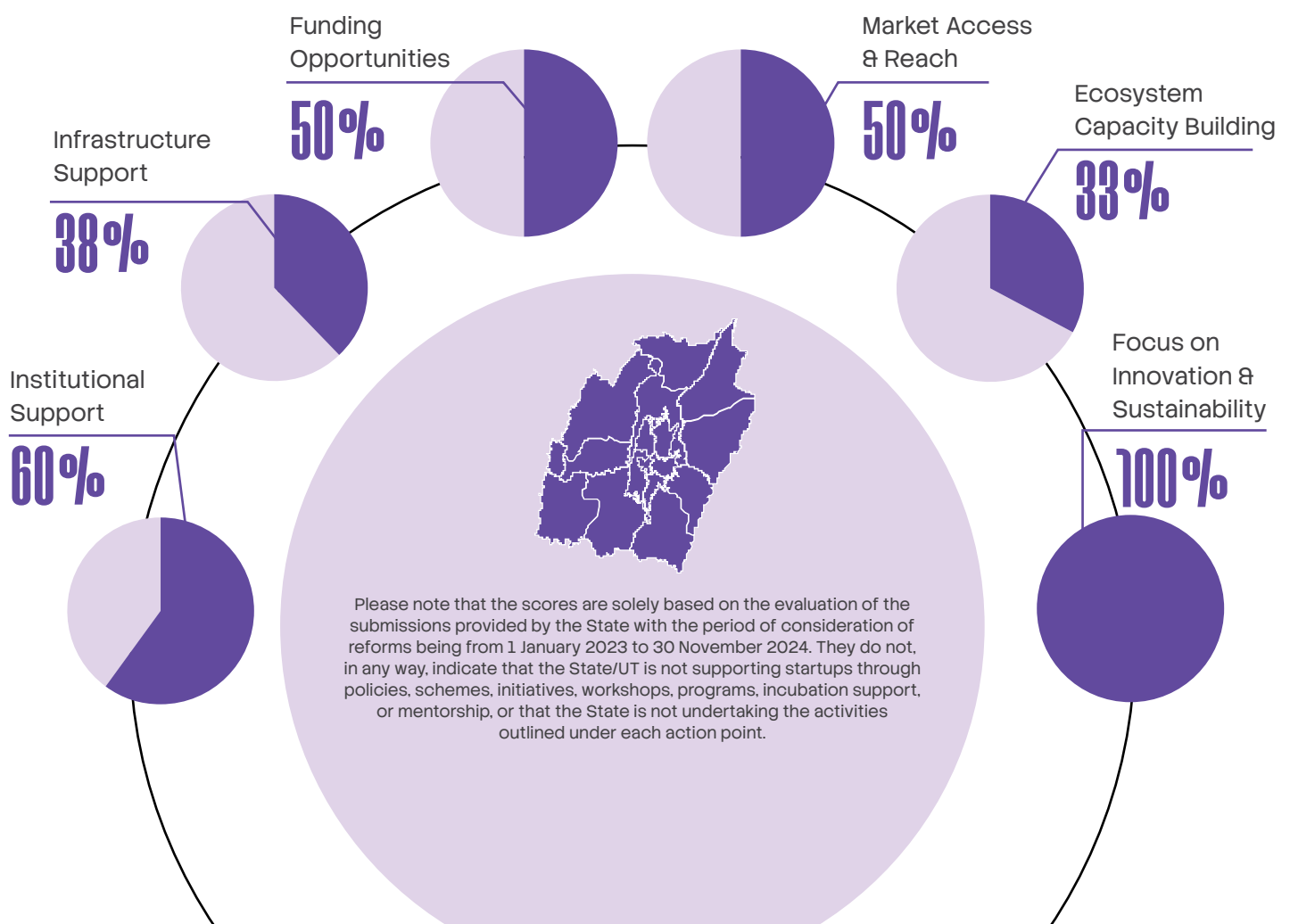
Manipur participated in all 6 Reform Areas and 19 Action Points under the 5th edition of States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking, and has been positioned as a 'Leader' State in Category B.

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 Manipur's relative performance in each Reform Area vis-à-vis other participating States and UTs in Category B. For instance, a 100th percentile score in the 'Institutional Support' Reform Area indicates that Manipur has

outperformed all other participating States and UTs in Category B on this parameter.

Overall, Manipur 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 Manipur



4. Reform Area 1 - 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

18+



Women-led startups supported

15+



Structures/ schemes/ initiatives/ activities and/ or programs provided in educational institutions to support student entrepreneurs.

Institutional support provided to Startups

The State has put in place an institutional framework to support startups through its Startup Policy 'Manipur Startup Scheme Policy 2.0' (https://production-state-ranking-system.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/Manipur/2022/Manipur_Start_Up_Scheme_2.0_Policy_2022_1734593474683.pdf). The State also has a dedicated nodal officer and a dedicated team responsible for startup promotion and facilitation.

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 Social impact, Waste management, Water management, Financial inclusion, Education, Agriculture, Food Processing, Biotechnology, Healthcare, Energy among others. To promote startups operating within the identified priority sectors, the State had **1+ scheme, initiatives / policies / activities – Manipur Startup Scheme 2.0, operational during the evaluation period.**

The state has identified **15+ priority sectors**, including social impact, waste and water management, financial inclusion, education, agriculture, food processing, biotechnology, and healthcare, along with key industrial and infrastructure domains such as energy, mobility, defence, space, railways, oil and gas, and textiles.

Women Entrepreneurial Development

The State has undertaken focused measures to promote women entrepreneurship as part of its startup ecosystem development efforts.

Dedicated incentives and support mechanisms for women-led startups have been introduced through Startup policy. These measures aim to improve participation of women entrepreneurs across sectors and regions within the Manipur.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has supported **18+ unique women-led startups during the evaluation period.** These startups are distributed across **3+ districts** within the State.

For the Growth of Young Entrepreneurs

The State has implemented structured interventions to encourage entrepreneurship among students and young innovators through educational institutions. These include entrepreneurial skill training, awareness programs. For instance, workshop on prototype/ process design, Smart India hackathon, Startup Manipur Idea stage.

Overall, during the evaluation period, the Manipur implemented **15+ such comprehensive support structures / schemes / programs aimed at supporting student entrepreneurs.** For example, Observance of World Entrepreneurship Day 2024, Observance of World Intellectual Property Day, Smart India Hackathon 2022, One day interaction programme on Women Empowerment in Manipur, among other. All were held at Manipur Technical University.

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

5,270+

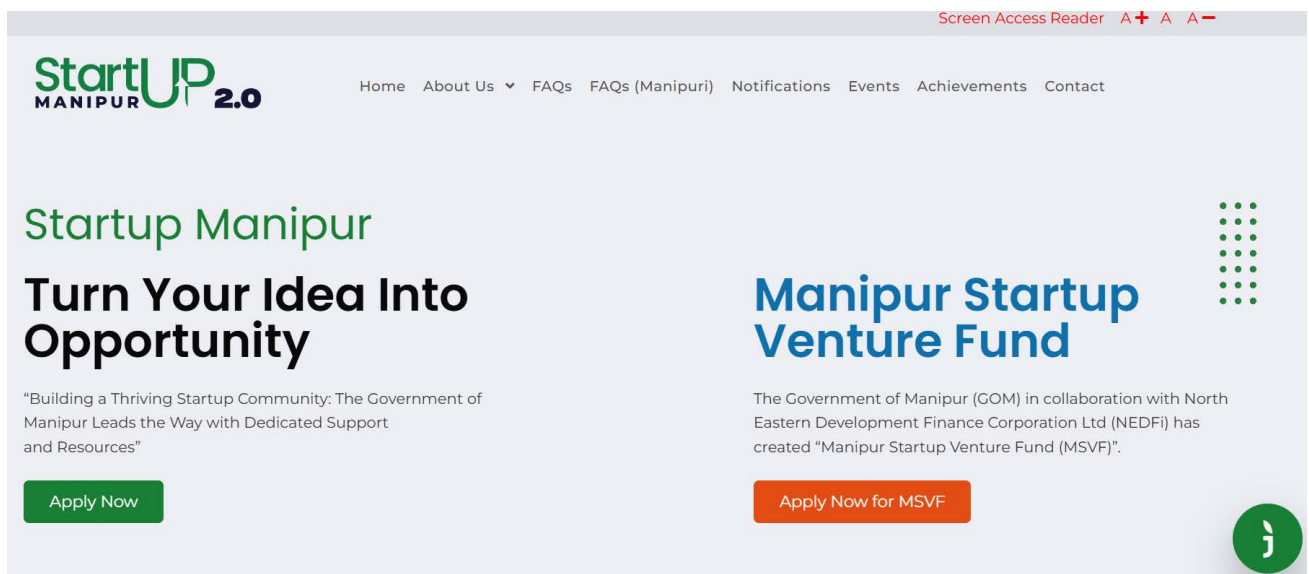
**Startups
registered on
the State Startup
portal**



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, **5,270+ startups are registered on the State Startup Portal** – Startup Manipur 2.0 ([Link](#))

Manipur 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 support accessibility for persons with disabilities.

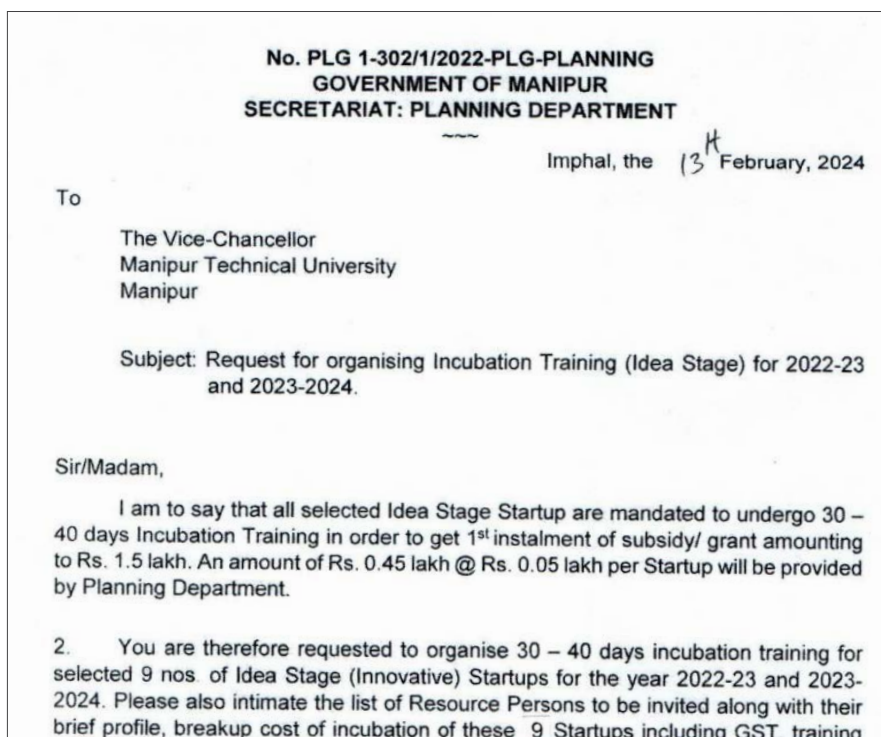
Figure 2: Glimpse of Startup Manipur 2.0 portal

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 Manipur upgraded its **2+ existing incubators** and

had set up **1+ new incubator**. As per the documentary evidence submitted, **25+ unique startups have received incubation or acceleration support across State-supported incubators and accelerators** during the period of consideration. The State further organises incubation trainings for selected Idea Stage startup which undergo 30-40 days of training, and an amount of INR 0.05 Lakh per startup is provided by the planning department.

Figure 3: Incubation training for Idea-stage startups, organized by the Government of Manipur

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

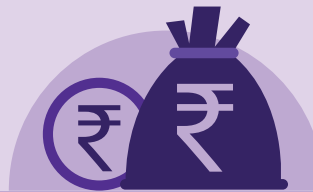


Action Point 11:
State Support in Fundraising Initiatives

6.2 Performance

40+

Startups received funding from the State through its dedicated funds for the Startups



Access to Funding

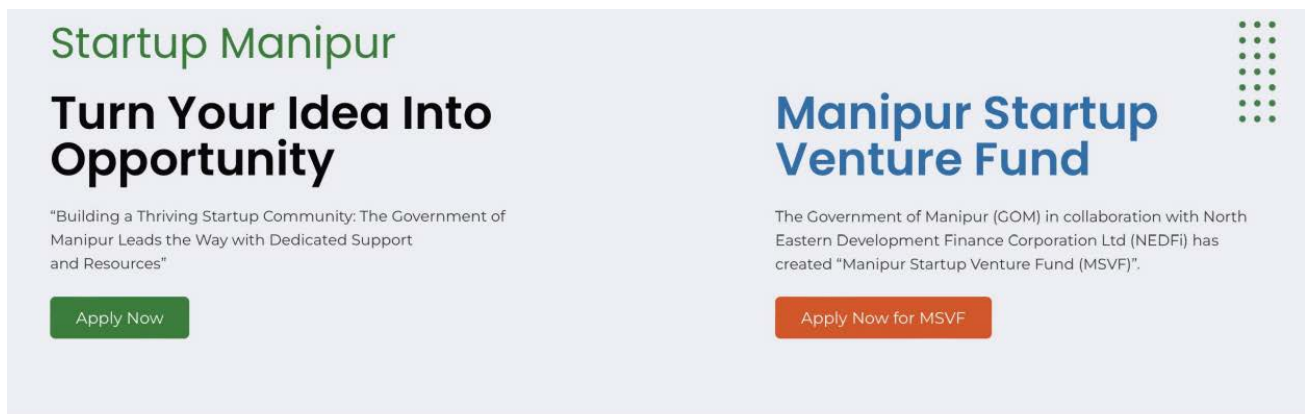
State has instituted dedicated funding mechanisms to improve access to capital for startups. These have been operationalized under Manipur Startup Venture Fund and Manipur Credit Guarantee Scheme.

In addition to direct funding instruments, the State has initiated collaborative funding provisions for startups in partnership with banking and financial institutions. The Government of Manipur (GOM) in collaboration with North- Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) has created "Manipur Startup Venture Fund (MSVF), with NEDFi Venture

Capital Limited as the investment manager of the fund. The primary objective and purpose of the Fund/ Scheme is development and growth of startup eco system in Manipur and to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing in instruments such as equity and/ or equity-linked

and/ or other instruments including but not limited to convertible instruments, debentures, preference shares, warrants, options, of the Portfolio Companies engaged in various sectors in accordance with SEBI (AIF) Regulations and having linkages with the State of Manipur.

Figure 4: Manipur Startup Venture Fund on Manipur Startup Portal



Startup Manipur

Turn Your Idea Into Opportunity

"Building a Thriving Startup Community: The Government of Manipur Leads the Way with Dedicated Support and Resources"

[Apply Now](#)

Manipur Startup Venture Fund

The Government of Manipur (GOM) in collaboration with North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) has created "Manipur Startup Venture Fund (MSVF)".

[Apply Now for MSVF](#)

Startup Manipur Scheme for Livelihood of IDPs

The State Government has been promoting and provided financial support to Startups and Entrepreneurs to setup their business since 2017-18. Many of these Startups and Entrepreneurs have upscale their business successfully and become employers from jobseekers. On the other about 60000 Internally Displaced person (IDPs), due to ethnic conflicts/unrest in the State are stationed at Relief Camps without any means of livelihood and source of income.

Number of Startups which have Received Funding through State Supported Funds or Mechanisms

The State has extended direct financial support to startups through State-supported funds or funding mechanisms established or facilitated by the government.

During the evaluation period, a total of **40+ startups have received funding support through these mechanisms.**

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 **3+ state-led programs** such as Nuts and Bolts of Manipur Startup Venture Fund by MTI Hub, MTI-HUB Startup Ideation Program on How to Pitch a Winning Idea, and Start-up Manipur Acceleration Programme (SMAP) by Startup Incubation Center-MTU under the aegis of Planning Department, Government of Manipur, among others.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has facilitated successful connections between **30+ 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

3+ Unique market
access
opportunities



Market Access Opportunity Provided to Startups through Public Procurement

Manipur has enabled market access for startups by facilitating their participation in public procurement through procedural relaxations in tenders and RFPs issued by State government departments and public sector undertakings. Under the section 11 of the Manipur Startup Scheme 2.0 Policy 2022, the state has relaxed various procurement provisions for startups including relaxation of EMDs, prior turnover and prior experience for DPIIT recognized and Manipur Startups.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has floated **1+ tender** or RFPs during the evaluation period that incorporated startup-specific relaxations.

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.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, **1+ startup have been awarded purchase orders or work orders** during the evaluation period. These startups were distributed across 1 district within Manipur.

Access to Domestic and International Market Access Opportunities

The State has undertaken structured initiatives to enable startups to access domestic and international markets through programs that are funded or executed end-to-end by the State,

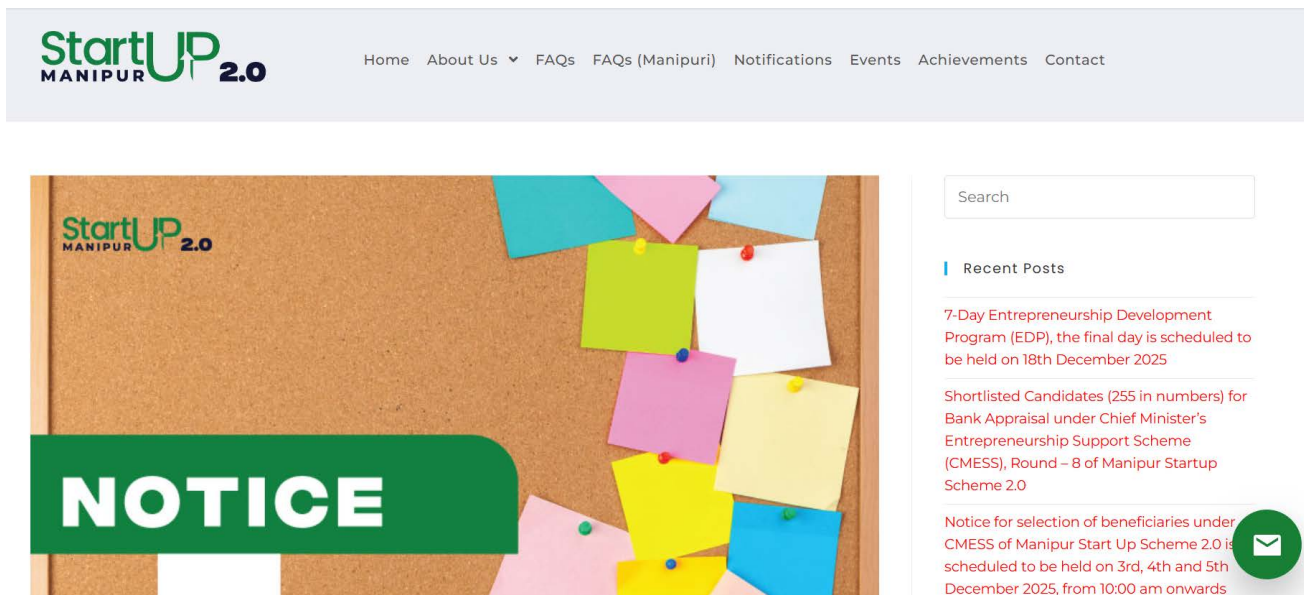
as well as through facilitative partnerships with external agencies.

During the evaluation period, the State implemented **3+ market access initiatives**. The State has supported participation in Aadi Bazaar from 15th to 19th September 2024, where a startup incubated at MTI-Hub, showcased its products. This initiative provided a platform to highlight the state's rich heritage and connect startups with innovative minds.

Figure 5: Glimpse of Manipur participation in Aadi Bazaar, organized by Government of India



Figure 6: Dedicated Event Page on the Manipur Startup Portal



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.

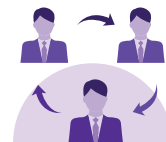
It covers 3 action points:



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

5+

Unique State-sponsored incubators trained



2+

State Departments participated in the sensitization workshops/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, **5+ State-supported incubators** have participated in capacity development workshops during the

evaluation period including Dhanamanjuri University (DMU), Manipur Technical University, Manipur Technology Innovation Hub, AIC-MTU Innovation Foundation, among others.

The State of Manipur nominated officials and ecosystem representatives to participate in the program "Building Innovation & Startup Ecosystem for North-East", to represent the State and strengthen inter-state collaboration in the North- Eastern startup ecosystem.



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

2+ Startups focused on renewable energy, climate change, and sustainability



Facilitating Research and Innovation in the State

The State strengthens its startup ecosystem by providing funding and institutional support across the startup lifecycle, from ideation to scaling. Through seed grants up to INR 3 lakh and financial assistance up to INR 100 lakh for scaling, along with reimbursement of patent and registration costs, sector-focused incentives, and incubation infrastructure, the ecosystem promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable startup growth.

Support to Startups for a Sustainable Future

During the evaluation period, **1+ active policy or scheme supporting startups in the circular economy and sustainability domains**, viz. the Manipur Startup Scheme 2.0 Policy 2022, has been implemented by the State.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has supported **2+ startups working in areas** such as renewable energy, climate resilience, climate technology, resource efficiency, waste management, and other sustainability-focused solutions.



10. Way Ahead



- The State may build a formal coordination framework that links the Startup Manipur nodal team with all line departments, ensuring that policy incentives, procurement relaxations and support services are uniformly applied across every sector and district.
- The State may broaden the mentor-matching platform by onboarding additional sector-specific experts and by defining clear, time-bound mentorship cycles that guide founders from idea validation through scale-up, especially for women-led and youth-led ventures.
- The State may enrich the Startup Manipur portal with real-time analytics, multilingual interfaces and seamless integration with national funding schemes, while also improving accessibility features for persons with disabilities and ensuring that all required service-delivery functions (such as grievance redressal, incentive applications) are fully digital.
- The State may create a dedicated marketplace for public-procurement tenders and work-order opportunities, standardising the application process and publicising relaxed-procurement provisions so that startups across the state can easily discover and compete for government contracts.
- The State may introduce a data-driven monitoring and reporting system that captures key ecosystem metrics (incubator capacity, funding disbursement, market-access outcomes, etc.) and makes this information publicly available, enabling timely identification of gaps and evidence-based policy adjustments.
- The State may expand the physical-infrastructure network by establishing additional incubators and acceleration centres in tier-2 and tier-3 districts, and by upgrading existing facilities to support hardware and manufacturing-oriented startups, thereby reducing geographic concentration of services.
- The State may launch focused R&D and sustainability grant tracks that prioritize renewable-energy, climate-tech and circular-economy solutions, explicitly linking these grants with research institutions, industry partners and the state's innovation councils.
- The State may formalise regular capacity-building programmes for ecosystem enablers—including incubator managers, investors, mentors and government officials, covering emerging technologies, financing models, IPR processes and best practices in startup support.

- The State may develop a comprehensive IPR support service (patent, trademark and copyright assistance) that is clearly documented on the startup portal, includes streamlined reimbursement procedures and provides dedicated advisory personnel to guide innovators through the protection process.
- The State may promote international exposure by facilitating participation in global tech summits, organising outbound delegations, and establishing a virtual showcase platform where Manipur startups can present their solutions to foreign investors, buyers and partners.

11. Annexures

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Figure 2: Glimpse of Startup Manipur 2.0 portal

Figure 3: Incubation training for Idea-stage startups, organized by the Government of Manipur

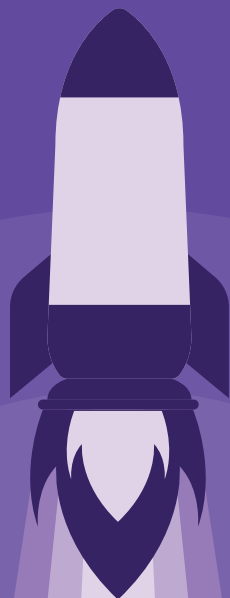
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Figure 6: Dedicated Event Page on the Manipur Startup Portal

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Contact Us
www.startupindia.gov.in
1800 115 565

