



# National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC)

## Why in News?

Recently, the Minister of Commerce and Industry launched the **NavIC Grand Challenge at National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) meeting.**

- **NavIC Grand Challenge** is aimed at promoting adoption of NavIC as geo-positioning solution, a key proponent for digital Atma Nirbharta.

## What is NSAC?

- **About:**
  - It was constituted by the [Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade \(DPIIT\)](#).
  - It **advises the government on measures needed** to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.
- **Composition of the Council:**
  - **Chairman:** Minister for Commerce & Industry.
  - **Convener of the Council:** Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
  - **Ex-officio Members:** Nominees of the concerned Ministries / Departments / Organisations not below the rank of Joint Secretary.
  - **Non-official members**, to be nominated by the Central Government, from various categories like founders of successful startups, veterans who have grown and scaled companies in India, persons capable of representing the interests of investors into startups, etc. The term of the non-official members will be for a period of two years.

## What are the Functions of NSAC?

- **Suggests measures to foster a culture of innovation** amongst citizens and students, promote innovation in all sectors of the economy across the country.
- **Suggests measures to facilitate public organisations** to assimilate innovation with a view to improving public service delivery, promote creation, protection and commercialization of intellectual property rights.
- **Suggest measures to make it easier to start, operate, grow and exit businesses** by reducing regulatory compliances and costs, promote ease of access to capital for startups.

## What is the Status of Start-ups in India?

- **About:**
  - Today, India is the **third largest start-up ecosystem globally** (by number of start-ups) with more than 15,000 start-ups established in 2020, up from 5000 in 2010.
  - The underlying enablers of this startup ecosystem include smartphone and internet penetration, [cloud computing](#), [application programming interfaces \(APIs\)](#), and a national payments stack in place.
  - Additionally, amid the [Covid-19 pandemic](#), **India has witnessed more number of**

**Unicorn startups** (startups having valuation of over USD1 billion) in just 2021 than it did in the period 2011-20.

- However, **still there are many challenges** (Building and Scaling an Indian Startup, Diversity and the Digital Divide, Complex Regulatory Environment) that act as a hindrance in realising the true potential of startups in India.

▪ **Other Related Initiatives:**

- **Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems:** It is an evolved evaluation tool aimed to strengthen the support of States and UTs to holistically build their startup ecosystems.
- **SCO Startup Forum:** The first-ever **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Startup Forum was launched in October 2020 to develop and improve startup ecosystems collectively.
- **Prarambh:** The 'Prarambh' Summit aims to provide a platform to the startups and young minds from around the world to come up with new ideas, innovation and invention.
- **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme:** It aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- **Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge:** The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying In association with Startup India, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry inaugurated the Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge.
- **National Startup Awards 2021:** It aims to **recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers** that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.

**Source: PIB**

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