

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3882.
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 27TH MARCH, 2026.**

STARTUP ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

3882. SHRI SAT PAUL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)-recognised startups registered in Jammu & Kashmir;
- (b) the number of Startups from Jammu & Kashmir supported under Startup India schemes during 2025–26;
- (c) the status of incubation centres and innovation hubs established in Jammu & Kashmir; and
- (d) the steps taken to promote Startup registrations and access to funding support in Jammu & Kashmir?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

- (a): As on 31st January 2026, 1,446 entities have been recognised as startups by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in Jammu & Kashmir.
- (b): Under the Startup India initiative, the Government is implementing three flagship Schemes, Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) to provide funding opportunities and support startups across sectors at various stages of their business cycle.

As on 31st January 2026, Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) supported under the FFS have invested Rs. 50 crore in a startup from Jammu & Kashmir. Under SISFS, supported incubators have approved Rs. 2.65 crore to 14 startups from Jammu & Kashmir as on 31st January 2026, including 3 startups in 2025-26. Under the CGSS, 2 loans amounting to Rs. 7 crore have been guaranteed to startup borrowers from Jammu & Kashmir as on 31st January 2026 including a loan in 2025-26. Further, as on 31st January 2026, 8 startups from Jammu & Kashmir have also received certificate of eligibility under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act 1961, to claim a deduction of an amount equal to 100% of the profits and gains derived from eligible business for three consecutive assessment years.

- (c): The Government launched Startup India initiative by unveiling of Startup India Action Plan on 16th January 2016 to support the startup ecosystem in the country. Through the Action Plan, the Government is implementing various initiatives specifically to support incubators across the country including Jammu & Kashmir such as Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), TIDE 2.0 (Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs) Scheme, GENESIS (Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups) Scheme, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) programmes, A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE), Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) programmes, and Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development programme.

Under the above initiatives, incubators are supported to promote technology-based innovation, biotech innovation, seed support, and applied research and innovation across various sectors. Such incubators are present in various institutions across districts and cities in Jammu & Kashmir such as Srinagar, Pulwama, Samba, Jammu, and Kathua. Details are placed as **Annexure-I**.

- (d): All programs and Schemes under the Startup India initiative, are implemented on a pan-India basis with multiple specific outreach and awareness measures undertaken. Startup recognition under the Startup India initiative is processed through a digital application system available on the Startup India portal and the National Single Window System (NSWS), enabling entrepreneurs across the country, including those in smaller cities and non-metro regions, to apply online. The recognition process is based on self-certification with simplified documentation, and guidance material, such as recognition handbooks and tutorials, are available on the portal to assist applicants in navigating the process.

The Government also implements periodic exercises and programs, including States' Startup Ranking, National Startup Awards, and Innovation Week, which play an important role in the holistic development of the startup ecosystem across regions. The Government also encourages and supports ecosystem-led initiatives such as Startup Mahakumbh, which serves as a vibrant platform for stakeholders to network and collaborate. Initiatives to improve market access and enable public procurement support startups in growing and scaling up their businesses. These measures are complemented by regulatory reforms and other ecosystem development events and programs. Such key measures undertaken to promote the startup ecosystem are placed as **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3882 FOR ANSWER ON 27.03.2026.

Government initiatives to support incubators across the country including in Jammu & Kashmir:

1. Under Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), incubators are provided financial assistance and handholding support to support startups with seed funding and incubation. In Jammu & Kashmir, Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development-Islamic University of Science and Technology (CIED-IUST) Foundation in Pulwama has been approved funds of Rs. 5.25 crore as on 31st January 2026.
2. The TIDE 2.0 (Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs) Scheme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) was initiated in 2019 with the aim of promoting technology-based entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators. Under the Scheme, 51 incubators across premier academic institutions and R&D organizations across India, including the New Generation Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NewGen IEDC) at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar, were supported to nurture tech startups.
3. Further, MeitY initiated the GENESIS (Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups) Scheme to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Tier-II and Tier-III cities across India. The Scheme is being implemented through 65 incubation centres as Implementing Agencies, including the NewGen IEDC at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar, and the CUJ SITE Council, Samba.
4. Further, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has supported the establishment of two Atal Incubation Centres in Jammu & Kashmir — AIC–Jammu & Kashmir EDI (established in 2019), which has since successfully graduated, and AIC–IIIM Bio-innovation Foundation (established in 2023), which is currently operational and supporting startups.
5. The BioNEST (Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies) scheme under Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) supports the establishment of bio-incubators to promote biotech innovation and entrepreneurship. BioNEST Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Technology Business Incubator in Jammu and BioNEST Industrial Biotech Park (IBTP) in Kathua have been supported from Jammu & Kashmir.
6. Further, E-YUVA (Empowering Youth for Undertaking Value Added Innovative Translational Research) under BIRAC provides pre-incubation support to students and young researchers to promote a culture of applied research and innovation. E-YUVA University of Kashmir in Srinagar and E-YUVA Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir in Srinagar have been supported.
7. Under “A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)”, the Ministry of MSME is supporting Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs) and Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) including MSME TDC (PPDC) Extension Centre in Srinagar.
8. Under the NIDHI Technology Business Incubator (TBI), NIDHI Inclusive Technology Business Incubator (iTBI) and NIDHI Centre of Excellence programs, Department of

Science and Technology has supported various incubation centres including 6 from Jammu & Kashmir:

- i. IIM Jammu Foundation for Entrepreneurship Innovation and Skill Development (IIMJAMMU-FEISD), Jammu
 - ii. CIED IUST Foundation
 - iii. SKIIE Centre, Srinagar
 - iv. Greenovator Incubation Foundation - National Institution of Technology Srinagar
 - v. IIM-Technology Business Incubator (TBI), Jammu
 - vi. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University - Technology Business Incubation Center, Katra
9. Under the “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), around 24 RKVY Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) are appointed for implementation assistance and incubation of startups including Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology in Jammu & Kashmir.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3882 FOR ANSWER ON 27.03.2026.

The details of various measures being undertaken to promote the startup ecosystem across the country are as follows:

1. Capacity Building and Handholding

Capacity building workshops are undertaken throughout the year across regions including nonmetro cities under the States' Startup Ranking ('SRF') exercise to promote and handhold States and UTs in developing regional ecosystems. Monitoring, capacity development, and handholding sessions are also conducted specifically for incubators beyond metro cities and regions. Various other startup workshops and demos are organized to handhold startups to access the flagship schemes and challenges launched under Startup India.

2. Outreach and Awareness

Outreach and awareness activities for startups are organized across the country including in areas beyond metropolitan cities. These activities include encouraging entrepreneurs from non-metropolitan cities and enabling opportunities for funding, incubation, mentorship and business linkages in collaboration with State/UT administrations. Various startup showcases are also organised where startups pitch their business proposals to investors and participate in capacity building activities. The programs implemented under the Startup India initiative are also propagated through various social media platforms.

3. Ecosystem Development Events and Programs

Various national ecosystem development events and programs are held such as the Startup Mahakumbh, which fosters innovation and entrepreneurship by bringing the ecosystem together from various parts of the country; ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Caliber & Entrepreneurial Drive) sensitization workshops on startups and entrepreneurship are conducted across North Eastern States to support upcoming entrepreneurs from the region; and the Startup India Innovation week is held around the National Startup Day i.e., 16th January, to celebrate entrepreneurship and promote innovation with stakeholders from across India.

4. International Exposure and Linkages

The Startup20 Engagement Group was institutionalised under India's G20 Presidency to facilitate harmonisation and cross collaboration amongst the largest global economies. The meetings and engagements of Startup20 Engagement Group under India's G20 Presidency were held across the country providing access to global market, visibility and resources of India's regional startup ecosystems. International linkages are further developed through international Government to Government partnerships, participation in international forums, hosting of global events, and international bridges with different countries that aid in promoting cross collaboration.

5. Encouraging Ecosystem Collaboration

The Government launched the Startup India Hub portal for stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India to discover resources, information, and various benefits under the Startup India initiative on a common digital platform. This portal enables various programs and initiatives to be accessed digitally, improving accessibility for entrepreneurs and startups even from nonmetro cities and regions.