



# Bihar Idea Festival

## Why in News?

The **Bihar government** launched the '**Bihar Idea Festival**' portal to promote grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship.

- The initiative invites students, youth, entrepreneurs, and [startup](#) teams—even from rural areas—to submit their ideas directly to the government.

## Key Points

- **About the Bihar Idea Festival:**
  - The initiative aims to **collect innovative ideas and practical solutions from across Bihar** and offer a strong platform to support and scale them.
    - The portal is mobile-friendly, making it easily accessible for people from remote and rural areas.
  - The government plans to gather at least 10,000 ideas from all 38 districts of Bihar to ensure inclusive participation.
  - A team of experts will assess the submitted ideas. At least 100 ideas will be shortlisted initially based on innovation and feasibility.
  - Shortlisted participants will be **eligible for technical and financial support**, including seed funding of up to Rs 10 lakh under **the Startup Bihar Policy**.
  - Winners of the Idea Festival will get a wild card entry to the seed funding pitch round.
  - The initiative also aims to empower women entrepreneurs, enabling many to emerge as '[Startup Didis](#)', inspired by **the JEEViKA initiative**.
- **JEEViKA:**
  - **JEEViKA** is the **Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project** aimed at the **social and economic empowerment** of the rural poor in Bihar. It was **launched in 2006**.
  - Managed by the **Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS)**, an autonomous body under the **Department of Rural Development**, Government of Bihar.
  - Initially supported by the [World Bank](#) and later expanded to include the **Livelihoods Restoration component** of the Bihar Kosi Flood Recovery Project (BKFRP).
  - The [National Rural Livelihoods Mission \(NRLM\)](#) has designated **BRLPS** as the **State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM)** for Bihar to implement NRLM's strategies for poverty alleviation.

## Bihar Start-up Policy

- The state government launched the **Bihar Start-up Policy in 2016** to build a transparent and **independent start-up ecosystem through funding, promotion, and policy support**.
- It was **later amended as the Bihar Start-up Policy 2017**.
- The state established a dedicated **Start-up Trust** with an initial corpus of Rs 500 crore, which serves as the nodal agency for the implementation of the policy.
- **Bihar Start-up Policy 2022:**
  - To make the ecosystem more **inclusive and youth-centric**, the government approved the **Bihar Start-up Policy 2022**.

- It aims to **expand its reach, ensure faster execution**, and position Bihar as a preferred start-up destination by tapping into the potential of local talent.
- **Key Objectives:**
  - Foster inclusive growth by building a **conductive environment for start-ups**.
  - Leverage local youth potential to **drive innovation and entrepreneurship** across the state.
- The government plans to:
  - **Develop new incubators** and expand existing ones.
  - Set up **common infrastructure and co-working spaces** to support start-ups across the state.
- To nurture an entrepreneurial mindset, the policy promotes:
  - **Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs)** and **Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centres (EFCs)**.
  - Integration of entrepreneurship education in **schools, universities, MOOCs**, and through internships.

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