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India's Startup Revolution — Key Data and Government Schemes

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India's Startup Revolution — Key Data and Government Schemes

 **Kurukshetra** Chapter 2 2 min read

India's Startup Landscape (as of 31 December 2024)

PARAMETER	FIGURE
DPIIT-recognised startups	Over 1.57 lakh
Unicorns	100+
Startups from Tier-I and Tier-II cities	51%
Direct jobs created	17.28 lakh
Startups with at least one woman director	75,935
Leading hubs	Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi-NCR

Employment by Sector

SECTOR	JOBS CREATED
IT Services	2.10 lakh
Healthcare & Life Sciences	1.51 lakh
Professional & Commercial Services	96,474

Key Government Schemes — Detailed Breakdown

1. Startup India Initiative (launched 16 January 2016)

- Flagship initiative of the Government of India
- Benefits: Simplified compliance, self-certification under labour & environment laws, income tax exemption for 3 consecutive years out of first 10 years, access to funding, incubation, mentoring
- Recognition criteria: Entity less than 10 years old, turnover below ₹100 crore, working towards innovation/improvement

2. Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) — launched 2021

PARAMETER	FIGURE (AS OF DEC 2024)
Total corpus	₹945 crore
Coverage	Proof of concept, prototype, product trials, market entry
Incubators approved	213
Startups supported	2,622
Amount disbursed	₹467.75 crore

3. Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) — launched June 2016

PARAMETER	FIGURE (AS OF DEC 2024)
Total corpus	₹10,000 crore
Manager	SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India)
Investment vehicle	SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)
DPIIT commitment to SIDBI	₹6,886 crore
SIDBI commitment to AIFs	₹11,687 crore
Total investment catalysed	₹21,276 crore in 1,173 startups

4. Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)

PARAMETER	FIGURE (AS OF 3 JAN 2025)
Provider	National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd
Coverage	Loans from SCBs, NBFCs, venture debt funds
Loans guaranteed	260
Total guarantee amount	₹604.16 crore
Women-led startups	17 startups — ₹27.04 crore

5. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) — launched 2016, NITI Aayog

COMPONENT	SCALE (AS OF 18 DEC 2024)
Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)	10,000 in schools nationwide
Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)	72 centres
Startups incubated	3,556
Jobs created	41,965
Other components	Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs), Atal New India Challenges

6. MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)

PARAMETER	FIGURE
Focus	Technology-led entrepreneurship (AI, IoT, blockchain)
Startups supported	5,310+
Incubators	495+
Emerging tech labs	328+
Components	Incubation centres, Centres of Excellence, emerging tech labs

UPSC Angle

- **GS3:** Industrial policy, innovation, economic development, employment generation
- **GS2:** Government schemes, SIDBI, NITI Aayog, ease of doing business
- **Interview:** “Is India’s startup growth sustainable or driven by cheap capital? What happens when funding dries up?”

Source: [NextIAS Kurukshetra January 2026 Summary](#)



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