

Startup India Initiative

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Government policies and interventions

Why in news?

The Union Home Minister has inaugurated the Gujarat government's two-day Startup Conclave-2025 in Gandhinagar.

- It is a ***flagship initiative*** launched in 2016.
- **Objective** - To promote innovation, empower startups with tools for growth and design, generate employment, and foster economic development.
- **Managed by** - A dedicated ***Startup India Team***, which reports to ***The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)***.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Commerce.
- **Key features** -
 - **Funding support** - A Fund of Funds for venture capital (Rs. 10,000 crore to support innovation driven Startups by SIDBI), Tax exemptions for three years, easy loan access;
 - **Simplifies regulations** - Self-certification for labor and environmental laws, a fast-track patent process with reduced fees, and an easier exit policy for startups;
 - **Platform for startups** - Startup India Hub for networking and guidance and bring together a diverse array of stakeholders to foster innovation.
- **India's status** -
 - **Registered Startup** - In 2014, Just had 500 startups, but today, have 1.92 lakh startups (out of the total startups, 52% are in tier-II and tier-III cities) registered with DPIIT.
 - **Women** - Of the total startups, 48% are initiated by women.
 - In the North-East, around 900 women-led startups are actively contributing to the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.
 - **Unicorn** - In 2014 - 4 unicorns (privately held startups valued at over

\$1 billion) and now 120 such establishments whose combined market value is over \$350 million.

- **Employment creation** - Startup ecosystem has employed 17.90 lakh people.

India has witnessed over 380 % growth in the past decade, establishing the country as the world's 3rd-largest startup and digital ecosystem today.

Government Initiatives

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)

- It provides **financial assistance** for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.

Bharat Start-up Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR)

- It is **one-stop digital platform** to bring all stakeholders ranging from entrepreneurs, government bodies and academic institutions onto a single, integrated platform.

Startup India Portal

- A dedicated **online platform** to register, access information, and participate in programs.

19 Point Action Plan

- The government has developed an action plan to address all aspects of the startup ecosystem, including funding, simplified compliance, and market access.

References

1. [The Hindu | Startup India Campaign](#)
2. [Startup India | Startup India Initiative](#)