



Maharashtra Startup, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Policy 2025

Why in News?

The Maharashtra state cabinet has approved the **Maharashtra Startup, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Policy 2025**, aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across the state.

Key Points

- **About:** The policy focuses on creating **1.25 lakh entrepreneurs** and **50,000 startups** over the next five years.
 - Maharashtra is already leading the country with **29,146 startups** (18% of India's total), and seeks to build an even more robust ecosystem for innovation.
- **Key Objectives:**
 - **Create 1.25 lakh entrepreneurs** and **50,000 startups** in 5 years.
 - **Encourage startups led by women and youth** through targeted support.
 - Enhance Maharashtra's position as a leading hub for **innovation** and [entrepreneurship](#).
- **Financial and Infrastructure Support:**
 - **Maha-Fund (Rs 500 crore):** Financial assistance for **25,000 early-stage entrepreneurs** from a pool of 5 lakh youth. This will follow a **three-stage selection process** and will include mentoring, incubation, and funding support.
 - **Maharashtra Innovation City:** A **300-acre innovation hub** bringing together **startups, corporates, educational institutions**, and the **government** to foster research and development.
 - **Departmental Innovation Fund:** All state departments will be required to allocate **0.5% of their annual funds** towards promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - **Startup Week Incentives:** Startups selected during the **Maharashtra Startup Week** will get opportunities to work directly with government departments, with **pilot work orders** worth up to **Rs 25 lakh**.
- **Support for Incubators and Regional Hubs:**
 - **Micro-incubators** will be established in **ITIs, polytechnics, and educational institutions** across Maharashtra to ensure organized infrastructure for innovation.
 - **Regional innovation hubs** will be set up in each administrative division to promote local entrepreneurial ecosystems.
- **Financial Assistance and Recognition:**
 - **Compensation for Patents & Certifications:** Financial support for [patent registration](#), **product quality certifications**, and participation in **domestic and international exhibitions**.
 - **Loan Assistance:** A special mechanism will be created for startups that have secured work orders from **public institutions** or **trusted customers**.
- **Implementation Agency:** The policy will be executed through the **Maharashtra State Innovation Society**.

Key Facts About Maharashtra

- It is the **most industrialised state** in India and has maintained its leading position in the

industrial sector in the country.

- At current prices, Maharashtra's gross state domestic product was estimated at Rs. 49.39 trillion (USD 578.31 billion) in 2025-26.
- According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), between October 2019-December 2024, the [FDI inflow](#) in Maharashtra stood at Rs. 6,71,863 crore (USD 85.73 billion).
 - **Maharashtra ranked first** for the highest FDI reception.
- Maharashtra had **12 [Special Economic Zones \(SEZs\)](#)** with valid in-principal approvals, 51 SEZs with formal approvals, and 45 SEZs with notified approvals.
 - As of October 2020, the state had 37 exporting SEZs across diversified sectors, including textiles and apparel, food processing, footwear and leather products, multi-product, pharma, and IT SEZs.

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