# West Bengal – West Bengal Startup Policy 2016-2021

## Preamble

**The policy aims to build a robust startup ecosystem in West Bengal by encouraging new enterprise creation.**

**Focus on promoting entrepreneurship among youth, with special emphasis on women and rural entrepreneurs.**

**Government support includes easing statutory clearances, facilitating networking, providing infrastructure, and fostering innovation.**

## Vision

**To position West Bengal as a leading startup destination in India with a strong enabling ecosystem.**

## Mission

**Foster a culture of entrepreneurship and social acceptance of startups.**

**Integrate entrepreneurship education at all levels including schools and colleges.**

**Support and promote incubators and accelerators.**

**Provide training, mentoring, and networking opportunities.**

**Establish financial support mechanisms and enhance regulatory ease.**

**Aim to create 10,000 startups in ten years.**

## Enabling Ecosystem

**Establish Entrepreneurship Development Centre Network (EDCN) across universities and institutes to nurture entrepreneurial mindset.**

**Create a network of incubators including government and private sector entities.**

**Provide incubators with resources like shared workspace, mentor access, funding, prototyping labs, and testing facilities.**

**Facilitate startups' access to government R&D labs and technology.**

**Develop mentor networks and kick-starter funds to support early-stage startups.**

**Organize hackathons, innovation challenges, and national-level startup competitions ("Egiye Bangla").**

## Academic Initiatives

**Integrate entrepreneurship courses and activities within academic syllabi.**

**Provide opportunities for internships, industrial collaborations, and innovation projects within universities.**

**Promote Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in entrepreneurship.**

**Develop student startup cells (E-cells) and organize competitions and boot camps.**

## Funding and Financial Support

**Formation of West Bengal MSME Venture Capital Fund and network of registered Venture and Angel funds.**

**Incentives provided to startups and incubators to encourage investment, expansion, and commercialization.**

**Special grants for incubation centers and accelerators.**

**Recognition and rewards through events and competitions.**

## Incentives and Support

**Startups receive financial assistance for ideation, prototype development, marketing, and scaling.**

**Incubators get capital grants, operational expense reimbursements, and support for acceleration programs.**

**Regulatory ease includes reduced inspections and certification processes.**

**Procurement preference for startups in government tenders.**

**Access to shared government facilities for prototyping, testing, and R&D.**

**Assistance in statutory compliance, professional services, and grievance redressal.**

## Governance

**State Startup Council to oversee policy implementation, chaired by the Chief Secretary.**

**Council includes government officials across relevant departments.**

**Regular review and policy adjustments based on feedback and ecosystem development.**

## Policy Duration

**Effective from January 1st, 2016 to December 31st, 2021.**

**Source: West Bengal Startup Policy 2016**

**Issued by: Government of West Bengal**

**Governing Body: State Startup Council**

**Policy Period: 2016–2021 (ecosystem programs ongoing)**