Punjab – Punjab Startup and Entrepreneurship Development Policy 2017

Introduction

Punjab is a progressive state with significant achievements in agriculture, industry, health, education, and culture.

The state has a strong entrepreneurial spirit and a global diaspora.

The policy aligns with the Government of India's Startup and Entrepreneurship initiatives to drive economic growth, job creation, and innovation.

Vision and Mission

Vision: To develop Punjab as a leading global startup and innovation hub with accelerated economic growth and large-scale job creation.

Mission:

Build a conducive ecosystem addressing enterprise, market, product, knowledge, idea, and cultural challenges.

Provide necessary infrastructure and support.

Foster industry-academia partnerships.

Streamline regulations for a startup-friendly environment.

Goals

Facilitate 1,000 startups within five years.

Establish 10 incubation centers/accelerators focusing on sectors like digital manufacturing, life sciences, agro & food processing, and IT.

Build strong linkages with academic and research institutions.

Implement 50 Entrepreneurship Development Centres in colleges.

Strategic Approach

Emphasizes transitioning Punjab’s economy towards knowledge and technology-driven enterprises.

Promotes a bottom-up, cluster-specific approach to build a strong entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Connects entrepreneurs with industry, academia, investors, mentors, and global networks.

Encourages establishment of incubators in universities and industry clusters, including private-sector-led incubators.

Key Initiatives

Establishment of the Startup Punjab initiative to foster networking and convergence of innovation programs.

I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University (IKG PTU) to set up a ₹100 crore Startup Fund.

Promotion of sector-specific incubators aligned with state industrial clusters.

Creation of common infrastructure, including shared workspace, R&D labs, and support services.

Definition and Eligibility of Startups

Startups must be registered entities within 7 years (10 years for biotech).

Annual turnover ≤ ₹25 crore.

Driven by innovation or scalable business models.

Minimum 50% workforce employment in Punjab.

Fiscal and Non-Fiscal Incentives

For Incubators:

Capital grants: 100% for government institutes (max ₹1 crore), 50% for private (max ₹50 lakh).

Operational subsidies up to ₹3 lakh annually for 5 years.

Grants for mentoring, training, and organizing startup competitions.

For Startups:

Interest subsidy on loans.

Lease rent subsidy (25% up to ₹3 lakh per year).

Seed funding with up to ₹3 lakh per startup.

A ₹100 crore Fundo of Funds for scale-up investments, managed by SIDBI.

Additional state incentives aligned with MSME benefits like GST reimbursements, tax exemptions, utility subsidies, and marketing support.

Partnership with National Programs

Collaboration with Startup India, Standup India, Atal Innovation Mission.

Digital platforms for startup registration, compliance, and networking.

Regulatory ease via self-certification for labor and environmental laws.

Support for Intellectual Property Rights application and commercialization.

Promotion of startup participation in national and international events.

Focus on Inclusion

Special focus on entrepreneurship among women, Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Encouragement via dedicated programs, awareness campaigns, and facilitating access to government schemes.

Integration with schemes like Standup India and MUDRA for financing.

Governance and Implementation

Startup Council: Led by the Chief Secretary with members from various departments and stakeholders. Responsible for policy oversight, approvals, and ecosystem coordination.

Coordination Committee: Engages stakeholders, reviews proposals, and oversees funding and incentives.

Use of online portals for application, monitoring, and transparency.

Creation of a Startup Punjab Hub as a single point of contact for the ecosystem.

Implementation Roadmap

Streamlining applications and approvals via incubators and nodal agencies.

Monitoring through key performance indicators.

Provision for periodic policy review and amendments based on ecosystem needs.

Source: Punjab Startup Policy 2017

Issued by: Government of Punjab

Initiative: Startup Punjab

Policy Period: 2017–2022 (extended through ecosystem programs)