Uttarakhand – Uttarakhand Startup Policy 2023

Background

Uttarakhand is evolving as a promising startup hub with growing numbers of innovative startups, incubators, and mentors.

The policy seeks to create a robust ecosystem supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, employment, and economic growth.

Focus on emerging technologies and sectors like food processing, education, healthcare, IT, AI, drones, climate tech, sustainability, and more.

Policy builds on earlier efforts and adapts to post-pandemic challenges and global startup trends.

Vision & Objectives

Vision: Position Uttarakhand as a leading startup destination and strategic innovation hub.

Key Objectives:

Foster at least 1000 startups primarily in tech and socially impactful areas.

Establish world-class infrastructure including 30 incubation centers across districts.

Support grassroots innovators and startups with rural impact.

Promote collaborations between academia and industry.

Ensure entrepreneurial culture permeation through education and mentoring.

Definitions & Eligibility

Startups recognized if legal entity incorporated ≤10 years, turnover ≤₹100 crore, innovative or scalable.

Inclusive definitions cover startups by women, scheduled castes/tribes, differently-abled, transgenders, students, grassroots innovation, and disruptive technologies (AI, robotics, clean energy, circular economy, etc.).

Legal entities with significant operation and workforce in Uttarakhand eligible.

Startup Ecosystem Development

Incubators & Lead Incubator: State plans multiple incubation centers including a lead incubator acting as a nodal hub and mentor for satellites.

Existing and new incubators will be supported financially and through mentorship.

Academic Integration: Entrepreneurship cells in schools and colleges, updated curricula including MOOCs, innovation promotion, student startup support and gap year options.

Innovation Infrastructure: Fab labs, makers' labs, and testing facilities to support product development and prototyping.

Incentives for Startups

Fiscal Incentives:

Monthly allowance of ₹15,000 – ₹20,000 for recognized startups depending on category.

Seed funding up to ₹10 lakh (₹12.5 lakh for targeted categories) and additional ₹2.5 lakh for disruptive tech startups.

Patent-related expenses reimbursed: ₹1 lakh per Indian patent, ₹5 lakh per international patent, with expenses reimbursed in stages.

Funding support for ideation, prototyping, commercialization, marketing, pilot projects, and acceleration programs.

Financial help to participate in national and international events.

Non-Fiscal Incentives:

Regulatory ease with self-certifications and reduced inspections.

Encouragement of night-shift work for women entrepreneurs with safety measures.

Public procurement preference including relaxations for startups.

Access to shared facilities and professional service support.

Incentives for Incubators and Centers of Excellence

Capital and operational grants: up to ₹1 crore for new incubation centers and ₹30-50 lakh for expansions, with operational grants for 5 years.

Special incentives for incubation of startups in incubation centers and lead incubator.

Establishment of Centers of Excellence (CoEs) to focus on frontier tech and innovation.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship in Academia

Establishing Entrepreneurship Cells in all academic institutions.

Supporting student startups with incubation, mentoring, and project recognition.

Updating academic syllabi to include entrepreneurship education and offering MOOCs.

Continuous capacity building of faculty and mentors via training programs.

Facilitating industry-academia partnerships and commercialization of university research.

Governance & Implementation

Uttarakhand Startup Council including government, academia, industry and investor members to advise, approve recognitions and disbursals.

State Nodal Agency: Directorate of Industries to manage daily operations and coordination.

Dedicated Startup Cell and Project Management Unit (PMU) set up.

Task force (CORDI) to assess applications and decide incentives.

Use of online portals & helplines for applications, grievance redressal, and ecosystem engagement.

Regular reviews and policy updates scheduled every two years.

Other Key Programs

Hackathons, challenges, and expos to identify and promote innovative startups.

Special programs to promote women entrepreneurs and grassroots innovators.

Capacity building workshops for ecosystem stakeholders.

District-level innovation committees and localized incubation and support hubs.

Corporate Innovation Programs to facilitate market access and investment.

Policy Validity

Policy effective for five years from notification or until superseded.

Recognized startups and incubators eligible for benefits up to 3 years post policy expiration.

Source: Uttarakhand Startup Policy 2023

Issued by: Government of Uttarakhand – Directorate of Industries

Policy Period: 5 years from notification