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5th Edition

States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking

Uttarakhand

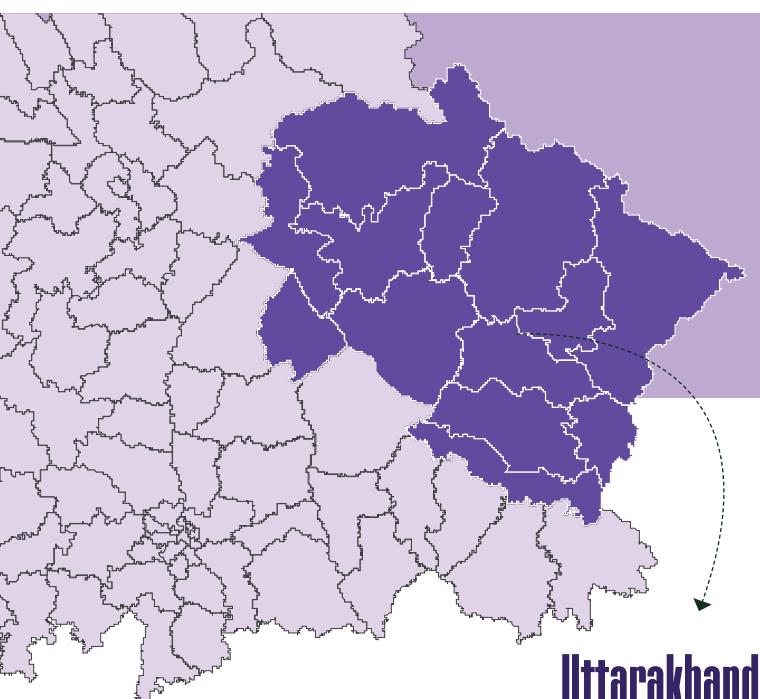
Leader



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1. About the State



Uttarakhand was established on 9th November 2000 as the 27th state of India, carved out of northern Uttar Pradesh. Often referred to as the “Land of the Gods” (Dev Bhoomi), the state is renowned for its numerous holy sites and sacred shrines. It covers an area of approximately 53,483 sq. km and had a population of about 1.01 crore as per the 2011 Census with 30.6% urbanization rate.

The state's economy has been growing steadily, with its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices rising from INR 1.15 Lakh Crore in 2011-12 to INR 3.78 Lakh Crore in 2024-25, registering a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 9.57%. The state attracted total FDI inflows of USD 34.84 Mn, and its exports were valued at USD 1.77 Bn, during 2024-25.

Often referred to as the “Land of the Gods” (Dev Bhoomi), the state is renowned for its numerous holy sites and sacred shrines. It covers an area of approximately 53,483 sq. km.

The MSME Department serves as the Nodal Agency for implementing the Uttarakhand Startup Policy and related programs, with a mandate to build a strong startup ecosystem in the state. Its responsibilities include framing guidelines and processes for startups, incubators, mentors, investors, and other stakeholders; providing guidance and support throughout the recognition process; facilitating networking among ecosystem players; enabling startups to access incentives and mobilize funding; addressing grievances; coordinating with state departments for necessary support; and continuously monitoring the ecosystem to recommend policy improvements.

The State Government's commitment to promote economic growth by cultivating innovation and providing a conducive environment for Startups in the State and facilitating their efforts in every possible way has created a fertile ground for growth of new ventures. The State has allocated funds for the purpose and same are being used by the early-stage startups to fuel their growth.

2. State Startup Policies and Initiatives

2.1 State Startup Policies

Uttarakhand Startup Policy 2023: Introduced as an upgraded version of the 2018 policy, the 2023 framework focuses on inclusivity and access to finance. It aims to establish 30 new incubation centers across the state with at least 1 incubation center in each district.

It includes fiscal incentives such as:

- Monthly Allowance:** Up to INR 15,000/month for recognized startups; INR 20,000 for women, SC/ST, differently abled, transgender founders, or those working on rural impact or disruptive tech (max 12 months).
- Seed Fund:** Up to INR 10 Lakh; INR 12.5 Lakh for priority groups; additional INR 2.5 Lakh for disruptive tech.
- IPR Support:** 100% reimbursement INR 1 Lakh per Indian patent, INR 5 Lakh per international patent; INR 10,000 per trademark/design (max two each).

- Pre-Incubation:** Free support for 4 months; cost up to INR 10,000 per incubatee borne by state.
- Incubation:** Free for 12 months; +6 months for disruptive tech.
- Land Provision:** Space in industrial areas/IT parks/SEZ at base price.
- Exposure:** Financial aid for national/international events.
- Acceleration Programs:** At least two annually with VCs/accelerators.
- Access to Funding:** State platform for loans, VC, and investor connections.

Some of the non-Fiscal Incentives under Uttarakhand Startup Policy include:

- Ease of Doing Business:** Recognized startups enjoy self-certification and exemption from inspections for 5 years under key labor, environmental, and industrial laws, subject to compliance with Startup India and state guidelines.
- Public Procurement:** Exemptions under Uttarakhand Purchase Preference Policy; direct procurement up to INR10 Lakh (exclusive of GST) by state agencies.
- Pro Bono Services:** Partnerships for mentoring, training, investor pitch support, and professional services.

- Skilled Human Resource:**
Mechanism to recruit talent through polytechnics, ITIs, skill development missions, and academic institutions.
- Grievance Redressal:**
Unified web platform and agency-level online systems for timely resolution of issues faced by startups and ecosystem players.
- Public Consultations:**
Mechanism to involve startups in policy and scheme formulation through structured consultations.

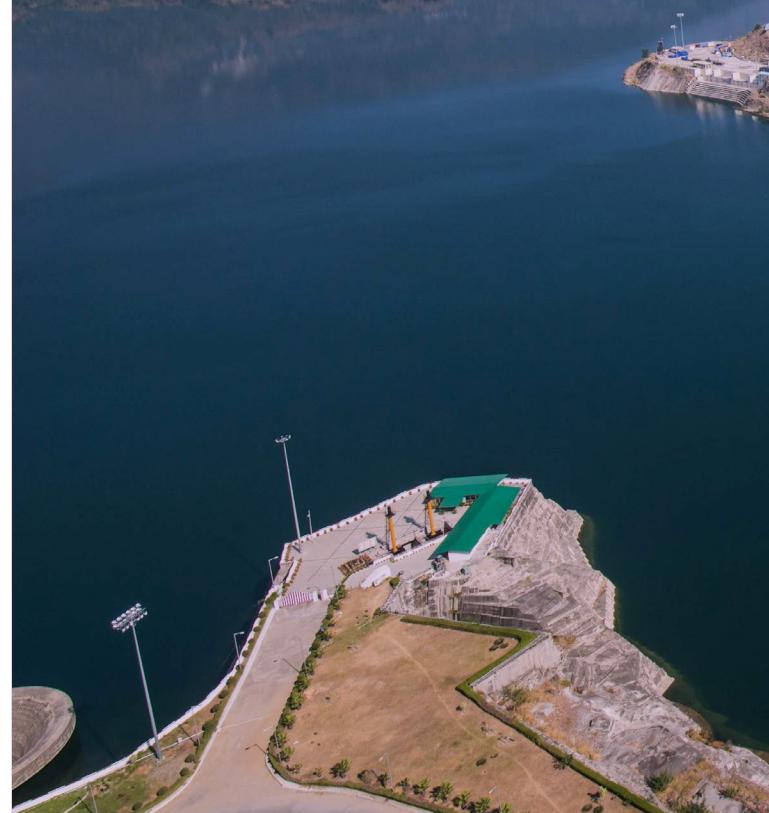
Some of the other Policies supporting the overall growth of the Startup ecosystem in Uttarakhand include:

01 **Uttarakhand IT Policy (2019)**

This policy aims to harness ICT&E as a driver of economic growth and inclusive development. By promoting technology-driven solutions in governance, education, healthcare, and industry, the policy seeks to build sustainable communities, enhance quality of life, and position the state as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. Fiscal benefits include capital subsidies, rent reimbursement, and power and internet cost refunds. Non-fiscal incentives include plug-and-play IT parks, skill training, and simplified registration norms.

02 **Uttarakhand Biotechnology Policy (2018–2023)**

It is a strategic framework by the Government of Uttarakhand to create an enabling environment for biotech research, innovation, and industry development. The policy focuses on attracting investments, fostering R&D, and



building infrastructure to make Uttarakhand a preferred destination for biotechnology-based enterprises.

03 **Uttarakhand Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy (2018/2019)**

Issued in 2018 and revised in 2019, the EV Policy promotes EV manufacturing and startups in clean mobility. Fiscal incentives include SGST reimbursement, power tariff rebate, and capital subsidies for charging infrastructure. Non-fiscal incentives cover single-window approvals and land allotment facilitation.

04 **Uttarakhand Drone Promotion & Usage Policy (2023)**

The 2023 Drone Policy encourages innovation in UAV manufacturing, training, and services. Fiscal incentives include subsidy support for drone startups and training institutions, while non-fiscal measures promote the establishment of drone testing centres and regulatory ease for commercial drone operations.



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2.2 Key initiatives driving growth

Uttarakhand'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:

- The Uttarakhand Venture Fund (UVF), launched under the Startup Policy 2023, is an INR 200 Cr. initiative by the Government of Uttarakhand to strengthen the state's startup ecosystem by bridging growth capital gaps and attracting private investment. The fund operates by investing as a Limited Partner in SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), ensuring transparent and performance-driven deployment of resources. Key benefits for AIF partners include government subscription of up to

50% of the corpus, access to over 1,200 registered startups and 15+ incubators, branding opportunities through participation in Startup Uttarakhand events, and facilitation support with regular engagement across the ecosystem.

- Mahila Udyami Vishesh Protsahan Yojna / Women Entrepreneurship Policy This initiative is integrated under the Startup and MSME policies to support women-led enterprises. Fiscal incentives include enhanced subsidies (10–15%) on investment and rent, while non-fiscal support includes priority access to incubation, mentorship, and entrepreneurship development programs.
- The Startup Uttarakhand Portal provides an integrated Investor and Mentor Connect platform, enabling startups to directly engage with registered investors, mentors, and ecosystem partners. The platform bridges the gap between entrepreneurs and funding or guidance opportunities, creating a state-level network for resource sharing and capacity building.

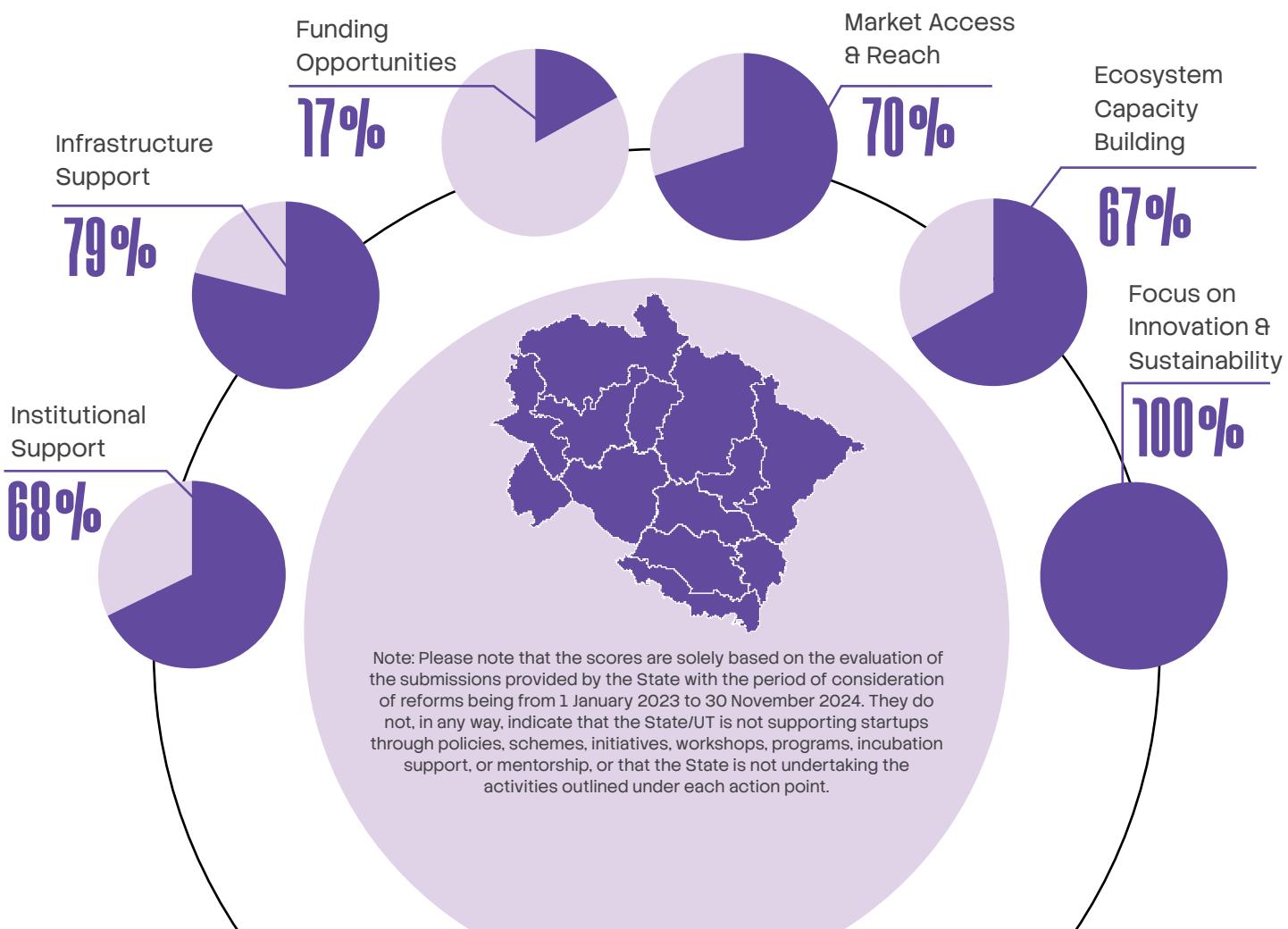
3. States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking Results

Uttarakhand participated in all 6 Reform Areas and 19 Action Points of the 5th edition of States Startup Ecosystem Ranking Framework, and has been positioned as a “Leader” 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, Uttarakhand has been evaluated across 6 Reform Areas that are critical to strengthening and advancing the State's startup ecosystem. 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 Uttrakhand



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

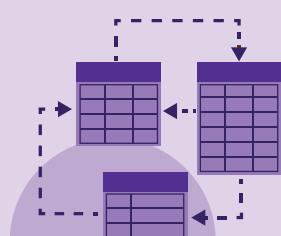


Action Point 6:
Mentorship Support
Provided to Startups

4.2 Performance

9+

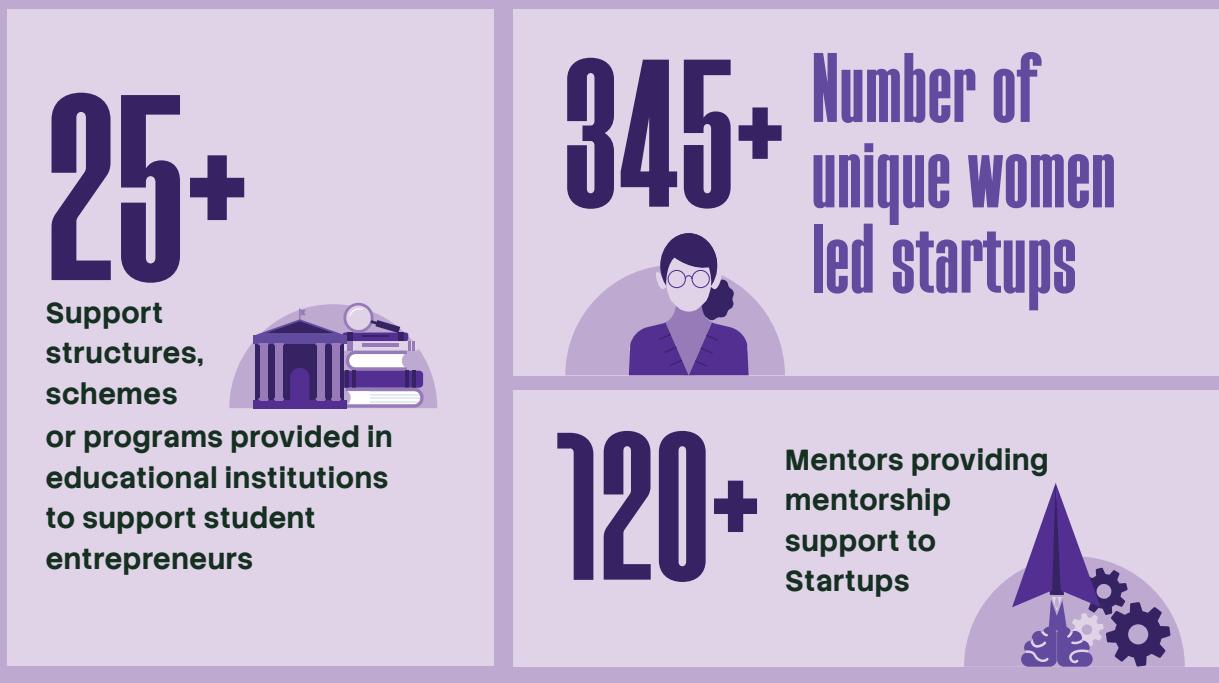
Schemes/
Initiatives in
Priority Sectors



75+

Startups
Supported in
social welfare
sphere





Institutional support provided to Startups

Uttarakhand has put in place an institutional framework to support startups through its Startup Policy Uttarakhand Startup Policy 2023. Several incentives have been extended under this policy, including seed funding, incubation support, Pro Bono services, ease of doing business, access to external funding as well as access to shared facilities among others.

The MSME Department acts as the nodal agency for supporting all startups within the state. Uttarakhand 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 Higher Education Department Uttarakhand, School Education Department Uttarakhand, Social Welfare Department, Police Department Uttarakhand have extended institutional support to startups in the form of financial assistance under Public Procurement Policy and Devbhoomi Udyamita Yojana.

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 AYUSH, Biotechnology, Education, Energy (Renewable energy solutions, energy efficiency technologies, sustainable power generation), Food Processing & Agriculture (including Horticulture), Healthcare among others.

To promote startups operating within the identified priority sectors, the State had 9+ schemes, initiatives / policies / activities operational during the evaluation period. These interventions included marketing assistance, incubation, international exposure and relaxation in procurement support to the startups.

Women Entrepreneurial Development

Dedicated incentives and support mechanisms for women-led startups have been under Uttarakhand startup Policy, 2023 such as:

- Startups led by women, individuals from SC/ST communities, differently abled persons, transgender individuals, or those working on grassroots innovations, rural impact, or disruptive technologies are eligible for a monthly allowance of up to INR 20,000 for a maximum of 12 months at the ideation stage.
- Eligible startups can receive seed funding of up to INR 12.5 lakhs, with an additional INR 2.5 lakhs available for those working on disruptive technologies.
- Pre-incubation support includes free mentoring and product development assistance for four months, with costs up to INR 10,000 per incubatee covered by the State Nodal Agency.
- All state-supported incubators are required to allocate a minimum of 15% of their seats to women-led startups.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has supported **345+ unique women-**

led startups across 13 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 Graph-e-thon undertaken in Education Institutions to support student entrepreneurs.

Graphic Era (Deemed to be University) hosted Graph-e-thon, a 72-hour National Level Hackathon in collaboration with Graphic Era Hill University, TBI-GEU, and Unstop. The event attracted 1,835 students in 649 teams from 40 universities, with 85 teams shortlisted after rigorous evaluation. The hackathon fostered innovation and problem-solving, showcasing creative solutions to real-world challenges and culminating in groundbreaking projects that highlighted the potential of emerging technologists.

Overall, during the evaluation period, the State implemented **25+ such comprehensive support structures / schemes / programs aimed at supporting student entrepreneurs.**

Figure 2: National Level Hackathon conducted by Technology Business Incubator



Entrepreneurial Growth in the Social Innovation Landscape

The Uttarakhand State Startup Policy 2023 has identified focus sectors such as Skill Development, Pharmaceuticals, IT & Artificial Intelligence, Education, Travel & Tourism, AYUSH, Healthcare, Food Processing and Agriculture, Biotechnology, Energy, and other disruptive sectors that align and converge with the areas of public welfare listed below. Some of the key provisions include reimbursement of SGST and stamp duty, need based assistance, monthly allowance, reimbursement of IPR, exposure to national and international events among others.

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

Startups addressing any of these areas or related fields that contribute to societal development and public welfare would be considered as working in the public welfare sphere.

- Healthcare and well-being
- Education and skill development
- Environmental sustainability and climate action
- Rural development and agriculture
- Urban planning and smart cities

- Financial inclusion and economic empowerment
- Social justice and equality
- Clean energy and resource management
- Disaster management and resilience
- Accessibility and inclusion for marginalized communities
- Food security and nutrition
- Water conservation and management
- Waste management and circular economy
- Cultural preservation and promotion
- Digital literacy and technology access

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has supported **75+ 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, **120+ mentors have been engaged to provide mentorship support to startups within the State during the evaluation period.**

The state recognized two types of mentors on the Startup Uttarakhand portal – Registered and On-boarded Mentors.

Figure 3: Glimpse of Registered Mentors on Startup Uttarakhand Portal

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

75+

Startups registered on the State Startup portal



160+

Startups provided incubation Support



7+

Existing Incubators Upgraded



5+

New manufacturing Incubators

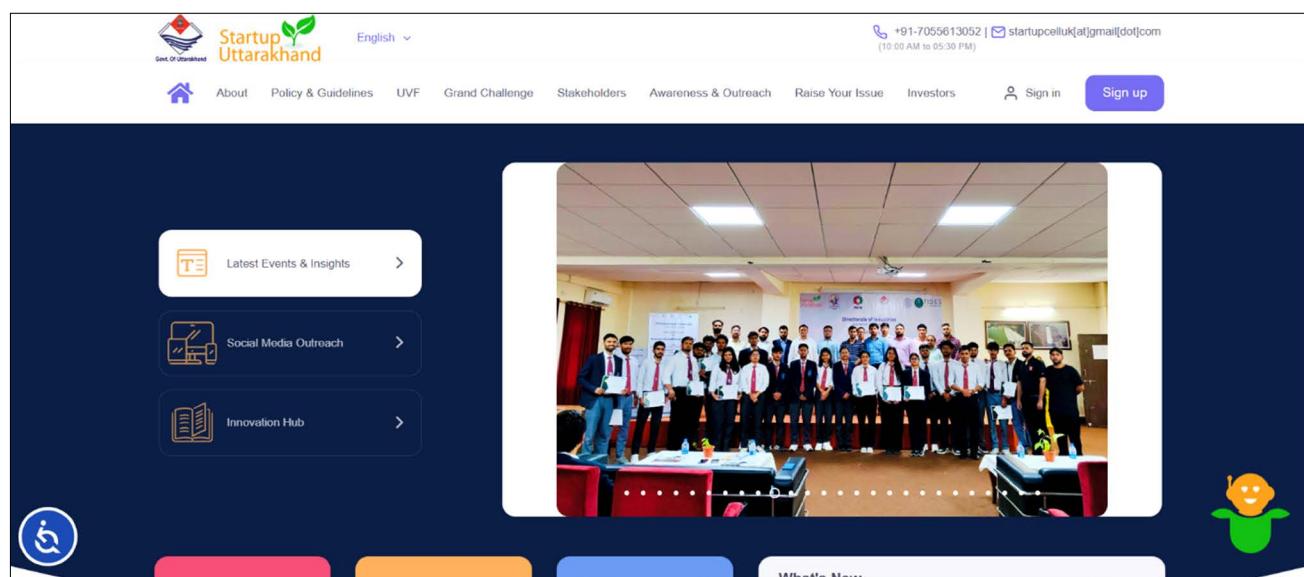


Access to Digital Infrastructure

Uttarakhand has enabled digital access for startups through a unified State Startup Portal called Startup Uttarakhand ([Link](#)) that serves as a single-window interface for registration, information dissemination, and service delivery. As per the records submitted, **75+ 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 4: Startup Uttarakhand 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 **5+ new manufacturing incubators**, including 'Govt. Degree College', 'Center of

Innovation, Incubation, Entrepreneurship, and Industrial Relations (CIIER)' among others. while **7+ existing incubators were upgraded**. These include Runway Incubator, UPES, Anant TBI-GEU, TIDES, Roorkee Institute of Technology among others.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, **160+ unique startups have received incubation or acceleration support across State-supported incubators and accelerators during the period of consideration**.

Figure 5: Registered incubators on Uttarakhand startup portal

#	Name of Incubator	Host Institution	Location	Contact Person	Email Address
Rural Business Incubator					
1	Rural Business Incubator - Almora	Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Almora	Dr. Prabhakar Bební	pcbebn1@gmail.com
2	Rural Business Incubator - Pauri Garhwal	Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Pauri Garhwal	Dr. Prabhakar Bební	pcbebn1@gmail.com
Private Incubators					
3	UPES Council for Innovation and Entrepreneurship	University of Petroleum and Energy Studies	Energy Acres Bidholi, Dehradun	Mr. Mohit Nagpal	mnagpal@ddn.upes.ac.in
4	Tula's Technology and Business Incubator	Tula's Institute	Village Dhoolkot , P.O. Selaqui	Dr. Raghav Garg	raghav.garg@tulas.edu.in
5	TBI Graphic Era University, Dehradun	Graphic Era (Deemed to be University)	Technology Business Incubator, Graphic Era University 566/6, Bell	Ms. Sarishma	director@tbi@geu.ac.in



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

15+



Startups
received funding
from the State

10+

Number of state
level fundraising
initiatives



19+

Startups
connected
with investors



The State of Uttarakhand has provided funding support to 15+ Startups during the period of consideration. The State has undertaken targeted initiatives to facilitate fundraising for startups by enabling structured interactions with angels, investors, and financial institutions. These initiatives include **15+ state-led programs featuring pitching session.** Some of the major events organized by the state were:

- The Equity Financing Workshop equipped startups with practical knowledge on valuation, term sheets, and attracting venture capital. Through expert insights and case studies, participants learned how to structure businesses for funding rounds and negotiate effectively. The session enhanced investor readiness, promoting access to angel

funding, equity financing, and debt financing strengthening the startup ecosystem by improving financial literacy and enabling scalable growth.

- The Women's Entrepreneurship Workshop empowered women founders with strategies for fundraising, investor readiness, and technology integration. The session promoted access to angel, equity, and debt financing, strengthening inclusivity and accelerating growth in the startup ecosystem.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has facilitated successful connections between **19+ 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

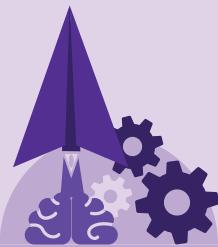
255+

Tenders floated by state agencies with relaxations for startups



15+

Startups awarded purchase orders



5+

Unique market access opportunities



Market Access Opportunity Provided to Startups through Public Procurement

Uttarakhand 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.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, various Departments such as Department Of Defence Production, Department of Revenue, Department of Military Affairs, Higher Education Department Uttarakhand, Department Of Defence Production among others floated **255+ 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 Higher Education Department Uttarakhand, Secretariat Uttarakhand, Urban Development Directorate of Uttarakhand, Police Department Uttarakhand, Tourism Department Uttarakhand, Revenue Department Uttarakhand, Animal Husbandry Department Uttarakhand among others.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, **15+ startups have been awarded purchase orders or work orders during the evaluation period.** These startups were distributed across **8 districts within the State.**

Access to Domestic and International Market Access Opportunities

During the evaluation period, the State implemented **5+ market access initiatives**, European/Nordic Market Entry: Opportunities & Challenges, GeM Session on Business Opportunities, Annual Entrepreneurship Event – Uttishta 23, TiECON Conquest 2024 – Startup Pitching, among others, designed to improve visibility, customer acquisition, and business expansion opportunities for startups.

For instance, TiECON Conquest 2024 held at Runway Incubator, provided startups with a platform to showcase innovative ideas, gain constructive feedback, and network with investors and mentors. While no immediate funding was secured, the event enhanced investor readiness, encouraged collaboration, and strengthened the role of incubators in fostering entrepreneurial growth contributing to a vibrant startup ecosystem in Uttarakhand.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, these initiatives have **benefitted startups across 13 districts within the State.**

Figure 6: TiECON Conquest 2024



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

10+

Sensitization
workshops
conducted

20+



State departments participated
in sensitization workshops

15+



Unique State-sponsored
incubators trained

5+

Workshops/programs
conducted to sensitize
existing and potential
ecosystem enablers



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

During the evaluation period, **10+ sensitization workshops or programs** have been conducted to familiarize officials with startup-related policies, regulatory frameworks, and the role of government in enabling entrepreneurship, wherein in **20+ state departments participated**.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, officials from State departments such

as Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, Uttarakhand Gramya Vikas Samiti, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited, State Tax Department, MSME Department (Directorate of Industries), Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, Agriculture Department, Uttarakhand Forest Department, Fisheries Department amongst others participated in these sensitization programs.

Figure 7: Capacity-Building Workshop on Government e-Marketplace (GeM)



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, **15+ State-supported incubators have participated in capacity development workshops** during the evaluation period. One such incubator is the TBI COER Incubation & Innovation Centre which is supported by Startup Uttarakhand.

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, lectures on framework and guidance to mentors on shift to investment and how to make the

transition to investing to facilitate investor to investor connects.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has conducted / supported **5+ 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

9.2 Performance

65+

**Startups focused on
renewable energy, climate
change, and sustainability**



Facilitating Research and Innovation in the State

Uttarakhand has the special provisions for facilitating Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) like patent, industrial design, trademark, etc. for Startups. For instance, the Uttarakhand Startup Policy 2023 has the following provisions to support innovation:

- Trademark – Reimbursement up to INR 10,000 (per trademark)
- Patent – 100% reimbursement and maximum up to INR 1 Lakh for Indian Patent and INR 5 Lakh for International Patent
- Industrial Design - Reimbursement up to INR 10,000 (per industrial design)

State IT Policy 2018 by IT Department, provides fiscal incentives such as 100% of actual filing costs on awarded patents, a maximum of INR 2 L for domestic patents and INR 5 L for international patents as a one-time Incentive.

Uttarakhand also provides R&D support for Startups/ Innovators working in the identified priority sectors including AYUSH, Biotechnology, Education, Energy (renewable energy solutions,

energy efficiency technologies, sustainable power generation), Food Processing & Agriculture (including Horticulture), Healthcare, IT & AI, Pharmaceuticals, Skill Development and Travel & Tourism.

For instance, the Uttarakhand Council for Science & Technology offers R&D support through financial assistance for organizing seminars on relevant topics, partial or full travel grants for scientists and researchers (in exceptional cases), and funding for researchers to pursue advanced work in national laboratories.

Support to Startups for a Sustainable Future

The State has launched policies such as Tourism Policy 2023 and Uttarakhand Startup Policy, 2023 focusing on renewable energy and innovation.

As per the documentary evidence submitted, the State has supported **65+ 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 set up more seed fund, funds of funds for the startups. Further, it may ensure time-bound approval and disbursement timelines for startup funds, with milestone-linked releases and tracking mechanisms.
- The State may formalise an inter-departmental coordination hub that links the MSME nodal agency with education, social welfare, police and other line departments, ensuring that the existing policy framework and priority-sector schemes are delivered uniformly across all districts.
- The State may upgrade the Startup Uttarakhand portal into a real-time, analytics-driven platform that showcases registered startups, mentors, incentives and scheme details, provides multilingual access and integrates links to national funding programmes, thereby improving visibility and ease of navigation for entrepreneurs.
- The State may create a public-procurement marketplace that publicly lists all tenders with relaxations for startups, offers step-by-step guidance for participation and automatically notifies eligible startups, helping to increase the conversion of tenders into purchase orders.
- The State may expand physical incubation capacity by establishing additional manufacturing incubators and upgrading existing facilities in districts that currently have limited access, extending the reach of incubation services beyond the present concentration of hubs.
- The State may institute a tiered mentorship programme that systematically matches early-stage founders with the pool of registered mentors, defines clear phases from pre-incubation to scale-up, and tracks progress, with special focus on women-led and youth-led ventures.
- The State may introduce targeted grant and subsidy streams for women and young entrepreneurs, building on the existing monthly allowance and seed-fund provisions, and combine cash assistance with subsidised co-working spaces and sector-specific capacity-building workshops.
- The State may set up a dedicated IPR support desk on the portal that streamlines patent, trademark and design reimbursement processes, provides guided assistance and faster turnaround for innovators, reinforcing the existing IPR incentives.

- The State may adopt a data-driven monitoring and reporting framework that captures key ecosystem metrics such as registrations, funding disbursements, incubation outcomes and market-access results and publishes regular dashboards to enable evidence-based policy adjustments.
- The State may launch focused R&D and sustainability grant tracks that channel additional resources to startups working on renewable energy, climate-tech and circular-economy solutions, encouraging collaboration with research institutions and industry partners.



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Figure 6: TiECON Conquest 2024

Figure 7: Capacity-Building Workshop on Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

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Contact Us

www.startupindia.gov.in
1800 115 565