Funding Opportunities for Incubation centre & E-Cell and Ease of Doing Business

INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL
(Ministry of HRD Initiative)

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PTVAIM'S CENTRE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP &INNOVATION

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship has been at boom in India since the last decade with many start-ups emerging with unique ideas in all aspects of business and many of them reaching the unicorn status, which is why it has become essential to promote budding startups and young entrepreneurs with exceptional business ideas by proper guidance under experts so they can be nurtured and grown into big organizations. Such a noble upliftment is done the incubation centre and e-cell. The e-book presents funding opportunities for these incubation centres and e-cells majorly through government schemes. The e-book further explains these schemes and how they are useful to incubation centre & e-cell through financial support they provide for its functioning and for the raising funds for start-ups, and finally funding support other than government schemes.

Ease of Doing Business index is one of the most discussed measure among the economies around the world. It is also proved to be one of the World Bank's most powerful reports that got attention of the governments around the world. The rapid growth and emergence of business across the globe has motivated the governments across the globe to create a regulatory environment supportive to budding businesses and for growth of the business in their economy. The e-book shows the efficiency of doing business of selected economies on a global level. It also attempts to study the business regulatory environment of those economies around the world. It shows rankings of top 5 economies on the basis of 10 indicator provided by world bank and measures their performances. By documenting changes in regulations in 10 areas of business activity in those top 5 economies. It also presents top 10 listed improved economies in Ease of Doing Business 2020 and reforms undertaken to improve by their ranking in Ease of Doing Business index. It points outs important trends in regulatory reform and identifies the regions and economies making the biggest improvements for local entrepreneurs. The study shows that developing economies are catching up with developed economies in ease of doing business.

INTRODUCTION

Incubation Centre

Over the past decade, India's start-up ecosystem has experienced rapid growth. With the launch of the Start-up India Policy in January 2016, the Indian Government is gearing up to boost innovation, entrepreneurship and create employment opportunities. This adds a new lease of life to the multi-lateral initiatives that various ecosystem stakeholders have undertaken over the years. These stakeholders comprise academic institutions, governments, industrial bodies, corporate and business incubators. The initiatives are often collaborative efforts that leverage the stakeholders' mutual strengths to promote, nurture and support entrepreneurs.

An Incubation centre is a workspace created to offer start-ups and new ventures access to the resources they need, all under one roof. Incubators usually provide combination of services such as office space, business services, coaching and mentoring, funding and access to networks. Incubators have diverse goals, business models, host institutions and target enterprises, and they use a wide range of methods to support & provide funding for the enterprises.

Incubation is usually done by institutions who have experience in business and technology world. The incubators comprise of mentors and industry experts which assist and guide the entrepreneur throughout the process which plays a vital role especially in the initial stages of the venture. They altogether form strategies and create effective business plans while taking into consideration the risks involved and methods to minimize the current and potential risks as a result of their expertise and in-dept research. The incubation centre act as platform where the potential investors meet the young entrepreneurs and raise funds for start-ups & ventures.

Incubation activity has not been limited to developed countries; incubation environments are now being implemented in developing countries and raising interest for financial support from organizations such as UNIDO and the World Bank. Over 90% of incubators are supported under a government scheme in India. Top four government bodies supporting incubation - DST, AIM, MEITY, and MSME.

E-Cell

In a country like India, where entrepreneurs are launching new ideas regularly, E-Cells holds significant importance that many colleges now have E-Cells to help young entrepreneurs grow their startups, with real-life business experiences and insights about the entrepreneurship world. The cell is coordinating with outside agencies which will provide support for Entrepreneurship like NEN, CEDMAP, MSME. The new education policy of 1986 has emphasized the need for vocationalisation at various educational levels. Thus, it is necessary to develop mechanisms so that academic institutions could focus their attention on entrepreneurship & self-employment in addition to their present mandate of churning out trained manpower. Adequate infrastructure is available at most of the academic institutions for promoting Entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship Cell aims to promote the entrepreneurship culture in and around the campus by providing multiple platforms to budding entrepreneurs where they can improve upon their business models, get mentorship by successful entrepreneurs, interact with investors and groom their entrepreneurship skills. It provides Awareness among aspiring entrepreneurs regarding entrepreneurship, Procedures, and legalities of setting up a business, Various Schemes By Government for Businesses. E Cell has a huge network in corporate world. Be it big investors, industrialist, directors of various companies. E cell act like a bridge for Entrepreneurs and Industries.

The Govt. of India has been constantly encouraging the development of small-scale industries by providing a wide range of policy measures, concessions, exemptions and incentives that enable them to withstand competition from large-scale manufacturers. There are about 28 Lakh units spread all over the country which provide employment to 160 Lakh people. E Cell have been established in more than 50 academic institutions. It is now felt to look at the concept of E Cell afresh so that these could meet the challenges posed by the current era of economic liberalization and globalization.

The NSTEDB (DST) would provide financial assistance to the institution selected for establishment of E Cells, for meeting the recurring expenditure (Manpower Cost, Travel, Training and Contingencies, etc.) of the E Cell, for up to five full operational years. After reaching a level the E Cell may also support the government in formulating entrepreneur-friendly policies encompassing start up, survival, growth and recovery phases of enterprises, within the overall framework of Entrepreneurship Policy.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

The ease of doing business index is created jointly by Simeon Djankov, Michael Klein and Caralee McLiesh, three leading economists at the World Bank Group. EODB is an index published by the World Bank. It is an aggregate figure that includes different parameters which define the ease of doing business in a country. EODB can be defined as combined outcome of the simplified laws, rules and regulations, taxation process etc. which facilitates the smooth business operations with proper back up of developed infrastructural facilities like transportation, law and order position, banking and financial system and etc.

The World Bank provides ten factors and on the basis of its ranking to different countries is given . This ranking affects the inflow of FDIs in the countries. The higher ranking carries higher chances of FDI inflows and vice versa. World Bank has identified ten factors to determine the rankings on EODB such as Starting a business, Dealing with construction permits, Getting electricity, Registering property, Getting credit, Protecting minority investors, Paying taxes, Trading across borders, Enforcing contracts and Resolving insolvency.

The term EODB has been introduced by the World Bank, to indicate the positive and negative aspects in economic life of any country which contribute and hinder the development of healthy business environment. It undertakes the necessary steps to maximize those positive aspects and minimize the negative ones. Based on these aspects, the World Bank also declares annual rankings of various countries. It's a general opinion that the higher rank holders become the preferred choices of global investors for their stakes. In modern era's global economy, every country tries to get higher on the ladder of scale on EODB standards in the eyes of World Bank.

Section A:

FUNDING OPPORTUNITITES FOR INCUBATION CENTRES AND E-CELL

► GOVERNMENT SCHEMES:

Ministry of Science and Technology: Department Of Science And Technology (DST) National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (Nidhi) Schemes

1) NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS - TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR (NIDHI-TBI)

The 'National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Technology Business Incubator (NIDHI-TBI)' aims to convert technology-based innovations into start-ups by supporting institutions in setting up TBIs. The scheme provides support for non-recurring and recurring expenses of TBIs. The current focus areas are manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, clean-tech, energy, water and Internet of Things (IoT).

Eligibility Applicants:

Any institution engaged in the promotion of innovation, technology development and commercialisation or involved in start-up promotion can act as HI. The HI is required to have adequate expertise and infrastructure to support incubation activities. It should be in existence for at least 3 years.

The financial support for establishing a NIDHI-TBI can be extended to a not-for profit legal entity registered as a society/ trust/Sec 8 company. A pure R&D proposal for academic pursuits and industrial consultancy will not be eligible.

Financial support:

Non-recurring/capital - Up to 100 per cent of financial support is provided for renovating or furnishing publicly funded institutes, e.g. Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) or National Institutes of Technology (NITs)

For other institutions, the DST provides a certain percentage of the total cost (excluding land and building), while the remaining share is covered by the HI/NIDHI-TBI. A provision of annual maintenance of the equipment may be built in the annual recurring costs after the expiry of the warranty period of the equipment. The upper limit of support under different expense heads is suggested in the scheme

Recurring - Out of the total recurring expenditure incurred by the NIDHI-TBI against the approved amount, the following mode of funding by DST is followed:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
100%	100%	80%	60%	40%

Any required additional funds are to be met by the HI.

Application Process:

The proposals are received through calls for proposals. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship meets at least twice a year. The proposal in the prescribed format is to be submitted to the department's online portal along with the necessary enclosures: http://onlinedst.gov.in

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/2018/NIDHITBI.pdf

2) NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS - SEED SUPPORT SYSTEM (NIDHI SSS)

The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Seed Support System (NIDHI-SSS) provides financial assistance to start-ups with promising ideas, innovations and technologies, enabling selected incubatees to fulfil their capital requirements either through angel/venture support or from commercial banks/financial institutions.

Eligibility Applicants:

Technology Business Incubators (TBIs):

- Fully operational STEP/TBIs with at least five start-ups requiring seed support. A start-up supported once will not be eligible for applying for subsequent rounds of seed support to any STEP/TBIs
- Other not-for-profit TBIs with legal status that are hosted at public institutions
- Incubatee start-ups applying for seed support:
- Registered companies in India with a minimum of three months of residency at the STEP/TBIs

Financial Support:

Seed support granted to implementing STEP/TBIs, disbursed to the incubatee as debt or equity or a combination of both. The seed support is to cater early-stage financing for the commercialisation of indigenous ideas, innovations and technologies. Start-ups are to be supported for services as follows:

- Maximum financial assistance of up to INR 1.000 lakhs as grant-in-aid to STEP/TBIs for the seed support to be disbursed to its deserving incubates.
- Grant to be released in 2-5 rounds with a maximum of INR 500 lakhs per round; the support should be utilised in 2-3 years.
- The normal requirement of seed support is calculated as INR 25 lakh per start-up, extendable up to INR 100 lakh in exceptional cases.
- Management fee for NIDHI-SSS is 5 per cent of the total seed support being disbursed in each round.

The TBI/STEP has to repay the entire seed money given as a loan to the incubatee within 5 years, with at least 30 per cent of soft loan amount during incubation period (in case the seed support is within the range of 20-25 lakh). The equity model should be encouraged and followed in seed support cases exceeding INR 25 lakhs Efforts to get the repayment of the entire seed support money given as loan by the incubatee within 5 years, with at least 30% of the amount of soft loan to be paid back within incubation period in case the seed support is in the range of Rs. 20-25 lakhs. It is encouraged to follow the equity model in seed support cases exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs

Application Process:

The seed support is managed by selected STEP/TBI recommended by the national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship. Each STEP/TBI implementing NIDHI-SSS constitutes a committee called the NIDHI-seed support management committee (NIDHI-SSMC), whose members evaluate the prospective incubatee under physical incubation requiring seed support. The CEO of STEP/TBI is responsible for proper disbursement and management of the seed support.

For guidelines and application format and submission please refer to: https://nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-SSS.pdf

For the Proposal Invitation duration visit the link: https://www.nstedb.com/

3) NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS - ENTREPRENEUR-IN- RESIDENCE (NIDHI EIR)

The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Entrepreneur-In-Residence (NIDHI-EIR) is targeted at innovative entrepreneurs at selected NSTEDB approved TBIs and implemented by its nodal agency and programme implementation partner (PIP) 'Venture Centre', Pune, on behalf of NSTEDB, DST, and GoI.

The NIDHI-EIR provides a subsistence-grant to aspiring or budding entrepreneurs who want to pursue a promising technology business idea. Early-stage, product-focused young entrepreneurs working on innovative leading ideas are supported for a maximum period of 12 months. As a NIDHIEIR, an entrepreneur receives office space, administrative support and a stipend to turn an innovative breakthrough into a viable business.

Eligibility Applicants:

The programme is executed at selected TBIs approved by the NSTEDB serving as centres operating the NSTEDB's EIR programme, referred to as programme executing partner (PEP).

<u>The PEP should be</u>:

- A NSTEDB-approved and recognized incubator (not-for profit legal entity),
- In existence for at least 3 years with proven track record of incubation and a minimum of 20 resident incubates, and
- Having the capacity to generate a pipeline of incubitees and accommodate growth in a number of start-ups that can result from the NIDHI-EIR programme.

NIDHI-EIR are classified as aspiring or budding young entrepreneurs selected by the TBI and eventual support beneficiaries. A typical NIDHI-EIR requiring support is a first generation innovative entrepreneur, who has no prior source of income. Each NIDHI-TBI is required to have a website on its own and should update it on a regular basis (at least quarterly).

Financial Support:

- TBI acting as PEP: Annual grant of maximum INR 39.6 lakhs per year, out of which INR 36 lakhs shall be for NIDHI-EIR support and INR 3.6 lakhs, or 10 per cent of the released amount, whichever is lower, for local administration of the grant and execution overheads
- NIDHI EIR: Maximum grant of INR 30,000 per month with a minimum of INR 10,000 per month for a period of 12 months

Application Process:

The PIP will announce the annual call for application and facilitate the eligibility checks based on the merit and capability of the TBI to shortlist the applications and invite them to assemble in front of the project approval and monitoring committee. The hard and soft copies of the proposal in the prescribed format should be sent to:

Venture Centre 100,
NCL Innovation Park,
Dr. Homi Bhabha Road,
Pune – 411008.

Procedure for application submission by the NIDHI-EIR: the NIDHI-TBI shall announce the programme locally and invite applications for the NIDHI-EIR.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-EIR.pdf

For the Proposal Invitation duration visit the link : https://www.nstedb.com/

4) NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS PROMOTION AND ACCELERATION OF YOUNG AND ASPIRING TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURS (NIDHI PRAYAS)

The pre-incubation 'National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Promotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring Technology Entrepreneurs (NIDHI-PRAYAS)' supports entrepreneurs from their initial idea to the prototype, aiming to bridge the prototype funding gap.

Through this initiative, many potential ideas flow into the incubation programmes, thus increasing the flow of quality incubatees to the incubators. The grant is being managed by the PRAYAS Centre (PC) that supports innovative ideas through physical infrastructure, technical guidance, business mentorship and funding.

In the upcoming years, the DST aims to promote up to 10 PRAYAS centres in Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) each year.

Eligibility Applicants:

- Science and Technology Entrepreneur Parks (STEPs) or TBIs promoted by the GoI with a proven track record in promoting technology-based entrepreneurship and adequate expertise and infrastructure to support innovation scouting, screening, selection or funding support and monitoring of the progress.
- Not-for-profit legal entities registered as a society, trust or Sec 8 company. The DST at present does not support for-profit incubators. A pure R&D proposal for academic pursuits and industrial consultancy will not be eligible.
- STEPs/TBIs should be in existence for at least 3 years (not applicable to entities created by the central government or state governments).

Financial Support:

A furnished and well-equipped space of about 3,000 SQF will be set up at the host TBI for the PC. The innovators approach one of the PCs for seeking support under the programme. After being selected, innovators get access to the infrastructure, prototype grant and mentorship.

The DST invests INR 7 crore per PC in a period of 5 years, which includes INR 2.2 crore in the first year and INR 1.2 crore per year from 2nd to 5th year under the following heads:

- Prototype grant for innovators: Support of INR 100 lakhs per year for 5 years as prototyping grant to each PC. Innovators will be supported with a maximum of INR 10 lakhs per innovator (10 innovators per year per PC).
- Fab lab: A dedicated fab lab is required to be set up in a PC to facilitate mechanical and digital fabrication. One-time support under a capital grant of INR 100 lakhs will be provided for setting up a fab lab to the PC in the first year of establishment. Fab labs enable the finding of solutions for challenges and foster the conversion of ideas into reality.
- Operations and management: INR 20 lakhs per year for 5 years for annual operations, management of fab lab (including team, technical experts, furnishing costs, IP databases, consumables, utilities and administrative costs for management of PRAYAS programme by PC)

Application Process:

The proposals are received throughout the year. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) meets at least twice a year. Proposal in the prescribed format (available at PMU portal https://www.nidhi-prayas.org) along with the necessary forms should be forwarded by the head of the STEP/TBI along with the endorsement to PMU under intimation to DST with the following address:

NIDHI-PRAYAS PMU,
Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE),
3rd Floor CSRE Building, IIT Bombay,
Powai, Mumbai 400 076.

The innovators approach one of the PCs for seeking support under the programme. Each PC seeks applications from innovators in a common template. The PC sets up a transparent screening mechanism for selecting the innovators based on the potential of the idea/innovation.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-PRAYAS.pdf

For the Proposal Invitation duration visit the link : https://www.nstedb.com/

5) NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS (NIDHI) - INCLUSIVE TBI (I-TBI)

Inclusive TBI is a three years duration initiative supported by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) for educational institutions who are likely to foster innovation and entrepreneurship culture among the students, faculties, entrepreneurs, and nearby communities. The initiative aims to inculcate the spirit of Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) amongst the students, innovators and entrepreneurs, encourage and support innovative ideas, start- up creation through incubation.

Eligibility Applicants:

- The governing board highest authority of the HI specifying that HI agrees to host I-TBI and provide between upto 10,000 sq ft (minimum 7,000 sqft) of built up space to host i-TBI in the campus.
- The space provided should be for incubation facility, prototyping laboratory, meeting rooms, recreational facilities etc.
- HI shall also agree to establish separate section 8 company to professionally manage the i-TBI and will execute a lease agreement between HI and new entity, to lease the space earmarked for the ITBI to new entity at no cost or at minimum rate for 10 years or beyond.
- DST expects that HI will continue to support and run the TBI after DST's core support is over. I-TBI will reserve 60% space for incubation.

Financial Support:

<u>Non-Recurring Financial Support</u> -

- Non-Recurring/Capital - Renovation/Furnishing- Funding from HI can be by direct contribution or from other sources upto 50 Lakhs.
- D&D Rooms (Dies & Designs, FAB lab)/ Other need based equipment - Efforts should be put for extended warranty for project duration. If required, a provision of annual maintenance of the equipment may be built in the annual recurring costs after the expiry of warranty period of the equipment and the supporting limit by DST is 100 Lakhs.

Recurring Financial Support -

- Host institution would constitute a selection committee with DST nominee as a member for selection of the HEAD/CEO. A suitable incentive mechanism (share of surplus, equity stake, etc.) should be evolved by the host institution for the HEAD/CEO and his/her team. Merit, competence, qualification and experience shall be considered to decide on the remuneration of the HEAD/CEO.
- The DST grant for the salary for the HEAD/CEO will be limited to Rs.1 lakh p.m. or actual whichever is lower. Salary should be commensurate with local needs/class of city. Any additional funds if required, would be met by the host institution. The total support for Recurring Expenditure are 185 Lakhs upto 3 years.

Ignition Grant -

- The ignition grant shall be for development of prototype/products. It should not be used for creation of movable property, creation of permanent facilities, repayment of loans, payment of rents, items of leisure etc. Maximum Rs 50 Lakhs per year

Out of the Total Recurring expenditure incurred by the I-TBI against the approved amount, the mode of funding would be on actual recurring expenditure is:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
100%	80%	70%

Application Process:

Proposal in the prescribed proforma along with the necessary enclosures is to be submitted at department's online portal http://onlinedst.gov.in.

- For communication following address may be used:-

The Member Secretary,
National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board,
Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan,
New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016.

Program: Inclusive - Technology Business Incubator (I-TBI)
E-mail: anigupta@nic.in

- Enclosures to be submitted with the proposal by the institutions other than the Public Institutions:
    1. Registration Certificate of the Host Institute.
    2. Memorandum of Association and Article of Association of the Host Institute.
    3. Audited Statement of Accounts for the last three years.
    4. Annual Reports for the last three years.

To learn more about the scheme, application process and other formats, kindly refer to: https://www.nstedb.com/NIDHI-Inclusive-TBI-Guidelines.pdf

6) NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS GRAND CHALLENGES AND COMPETITIONS FOR SCOUTING INNOVATIONS (NIDHI-GCC)

The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Grand Challenges and Competitions for Scouting Innovations (NIDHI-GCC) is a pre-incubation activity on scouting innovations for building a platform for TBIs to have access to quality ideas for extending their incubation services.

Eligibility Applicants:

- TBIs with a minimum of 3 years of experience in running at least one entrepreneurship promotion programme on national or regional scale (including accelerator or entrepreneur development programme).
- Scouting programmes that have an external partner (i.e. a corporate, media-house, or NGO) are preferred.

Financial Support:

- Operations budget: Grant funding support for operational expenses and all other programme costs of up to INR 400 lakhs for the national and INR 150 lakhs for the regional programme. External programme partners are expected to contribute at least 50 per cent of the funding.
- Seed fund: Top applicants from the scouting programme may receive a maximum of INR 5 lakhs prototyping grant and a maximum of INR 50 lakhs seed-funding support each.

Application Process:

The application submission is open throughout the year. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship meets at least twice a year.
The proposal in the prescribed format, along with the necessary enclosures, is to be forwarded by the head of the TBI or another authorized signatory along with the endorsement. The proposal will be sent to:

The Member Secretary,
National Science & Technology, Entrepreneurship Development Board, Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan
New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110016.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI%20GCC.pdf

For the Proposal Invitation duration visit the link : https://www.nstedb.com/

7) NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (NIDHI-COE)

The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Centres of Excellence (NIDHI-CoE) aims at creating a world-class facility for helping start-ups go global through strengthening existing capacities of Science and Technology Entrepreneur Parks (STEP)/Technology Business Incubators (TBIs).

It supports potential start-ups with different pursuits and practices in transferring technological innovations into marketable products/high-growth companies. The scheme is particularly targeted at new high risk and high growth ventures, seeking to create an enabling environment to enhance the prospects of their success.

Eligibility Applicants:

- Incubators that have been in existence for at least 5 years. The HI is supposed to provide adequate expertise and infrastructure for scaling up existing incubation activities and should be in existence for at least 8 years (not applicable to entities created by the central government or state governments),

- In non-academic institutions, applicants should be legal entities registered in India with the clear purpose and objective of promoting research, innovation and the entrepreneurial ecosystem. They should partner with at least one academic or technical institute of repute or existing TBIs/STEPs/institutions or government bodies engaged in the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship,
- Not-for-profit legal entities registered as a society/trust/Sec 8 company. The DST requires a NIDHI-CoE to collaborate with an industry, an academic institution, or with other institutions of repute focusing on innovation, research, commercialisation and start-up promotion,
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), where 30 per cent of the total project cost is funded by the collaborating partner. The funding should be given to the not-for-profit entity created for managing NIDHI-CoE,
- Provision of a minimum of 50,000 SQF (including existing incubation space) of furnished space for hosting the NIDHI CoE. The minimum period of lease for which the HI should provide land and building is 30 years.

Financial Support:

- The programme supports non-recurring, as well as recurring expenditure for a period of 5 years
- Public funded institutions are eligible for 100 per cent support including building cost
- For private institutions, the HI provides 50,000 SQF for the building and contributes 25 per cent of the equipment cost. Private institutions are eligible for the recurring support of INR 20 crore and a maximum of INR 10 crore for equipment
- Out of the total recurring expenditure incurred by the NIDHI-COE against the approved amount, following mode of funding by DST is being followed on actual recurring expenditures:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
100%	100%	80%	60%	40%

Application Process:

The proposals are received throughout the year. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship meets at least twice a year.

Proposal in the prescribed format along with the necessary enclosures are to be forwarded by the endorsement. The proposal should be sent to head of the HI along with the,

The Member Secretary, National Science & Technology,
Entrepreneurship Development Board,
Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan
New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-COE-new.pdf

For the Proposal Invitation duration visit the link : https://www.nstedb.com/

8) NEWGEN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (NEWGEN IEDC)

The NewGen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NewGen IEDC) aims to inculcate the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst young science and technology (S&T) students while encouraging and supporting the creation of start-ups through guided mentorship. This programme is being implemented in academic institutes where students are encouraged to take up innovative projects that show a potential for commercialisation.

Eligibility Applicants:

Only academic institutes are eligible to apply for this programme. Each institution should fulfil the following parameters:

- Duly recognised colleges and institutes that have been offering engineering, technology, or science courses at a degree level for at least 5 years.
- Private institutions promoted by a trust or society registered under relevant acts besides being recognised by the AICTE or universities.
- Qualified and dedicated faculties in various disciplines with a good R&D base and background in industry-related activities.
- Availability of two faculties trained in entrepreneurship through the DST-sponsored faculty development programme.

- Availability of a minimum dedicated space of 5,000 SQF for housing the NewGen IEDC and the start-ups promoted through it (including availability of utilities as in workshops, laboratories, computational facilities and a library).
- Experience in entrepreneurship development and promotion and industry-related activities such as consultancy, product development, testing and calibration.

Financial Support:

Financial assistance for establishing a NewGen IEDC towards its nonrecurring (as in one time) establishment cost and recurring (as in project development costs, travel, trainings and contingencies) expenditure for up to 5 operational years:

Non-Recurring Grants:

- One-time non-recurring financial assistance of up to INR 25 lakhs towards establishment cost, furnishing, and purchase of equipment. The grants are not to be used for the purchase of land and building.

Recurring Grants:

- The recurring budget will be provided for each year of operation for a maximum of 5 years. Recurring costs include the honorarium to mentors, the NewGen IEDC coordinator, travel, expenses for the advisory board and review meetings, contingencies and other expenditures. Also, a prototype development fund of INR 250,000 is granted per project.

- Financial assistance is made available in project mode on a year-to-year basis, based on the successful implementation of the project and the review of the national expert advisor committee (NEAC).

Application Process:

On announcement of the programme, online proposals along with the necessary enclosures are being submitted.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.newgeniedc-edii.in/NewGen-Doc/NewGen%20IEDC%20project.pdf

For the Proposal Invitation duration visit the link : www.newgeniedc-edii.in & www.nstedb.com

9) ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CELL IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Develop institutional mechanism to create entrepreneurial culture in science & technology academic institutions to develop technocrat entrepreneurs for generation of wealth and employment.

Eligibility Applicants:

- The institution should be a university/deemed to be University or a premier Institute/College offering Engineering, Technology, Science & Management courses at degree level or above for at least 5 years. In case of a college/institute, it should be duly recognized and affiliated and while in case of the private institutions, it should be promoted by a Trust or a Society registered under relevant Acts.
- The College/Institute should have necessary accreditation by NAAC, AICTE, UGC etc.
- Qualified and dedicated faculty in various disciplines with a good Research & Development base and industry related activities.
- At least two faculty should have been trained through DST sponsored FDPs.
- Adequate space for locating the Cell including the modifications proposed to be carried out in the building, utilities like electricity, water, telephone installation and internet connectivity.
- Availability of workshops, laboratories and computational facilities.
- Library with a good collection of books and journals.

Experience in Entrepreneurship Development and Promotion and Industry related activities such as Consultancy, Product Development, Testing, Calibration, etc.

Financial Support:

<u>Non-Recurring Financial assistance:</u>

The NSTEDB would provide limited onetime non-recurring financial assistance, up to a maximum of Rs.7.00 lakhs, required for the purchase of PC with printer, UPS, library books, journals, laptop, photocopier, multimedia projector, office communication equipment's like fax, scanner etc.

Recurring Financial assistance:

The recurring budget will be provided each year of operation for a maximum of five years, subject to the performance being satisfactory. The suggested set of year-wise deliverables are given below.

First Year:

- Setting up EDC: Infrastructure, office set up, recruitment of core team, constitution of Advisory Board (with in four months of approval) and minimum one – two meetings of the Board.
- Entrepreneur promotion: To assist at least 5 entrepreneurs with proper follow-up and documentation of such entrepreneurs, and details of their enterprises together with the role of EDC in promoting them.

Second Year:

- To promote minimum 20 entrepreneurs with proper follow-up and documentation of such entrepreneurs, and details of their enterprises together with the role of EDC in promoting them.
- To start generating revenue Rs. 20,000-Rs. 50000/ Year.

Third Year:

- To conduct Faculty Development Programme to develop trained persons in other areas of Entrepreneurship.
- To promote a minimum of 40 entrepreneurs.
- To generate revenue of Rs. 50-000- Rs. 1,000,00/-

Fourth Year:

- Carrying out the regular activities of EDC on Entrepreneurial culture building and encouragement.
- To promote a minimum of 40 entrepreneurs.
- Efforts to sustain ED Cell activities beyond the project life of five years(maximum).
- To examine the possibilities of up-gradation to STEP/EDC in a specified area.

Fifth Year:

- To promote a minimum of 40 entrepreneurs.
- Updating the Survey on entrepreneurial opportunities , industry requirements and market potential of the region
- Plan for continuation of EDC after fifth year (with any further financial assistance from DST) to be completed.

Application Process:

The parent institution shall submit the proposal for setting up of an EDC as per the proforma placed at Annexure-I The proposal must include a Certificate to be signed by the Head of the institution as given in Annexure-II.

For guidelines and application format please refer to:https://www.nstedb.com/institutional/edc_guidelines_2008.pdf

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MOMSME) SCHEMES

1) FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE FORMATION OF ENTREPRENEUR'S CLUBS

The scheme to support to 5 selected Universities / colleges to run 1200 Entrepreneurship Clubs(one each from Northern, Western, Eastern, Southern and North East region) is one of the components of the promotional Package for Micro and Small Enterprise. Each university will have to run 240 clubs per year and each club may have a membership of 50 entrepreneurs. .

Eligibility Applicants:

A MSME-DI in each of the Regions – North, East, West, South and North East will be selected by DC(MSME) which in turn would identify a university for formation of Entrepreneurship Club in its area and entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University. While consulting the university for establishing the clubs, MSME-DI will take into confidence the leading Associations in the area.

There will be 50 entrepreneurs as Member of an Entrepreneurship Club and the President of each Club would be elected out of the 50 entrepreneurs and representative of MSME-DI as Convener with the representative of universities as Co-Convener.

Financial Support:

The request for proposals from the Institutes/Implementing agencies (as per format at Annexure IV of scheme guidelines) will be invited by the Selection Committee through advertisements in Newspapers and websites, Letters to Implementing agencies, etc., to select the host institutes for setting up of BIs.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: https://msme.gov.in/sites/default/files/EntrepreneurshipClubScheme.pdf

2) A SCHEME FOR PROMOTING INNOVATION, RURAL INDUSTRIES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ASPIRE)

A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE), implemented by the MoMSME, aims to set up a network of technology and incubation centres that accelerate entrepreneurship and promote start-ups in rural and agro-based industries.

Eligibility Applicants:

Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI):

- National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), coir board or any other GoI/ state government institution or agency.
- Private partner institutions and entities that are linked to the above institutions under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Technology Business Incubator (TBI):

- Existing incubation centres currently operating under different governmental ministries, departments and institutions (including national or regional level institutions) who have the adequate expertise and infrastructure to support incubation activities in agro-based industries.
- New incubation centres, eligible private institutions, R&D laboratories, government entities and technology parks, and technical institutions with a proven track record in the promotion of innovative/technology-based entrepreneurship in the agro-rural landscape.

Financial Support:

Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI):

- One-time grant of 100 per cent of cost of plant and machinery (other than the land and infrastructure) or an amount of up to INR 100 lakh, whichever is less, to be provided.
- One-time grant of 50 per cent of cost of plant and machinery (other than the land and infrastructure) or INR 50 lakh, whichever is less, to be provided in case of incubation centre to be set up under PPP mode.

Technology Business Incubator (TBI):

Setting up of incubation centres:

- One-time grant of 50 per cent of the cost of plant and machinery (excluding land and infrastructure) or an amount of INR 30 lakh, whichever is less, for supporting 20 existing incubators under GoI-funded institutions to set up such incubation centres in the area of agro-based industries.
- One-time grant of 50 per cent of cost of plant and machinery or an amount of up to INR 100 lakh, whichever is less, for setting up new incubation centres by eligible agencies dedicated to incubation and enterprise creation in the area of agro-based industries.

Application Process:

Application in prescribed format, with necessary enclosures and endorsement from the head of the designated agencies/incubator/ institution, may be:

- Sent to the ASPIRE scheme steering committee, MoMSME, or
- Uploaded on the ASPIRE website by filling up the form enclosed at www.aspire.msme.gov.in

To learn more about the scheme, the application process and required formats, kindly visit: https://msme.gov.in/sites/default/files/ASPIRE_EN.pdf

3) SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL AND MANAGERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF MSMES THROUGH INCUBATORS

The scheme 'Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of MSMEs through Incubators' aims to activate untapped creativity and to promote the adoption of the latest technologies in manufacturing.

The scheme is targeted at knowledge-based innovative MSMEs (ventures) that seek the validation of their ideas at the proof of concept level. It also facilitates the engagement with enablers who will advise such MSMEs in expanding their business by supporting them in design, strategy and execution.

Eligibility Applicants:

- Host Institutions (HI); including universities, colleges and institutes, R&D institutes, NGOs, Entrepreneurs Development Centres (EDCs), MSME-DIs/Technology Centers (TCs), District Industries Centres (DICs) or any institute/organisation of the Central/State Government.
- All MSMEs registered under the MSME Act 2006 (as amended from time to time) and MSMEs which are included as per executive orders issued by Office of DC (MSME) consistent with the MSME Act (as amended from time to time).

Financial Support:

- Awareness programmes sensitise MSMEs/students on the benefits of the scheme at INR 0.70 lakhs per programme (conducted by the National Monitoring and Implementing Unit (NMIU)/Implementing Agency (IA)).
- Workshops conducted by NMIU/IA aim to increase the interaction amongst various stakeholders at INR 5 lakhs per day for national level and INR 3 lakh per day for regional level workshops.
- Grant in Aid support to Host Institutes (HIs): i) Support for plant and machinery: up to INR 1 crore grant for the procurement and installation of relevant plant and machinery (including hardware, software etc.) in Business Incubators (BI) in order to strengthen the technology-related R&D activities and common facilities for incubatees of BIs ii) Developing and nurturing ideas: up to INR 15 lakh per idea.

- Seed capital support fund for setting up start-ups: Assistance of up to INR 1 crore for seed capital support to appropriate incubatees. Financial assistance may be given in the form of a soft loan, interest free loan, equity participation, grant or a combination of these.
- Publicity, branding and mobilisation for documentary/ short films, preparation of handbooks and any other related activities.

Application Process:

A project monitoring and advisory committee (PMAC) set up in the office of the development commissioner, MoMSME, looks after the planning, screening and identification of interventions or projects. Similarly, a national monitoring and implementation unit (NMIU) is set up in the above mentioned office for facilitation, implementation and monitoring of the scheme involving implementing agencies (IAs) as per the directions of the PMAC.

Proposals will be submitted to IAs by the HIs and after initial scrutiny be put up to PMAC through NMIU for consideration and approval.

Registration Link: https://my.msme.gov.in/inc/

To learn more about the scheme, application process and other formats, kindly refer to: http://www.dcmsme.gov.in/schemes/SUPPORTFOREMDTI.pdf

MAHARASHTRA STATE INNOVATION SOCIETY (MSINS)

MSINS POLICY 2018

MSINS POLICY 2018 is formed to build a vibrant startup ecosystem by establishing (and expanding) a statewide network of business incubators – in collaboration with industry and academia – to foster the startup ecosystem and to enable entrepreneurs to succeed in their pursuits.

Eligibility Applicants:

1. Applicants may belong to any of the four categories:
    - Category-I: Publicly funded (fully or partially) academic and/or research institutes (State or Central) OR State/Central Government agencies, bodies and/or corporations.
    - Category-II: Private academic and/or research institutes/Non-profit organisations/Industry associations.
    - Category III: Private for-profit organisations.
    - Category IV: A consortium (association or combination) of organisations from Category I, II and Category III with the Category I and/or II institution being the Host Institution.
2. Applicants shall be required to incorporate the incubators as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) registered as either a "Section 8 Company" or a "Private Limited Company" under The Companies Act, 2013. Applicants shall not be permitted to register the incubator as a "Society" or "Trust".
3. Organisations seeking to expand existing incubation facilities shall be required to register the incubator as a "Section 8 Company" or a "Private Limited Company" in case it is not already.
4. Expressions of Interest for the setting up incubators would be sought from applicant online on the MSInS portal i.e., www.msins.in/incubators in accordance with Proforma-I.

Financial Support:

1. Successful applicants would receive a grant-in-aid to set up the incubator for a maximum period of 5 years to cover capital and operational expenditures.
2. Category-I Incubators (Publicly funded (fully or partially) academic and/or research institutes (State or Central) OR State/Central Government agencies, bodies and/or corporations):
    - Applicants shall receive a grant-in-aid of up to 100% of the total eligible project cost i.e., capital and operational expenditure, up to a maximum of INR 5 crore.
    - Applicant must present a Budget Plan detailing all components of the project costs including those not eligible for funding.
    - Each tranche of the grant shall be disbursed in phased manner as per the budget plan approved by expert committee set up by MSInS.
    - The institutes and authorities of repute classified under this category may directly be nominated by the MSInS for setting up of an incubator.
    - The applicants under this category can bring on board other knowledge partner and promoters.
3. Category-II Incubators (Private academic and/or research institutes/Non-profit organisations/Industry associations):
    - Applicants shall receive a grant-in-aid of up to 75% of the total eligible project cost i.e. capital and operational expenditure, up to a maximum of INR 5 crore.
    - Applicant must present a Budget Plan detailing all components of the project costs including those not eligible for funding.
    - Each tranche of the grant shall be disbursed in phased manner as per the budget plan approved by expert committee set up by MSInS.
    - Each tranche of the grant-in-aid shall be disbursed in phased manner as per the budget plan approved by expert committee set up by MSInS only after the Applicants provides proof of matching 25% contribution.

4. Category-III Incubators (Private for-profit organisations):
    - Applicants shall receive a grant-in-aid of up to 50% of the total eligible project cost i.e. capital and operational expenditure, up to a maximum of INR 5 crore. The MSInS shall hold a minimum 26% equity stake in the SPV, the equity share of MSInS will increase in proportion to its to contribution till a maximum of 49%.
    - Applicant must present a Budget Plan detailing all components of the project costs including those not eligible for funding.
    - Each tranche of the grant shall be disbursed in phased manner as per the budget plan approved by expert committee set up by MSInS only after the applicant provides proof of matching 50% contribution.
    - Rental value of building as per fair market value or as per registered lease agreement shall be considered an eligible project cost.
5. Category-IV Incubators (A consortium (association or combination) of organisations from Category I, II and Category III with the Category I and/or II institution being the Host Institution):
    - Applicants shall receive a grant-in-aid of up to 75% of the total eligible project cost i.e. capital and operational expenditure, up to a maximum of INR 5 crore.
    - Applicant must present a Budget Plan detailing all components of the project costs including those not eligible for funding.
    - Each tranche of the grant-in-aid shall be disbursed in phased manner as per the budget plan approved by expert committee set up by MSInS only after the Applicants provides proof of matching 25% contribution.
6. For scaling up of existing incubators with a demonstrated history of facilitating startups, a capital assistance grants of up to INR 5 crore shall be provided. The matching contribution would be required to be made by the applicant depending on the category (Ref. 1) of the applicant. The MSInS may choose to disburse the grant in a phased manner on the basis of budget plan provided by the applicant.

Application Process:

The following parameters shall be evaluated during the selection process:

- Business Plan
- Leadership Team
- Sector Expertise
- Market Linkages
- Infrastructure

Apply here: https://www.msins.in/

To learn more about the scheme, application process and other formats, kindly refer to: https://www.maharashtra.gov.in/site/Upload/Government%20Resolutions/Marathi/201806131215483003.pdf

NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA (NITI AAYOG)

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is one of the flagship initiatives of NITI Aayog. As an umbrella organisation and innovation hub, it plays an instrumental role in aligning innovation policies between central, state and sectoral schemes that promote innovation and entrepreneurship. It intervenes on various levels, including higher secondary schools, science, engineering and higher academic institutions, as well as MSME industries, corporates and NGOs.

Eligibility Applicants:

Atal Incubation Centres (AIC):

Higher educational institutions, R&D institutes, corporate sector, alternative investment funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), business accelerators and individuals.
Proposed focus sectors are:

- agriculture
- bio technology
- building materials/ construction technology
- health and pharmaceuticals
- sensor technology
- infrastructure
- education
- electricity, new and renewable energy and environmental sustainability
- information and communication technology (ICT)
- micro and nano electronics
- housing
- transport
- water, sanitation and solid waste management
- new materials including nano-materials
- manufacturing and engineering

Scale-up support to Established Incubation Centres (EIC):

- EICs should be registered in India as a legal entity in public, private or public-private partnerships and must have been in operation for a minimum of 3 years.

Financial Support:

Atal Incubation Centre (AIC):

- AICs in academic/R&D institutes receive a grant-in-aid of up to 100 per cent of the total eligible project costs (subject to a maximum of INR 10 crore)
- AICs proposed by other applicants receive a grant-in-aid of up to 50 per cent of the total eligible project costs subject to a maximum of up to INR 10 crore. Each tranche of the grant-in-aid shall be disbursed only after the applicant provides proof of matching 50 per cent contribution.
- The grant-in-aid shall be disbursed in a phased manner as per the budget plan submitted by the applicant and approved by the AIM directorate. The larger part of the grant-in-aid should be spent on the prescribed core operation activities. The total grant-in-aid which can be spent towards sector specific laboratory and seed fund combined should not exceed INR 4.5 crores.

Scale-up support to Established Incubation Centres (EICs):

- Grant-in-aid of up to INR 10 crores in two (or more) annual instalments over a duration of 2 years. An EIC is eligible to apply and avail a grant-in-aid under this scheme for a maximum of three times

Application Process:

Applicants can submit their applications online to the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.

Formats and guidelines can be downloaded from : https://aim.gov.in/

To learn more about the scheme, application process and other formats, kindly refer to: https://aim.gov.in/Revised_AIC_Guidelines.pdf

BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE COUNCIL (BIRAC), DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, GOI

BIOINCUBATORS NURTURING ENTREPRENEURS FOR SCALING TECHNOLOGIES (BIONEST)

The scheme harnesses the entrepreneurial potential of startups during their initial days through providing infrastructure, mentoring and networking platforms that aim to scale up the biotech start-up ecosystem through propelling innovative ideas towards product commercialisation. As such, BioNEST is targeted at biotech start-ups (especially those from MedTech background (including medical electronics hardware), biopharma, agri-biotech and biomaterial sectors).

BioNEST is divided into four categories:

1. **Supporting new BioNEST:** Supporting new BioNEST at academic and research institutes, research hospitals and organizations fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.
2. **Establishing new BioNEST**: Establishing new BioNEST with various state government biotech councils or S&T councils.
3. **Strengthening existing incubators:** Strengthening existing incubators attached to academic institutes and research institutes, standalone incubators and research hospitals to establish BioNEST.
4. **Support for scaling-up of already funded BioNEST:** Supporting and strengthening existing BioNEST.

Eligibility Applicants:

<u>Supporting new BioNEST:</u>

- Existing academic/research organisations, research hospitals that do not have formal incubation centres but support entrepreneurial activities.
- Host Institutes (HIs) with adequate expertise and infrastructure to support incubation activities.
- Incubators supported directly under BioNEST managed by HIs or in PPP-mode.

Establishing new BioNEST:

- Central and state universities, R&D medical institutes, standalone bio-incubators and parks, management institutes and other organisations focused on bio-incubation.

Strengthening existing incubators to establish BioNEST:

- Existing incubators attached to academic institutes, research institutes, stand-alone incubators and research hospitals.

Support for scaling up already funded BioNEST:

- Only BIRAC funded BioNEST are considered for up-scaling.

Financial Support:

Supporting new BioNEST:

- Grant-in-aid/capital investment support for 3 years (maximum 5 years); percentage and manner of funding can vary according to location, technology thrust area, infrastructure creation, proposed operational model and needs, and the recommendation of the technical or expert committee.

Establishing new BioNEST:

- Funding support of 50 per cent by BIRAC and 50 per cent by the respective state government council. The incubator may be managed and operated by the private sector. The BIRAC funding caters to refurbishing, renovation, capex and operational costs. The state government provides the requisite land and building space to host BioNEST in any of the existing institutes and contributes to the funds for construction-related activities.

Strengthening existing incubators to establish BioNEST:

- Funding support in the form of grant-in-aid or capital investment. The percentage and manner of funding under BioNEST can vary depending on the location, technology thrust area, infrastructure creation, proposed operational model and requirements, as well as the reasoned recommendation of a technical or expert committee.

Support for scaling-up of already funded BioNEST:

- Increased incubation space, refurbishing and renovation cost will be considered for creating lab space, lab module and benches, common equipment facility and specialised units.
- Capex support for generic equipment based on the incubator's needs and the committee's recommendation.

Application Process:

For the Proposal Invitation duration visit the link : http://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=264#

To learn more about the scheme, application process and other formats, kindly refer to:
https://www.birac.nic.in/webcontent/BioNEST_Guidelines_04_07_2018.pdf

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GOI

RASHTRIYA UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RUSA)

It is the central government's contribution to further the promise held by the rich expanse of India's state universities. It aims to work with 300-plus state universities and its affiliated colleges to raise the bar of campus life. RUSA Suppose to providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.

Eligibility Applicants:

- Colleges (of any discipline) whether aided, partially aided and unaided/self financing are eligible provided they are under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act
- The college should have at least 10 years of existence
- The colleges must be accredited by either NAAC with minimum 'A' Grade or by NBA for at least three institutions.

Financial Support:

- The central funding is in the ratio of 60:40 for general category states, 90:10 for special category states and 100% for union territories and is based on norms and is outcome dependent.
- RUSA is provided by the central Ministry of Human Resource Development directly to the state and UT governments. From the state/UT budget the funds are disbursed to individual institutions.
- The amount of funding from central government will be 60% of the total grants, and 40% will be contributed by the state/UT as matching share.
- Infrastructure grants would be given to 150 universities and 3,500 colleges to upgrade and fill critical gaps in infrastructure especially libraries, laboratories, etc.

Application Process:

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://rusa.nic.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Final-Guidelines-Copy.pdf

To learn more about the scheme, application process and other formats, Kindly visit the link: http://rusa.nic.in/

► FUNDING OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT SCHEMES:

Donation: The incubation centres can raise funds in form of donations to operate as well as for start-ups. This can be done through various sources such as company, association, individuals, institutions, etc.

CSR: Various companies contribute to incubation centres in form of CSR for setting up incubation facilities and also funding start-ups thus by encouraging the youth towards entrepreneurship.

Host institution: The institutes which found their own incubation centres often takes care of the financial requirements of that particular incubation centre in its early stages or until it receives government support or even fully support it, as the case maybe.

Alumni: Alumni can also contribute towards their institution's incubation centre for its better functionality and even the start-ups in their pre incubation or incubation stage.

Apart from above mentioned list any other institution or individual can contribute towards incubation centres in accordance with the statutory provisions set up by the concerned regulatory authority, host institution and the incubation centre or e-cell itself.

SECTION B

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

The Ease of Doing Business report is published by a world bank group which studies almost all the economies across the globe based on certain key areas of regulation essential for ease of business in a particular region, these are called as indicators. These are narrowed down to 10 most essential areas of regulation through which assessment of ease of doing business is done of every economy and these economies are scores and ranked accordingly, the economy with highest score secures 1st Rank in Ease of Doing Business index and vise versa. In the e-book we are going to

THE INDICATORS ARE:

1. STARTING A BUSINESS
2. DEALING WITH CONSTRUCTION PERMITS
3. GETTING ELECTRICITY
4. REGISTERING PROPERTY
5. GETTING CREDIT
6. PROTECTING MINORITY INVESTORS
7. PAYING TAXES
8. TRADING ACROSS BORDERS
9. ENFORCING CONTRACTS
10. RESOLVING INSOLVENCY

Top 5 Countries in Ease of Doing Business index 2020

The study of top 5 countries in Ease of Doing Business(EoDB) index 2020 showcases various reforms implemented in various domains(indicators) from 2016 till 2020 also the doing business(DB) scores & ranks.

Table 4.1: REFORMS OF TOP 5 COUNTRIES IN EODB INDEX

Countries ➤ / Indicators ⮟	New Zealand	Singapore	Hong Kong	Denmark	Korea
Starting a Business	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dealing with construction permits		✓	✓	✓	
Getting electricity	✓		✓		
Registering property		✓	✓		
Getting credit			✓		
Protecting minority investors					
Paying taxes	✓	✓	✓		✓
Trading across borders		✓			
Enforcing contracts	✓	✓		✓	
Resolving insolvency		✓			

Source

Top 5 Countries in Ease of Doing Business index 2020

NEW ZEALAND:

Ease of doing business index of New Zealand increased gradually from Rank 2 in 2016 with DB score 86.79 to Rank 1 with DB score 86.8 in 2020. However there is reduction in DB score. New Zealand also ranked highly for 'registering property', 'paying taxes' and third for 'protecting minority investors'.

In the past year, over 54,000 companies were registered on the Companies Register and 693,000 employment agreements were built using business.govt.nz. Nearly all of NZ's registered businesses are compliant with regulations. New Zealand is officially least corrupt country in the world.

DB scores:

Table 4.2: NEW ZEALAND DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

New Zealand	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	1	99.96	1	100.0
Dealing with construction permits	3	87.92	7	86.5
Getting electricity	31	83.96	5	84.0
Registering property	1	94.46	2	94.6
Getting credit	1	100	1	100.0
Protecting minority investors	1	83.33	3	86.0
Paying taxes	22	88.06	9	91.0
Trading across borders	55	84.55	63	84.6
Enforcing contracts	15	74.25	23	71.5
Resolving insolvency	31	71.41	36	69.5

Source

Reforms:

New Zealand undertook various regulatory reforms in past years to increase its rankings in EoDB index. Here are few reforms listed:

- Starting a Business - New Zealand made starting a business less expensive by reducing the fees for name search and company incorporation.
- Paying Taxes - New Zealand made paying taxes easier by improving the online portal for filing and paying general sales tax.
- Enforcing Contracts - New Zealand made enforcing contracts more difficult by suspending the filing of new commercial cases before the Commercial List of the High Court of New Zealand during the establishment of a new Commercial Panel.
- Paying Taxes - New Zealand made paying taxes easier by abolishing the cheque levy. New Zealand made paying less costly by decreasing the rate of accident compensation levy paid by employers. At the same time, New Zealand made paying taxes more costly by raising property tax and road user levy rates.
- Getting Electricity - The utility in New Zealand reduced the time required for getting an electricity connection by improving its payment monitoring and confirmation process for the connection works.

SINGAPORE

The rank of the Singapore in the ease of doing business has gone down by 1 place earlier it stood at 1st with 87.34 DB score in 2016 year and now its on the 2nd place with 86.2 DB score in the year of 2020.

DB scores:

Table 4.3: SINGAPORE DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Singapore	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	10	96.5	4	98.2
Dealing with construction permits	1	93.0	5	87.9
Getting electricity	6	94.3	19	91.8
Registering property	17	85.7	21	83.1
Getting credit	19	75.0	37	75.0
Protecting minority investors	1	83.3	3	86.0
Paying taxes	5	96.6	7	91.6
Trading across borders	41	89.4	47	89.6
Enforcing contracts	1	84.9	1	84.5
Resolving insolvency	27	74.8	27	74.3

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - Singapore made starting a business easier by abolishing the corporate seals.
- Enforcing contracts - Singapore made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a consolidated law on voluntary mediation.
- Trading across borders - Singapore made exporting and importing easier by improving infrastructure and electronic equipment at the port.
- Resolving insolvency Singapore made resolving insolvency easier by establishing a new scheme of arrangement procedure with features of the debtor-in-possession reorganization regime and introducing provisions applicable to prepackaged restructurings.

- Dealing with construction permits - Singapore made dealing with construction permits easier by enhancing its risk-based approach to inspections, improving public access to soil information, and streamlining the process to obtain a construction permit. It also made dealing with construction permits easier by streamlining procedures and improving the online one-stop shop.
- Registering property - Singapore made it easier to transfer a property by introducing an independent mechanism for reporting errors on titles and maps.
- Paying taxes - Singapore made paying taxes easier by introducing improvements to the online system for filing corporate income tax returns and VAT returns. At the same, the social security contribution rate paid by employers increased and the rebate of 30% on vehicle tax expired.

HONG KONG SAR, CHINA

Ease of doing business index of Hong Kong SAR, China increased gradually from Rank 5 in 2016 with DB score 83.67 to Rank 3 with DB score 85.3 in 2020.

DB scores:

Table 4.4: HONG KONG SAR, CHINA DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Hong Kong SAR, China	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	4	98.12	5	98.2
Dealing with construction permits	7	84.78	1	93.5
Getting electricity	9	91.62	3	99.3
Registering property	59	69.78	51	73.6
Getting credit	19	75.0	37	75.0
Protecting minority investors	1	83.33	7	84.0
Paying taxes	4	98.71	2	99.7
Trading across borders	47	87.76	29	95.0
Enforcing contracts	22	72.57	31	69.1
Resolving insolvency	26	75.06	45	65.7

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - Hong Kong SAR, China, made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a company seal. It also made starting a business less costly by reducing the business registration fee.
- Getting electricity - The utility in Hong Kong SAR, China, made getting electricity easier by streamlining the process for reviewing connection applications and for completing the connection works and meter installation. In addition, the time needed to issue an excavation permit was reduced. It also streamlined the processes of reviewing applications for new electrical connections and also reduced the time needed to issue an excavation permit. It also made the process of getting an electricity connection faster by establishing a specialized task force to undertake the trenching, excavation and reinstatement of the underground cables.
- Getting credit - Hong Kong SAR, China, improved access to credit by implementing a modern collateral registry.
- Paying taxes - Hong Kong SAR, China, made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by simplifying compliance with the mandatory provident fund obligations and increasing the allowance for profit tax. At the same time, it increased the maximum contribution to the mandatory provident fund and reduced the property tax waiver.
- Registering property - Hong Kong SAR, China, improved the quality of its land administration system by enhancing its reliability and establishing a complaints mechanism
- Dealing with construction permits - Hong Kong SAR, China, made dealing with construction permits easier by enhancing its risk-based approach to inspections.

DENMARK

In 2020, ease of doing business index for Denmark was 85.29 score. Though Denmark ease of doing business index fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to increase through 2016 – 2020 period ending at 85.29 score in 2020.

DB Scores:

Table 4.5: DENMARK DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Denmark	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	29	94.04	45	97.2
Dealing with construction permits	5	86.3	4	87.9
Getting electricity	12	90.19	21	90.2
Registering property	9	89.88	11	89.9
Getting credit	28	70.0	48	70.0
Protecting minority investors	20	68.33	28	72.0
Paying taxes	12	91.94	8	91.1
Trading across borders	1	100.0	1	100.0
Enforcing contracts	37	68.56	14	73.9
Resolving insolvency	9	84.78	6	85.1

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a Business - Denmark made starting a business easier by introducing an online platform allowing simultaneous completion of business and tax registration.
- Dealing with Construction Permits - Denmark made dealing with construction permits more expensive by raising the cost of building permits and the cost of obtaining a water and sewage connection. It also made dealing with construction permits cheaper by eliminating fees for building permits.
- Enforcing Contracts - Denmark made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an online platform that allows users to file the initial complaint electronically and judges and lawyers to manage cases electronically.
- Dealing with Construction Permits - Denmark made dealing with construction permits cheaper by eliminating fees for building permits.

KOREA, REP.

Ease of doing business index of Korea, Rep. decreased gradually from Rank 4 in 2016 with DB score 83.88 to Rank 5 with DB score 84 in 2020.

DB Scores:

Table 4.6: KOREA, REP. DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Korea, Rep.	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	23	94.36	33	93.4
Dealing with construction permits	28	77.83	12	84.4
Getting electricity	1	99.88	2	99.9
Registering property	40	76.22	40	76.3
Getting credit	42	65.0	67	65.0
Protecting minority investors	8	73.33	25	74.0
Paying taxes	29	84.53	21	87.4
Trading across borders	31	92.48	36	92.5
Enforcing contracts	2	84.84	2	84.1
Resolving insolvency	4	90.31	11	82.9

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a Business - The Republic of Korea made starting a business faster by eliminating post-registration procedures.
- Paying taxes - The Republic of Korea made paying taxes easier by introducing additional features to its online filing system for corporate income tax and value added tax.

Top 10 Countries in Ease of Doing Business index 2020

The study of top 10 countries in Ease of Doing Business(EoDB) index 2020 showcases various reforms implemented in various domains(indicators) from 2016 till 2020 also the doing business(DB) scores & ranks.

Table 4.7: REFORMS OF MOST IMPROVING COUNTRIES IN EODB INDEX

Countries ➤ / Indicators ⮟	Saudi Arabia	Jordan	Togo	Bahrain	Tajikistan
Starting a Business	✓		✓	✓	✓
Dealing with construction permits	✓		✓	✓	
Getting electricity	✓		✓		
Registering property			✓		
Getting credit	✓	✓	✓		
Protecting minority investors	✓				
Paying taxes		✓	✓		✓
Trading across borders	✓				
Enforcing contracts	✓			✓	
Resolving insolvency	✓	✓			

Source

Top 10 Countries in Ease of Doing Business index 2020

The study of top 10 countries in Ease of Doing Business(EoDB) index 2020 showcases various reforms implemented in various domains(indicators) from 2016 till 2020 also the doing business(DB) scores & ranks.

Table 4.8: REFORMS OF MOST IMPROVING COUNTRIES IN EODB INDEX

Countries ➤ / Indicators ▼	Pakistan	Kuwait	China	India	Nigeria
Starting a Business	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dealing with construction permits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Getting electricity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Registering property	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Getting credit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protecting minority investors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paying taxes	✓		✓	✓	✓
Trading across borders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enforcing contracts		✓	✓	✓	✓
Resolving insolvency			✓	✓	

Source

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia listed first among the top 10 improvers in EoDB index measured by doing business 2018-19. Saudi Arabia also showed improvement in paying taxes by introducing a value added tax.

DB Scores:

Table 4.9: SAUDI ARABIA DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Saudi Arabia	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	130	78.66	38	93.1
Dealing with construction permits	17	80.75	28	78.3
Getting electricity	24	84.83	18	91.8
Registering property	31	17.15	19	84.5
Getting credit	79	50	80	60
Protecting minority investors	99	51.67	03	86.0
Paying taxes	03	99.23	57	80.5
Trading across borders	150	49.62	86	76
Enforcing contracts	86	58.78	51	65.3
Resolving insolvency	189	0	168	0.0

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - Saudi Arabia made starting a business easier by establishing a one-stop shop that merged several pre- and post registration procedures. Saudi Arabia also eliminated the requirement for married women to provide additional documents when applying for a national identity card.
- Dealing with construction permits - Saudi Arabia made dealing with construction permits easier by launching an online platform and by enabling civil defense approval after the issuance of the building permit.
- Enforcing contracts - Saudi Arabia made enforcing contracts easier by publishing court performance measurement reports and information on the progress of cases through the court.

Reforms:

- Getting electricity - Saudi Arabia made getting electricity easier by streamlining connection works and meter installation, by using a geographic information system to review new electrical connection requests, and by no longer requiring certificates of completion.
- Getting credit - Saudi Arabia strengthened access to credit by introducing a secured transactions law and an insolvency law. The new laws provide secured creditors with absolute priority inside bankruptcy, allow all types of debts and obligations to be secured between the parties, and allow out-of-court enforcement of security interests.
- Protecting minority investors - Saudi Arabia strengthened minority investor protections by increasing access to evidence at trial.
- Paying taxes - Saudi Arabia introduced a value added tax.
- Trading across borders - Saudi Arabia made importing and exporting easier by enhancing its electronic trade single window, enabling risk-based inspections, launching an online platform for certification of imported goods, and upgrading infrastructure at the Jeddah Port.
- Resolving insolvency - Saudi Arabia made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a reorganization procedure, allowing debtors to initiate the reorganization procedure, improving voting arrangements in reorganization, improving the continuation of businesses and the treatment of contracts during insolvency proceedings, allowing post commencement credit, and increasing the participation of creditors in the insolvency proceedings.

JORDAN

Jordan is the second highest ranking country in top 10 improvers after Saudi Arabia. Jordan and Kuwait are new additions to the list of 10 most improved economies. It showed 3 reforms in areas of Getting credit, paying taxes and resolving insolvency.

DB Scores:

Table 4.10: JORDAN DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Jordan	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	88	85.7	120	84.5
Dealing with construction permits	103	67.49	138	60.3
Getting electricity	56	77.88	69	80.5
Registering property	98	61.34	78	66.4
Getting credit	185	0	4	95
Protecting minority investors	163	36.67	105	50
Paying taxes	52	80.96	62	78.7
Trading across borders	50	86.73	75	79
Enforcing contracts	126	51.5	110	55.6
Resolving insolvency	146	30.17	112	39.7

Source

Reforms:

- Getting credit - Jordan strengthened access to credit by introducing a new secured transactions law, amending the insolvency law, and launching a unified, modern, and notice-based collateral registry. The secured transactions law broadened the description of debts and obligations and the scope of assets usable as collateral. The amended insolvency law grants secured creditors absolute priority and provides a time limit and clear grounds for relief from automatic stays during reorganization procedures. Jordan also improved access to credit information by providing credit scores to banks, financial institutions, and borrowers.
- Paying taxes - Jordan made paying taxes easier by implementing electronic filing and payment for labor taxes and other mandatory contributions.
- Resolving insolvency - Jordan made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a reorganization procedure, by allowing debtors to initiate the reorganization procedure, and by improving the continuation of businesses and the treatment of contracts during insolvency proceedings.

TOGO

Togo has performed very well in last few years. It is one of the economies which has improved the most among the ten improving countries. It is the best performing country in West African region.

DB Scores:

Table 4.11: TOGO DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Togo	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	10	96.5	15	95.1
Dealing with construction permits	1	93.0	127	64.1
Getting electricity	6	94.3	99	72.6
Registering property	17	85.7	56	72
Getting credit	19	75.0	48	70
Protecting minority investors	1	83.3	120	42
Paying taxes	5	96.6	174	47.3
Trading across borders	41	89.4	131	63.7
Enforcing contracts	1	84.9	140	49
Resolving insolvency	27	74.8	88	47

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - Togo made starting a business easier by abolishing the requirement to notarize company documents and by reducing the time to register a company.
- Dealing with construction permits - Togo made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing fees and by adopting an online portal for the submission of applications. Togo made dealing with construction permits more transparent by making the required documents, preapproval, and fees available online. Togo also improved its building quality control by regulating inspections during construction.
- Getting electricity - Togo made getting electricity less costly by further reducing the cost of connection works and the security deposit for new connections.
- Registering property - Togo made property registration easier by streamlining administrative procedures and reducing costs.
- Getting credit - Togo improved access to credit information by expanding the coverage of the credit bureau and beginning to distribute data from utility companies.

BAHRAIN

Bahrain has done robust improvements in various key areas(indicators) of ease of doing business. Its reforms played an important role in making a position in the most improving economies.

DB Scores:

Table 4.12: BAHRAIN DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Bahrain	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	140	77.09	67	89.6
Dealing with construction permits	9	83.24	17	83.1
Getting electricity	77	71.74	72	79.7
Registering property	25	81.07	17	86.2
Getting credit	109	40	94	55
Protecting minority investors	111	48.33	51	66
Paying taxes	8	93.88	1	100
Trading across borders	85	72.06	77	78.7
Enforcing contracts	101	56.38	59	63.8
Resolving insolvency	85	44.28	60	58.2

Source

Reforms:

- Dealing with construction permits - Bahrain made obtaining construction permits easier by further streamlining the application process through the new Benayat online platform, and by delegating the application review process to licensed engineering firms.
- Getting electricity - Bahrain made the process of getting electricity easier by investing in digitization and transparency of information and by improving its inspection and installation process.
- Registering property - Bahrain made property registration easier by streamlining administrative procedures and improving the quality of the land administration system.

Reforms:

- Getting credit - Bahrain strengthened access to credit by giving secured creditors absolute priority during insolvency proceedings. During reorganization proceedings, creditors are also now subject to an automatic stay that is limited in time with clear grounds for relief.
- Paying taxes - Bahrain made paying taxes easier by implementing electronic payment of social insurance contributions.
- Protecting minority - investors Bahrain strengthened minority investor protections by clarifying ownership and control structures.
- Trading across borders - Bahrain made exporting faster by deploying new scanners. Summaries of Doing Business reforms in 2018/19 91
- Enforcing contracts - Bahrain made enforcing contracts easier by creating a specialized commercial court, establishing time standards for key court events, and allowing electronic service of the summons.
- Resolving insolvency - Bahrain made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a reorganization procedure, allowing debtors to initiate the reorganization procedure, adding provisions on post commencement financing, and improving voting arrangements.

TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan focused on critical business environment constraints which had impacted it negatively, this move was gladly welcomed and as a result the ratings of the country improved.

DB Scores:

Table 4.13: TAJIKISTAN DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Tajikistan	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	57	90.26	36	93.2
Dealing with construction permits	152	57.98	137	60.8
Getting electricity	177	34.79	163	51.1
Registering property	102	60.78	77	66.4
Getting credit	109	40	11	90
Protecting minority investors	29	65	128	40
Paying taxes	172	43.53	139	60.9
Trading across borders	132	57.05	141	60.9
Enforcing contracts	54	63.49	76	60.7
Resolving insolvency	147	29.04	153	28.4

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - Tajikistan made starting a business easier by raising the revenue threshold for mandatory value added tax registration. It also made starting a business easier by registering companies for a Social Identification Number at the time of incorporation
- Registering property - Tajikistan made it easier and less costly to register property by eliminating the need to register the sale-purchase agreement at the municipal office. Tajikistan also made transferring property more costly by increasing fees.
- Labour market regulation - Tajikistan adopted legislation that changes the rules of severance payments. It also abolished restrictions on night work by non-pregnant women and non-nursing mothers.

Reforms:

- Trading across borders - Tajikistan made trading across borders easier by making it possible to submit customs declarations electronically. It made exporting faster by prioritizing customs clearance of perishable goods exports. It also made trading across borders easier by streamlining customs clearance with Uzbekistan through the Simplified Customs Corridor agreement.
- Paying taxes - Tajikistan made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing an electronic filing and payment system for corporate income tax, VAT and labor taxes. On the other hand, it increased real estate tax fees.
- Getting credit - Tajikistan strengthened access to credit by launching a unified, modern, and notice-based collateral registry; introducing a functional secured transactions system; broadening the scope of assets that can be used as collateral; allowing the general description of debts and obligations; granting secured creditors absolute priority; and providing a time limit and clear grounds for relief from automatic stays during reorganization procedures.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan, developed an ambitious reform strategy, setting up a national secretariat as well as a prime minister's reform steering committee to ensure progress & the factors helped to improve the economy.

DB Scores:

Table 4.14: PAKISTAN DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Pakistan	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	135	77.43	72	89.3
Dealing with construction permits	150	58.56	112	66.5
Getting electricity	163	43.73	123	64.0
Registering property	173	39.22	151	48.6
Getting credit	134	30.0	119	45.0
Protecting minority investors	25	66.67	28	72.0
Paying taxes	154	53.74	161	52.9
Trading across borders	172	38.11	111	68.8
Enforcing contracts	156	43.49	156	43.5
Resolving insolvency	85	43.87	58	59.0

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - Pakistan made starting a business easier by expanding procedures available through the online one-stop shop. This reform applies to both Karachi and Lahore. Furthermore, Pakistan (Lahore) abolished the Labor Department registration fee.
- Dealing with construction permits - Pakistan (Karachi) made obtaining a construction permit easier and faster by streamlining the approval process and also made construction safer by ensuring that building quality inspections take place regularly. Pakistan (Lahore) also made obtaining a construction permit easier and faster by streamlining the approval process and by improving the operational efficiency of its one-stop shop for construction permitting.

Reforms:

- Getting electricity - Pakistan made getting electricity easier by enforcing service delivery time frames and by launching an online portal for new applications. Pakistan also increased the transparency of electricity tariff changes. This reform applies to both Karachi and Lahore.
- Registering property - Pakistan (Karachi) made property registration faster by making it easier to execute and register a deed at the Office of the Sub-Registrar. Pakistan (Lahore) made registering property easier by increasing the transparency of the land administration system. It also improved the quality of land administration by digitizing ownership and land records. This reform applies to Lahore.
- Paying taxes - Pakistan made paying taxes easier by introducing online payment modules for value added tax and corporate income tax, and less costly by reducing the corporate income tax rate. This reform applies to both Karachi and Lahore.
- Trading across borders - Pakistan made trading across borders easier by enhancing the integration of various agencies in the Web-Based One Customs (WEBOC) electronic system and coordinating joint physical inspections at the port. This reform applies to both Karachi and Lahore.
- Protecting minority investors - Pakistan increased minority investor protections by making it easier to sue directors in case of prejudicial transactions with interested parties. This reform applies to both Karachi and Lahore.
- Getting credit - Pakistan improved access to credit information guaranteeing by law borrowers' rights to inspect their own data. The credit bureau also expanded its borrower coverage. This reform applies to both Lahore and Karachi.

KUWAIT

Kuwait implemented substantive improvements in the local regulatory framework which led to various improvements in its economy and consequently improved its ratings.

DB Scores:

Table 4.15: KUWAIT DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Kuwait	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	149	74.51	82	88.4
Dealing with construction permits	141	60.82	68	71.9
Getting electricity	113	61.51	66	81.9
Registering property	66	68.38	45	75.1
Getting credit	109	40.00	119	45.0
Protecting minority investors	78	55.00	51	66.0
Paying taxes	6	92.48	6	92.5
Trading across borders	159	48.90	162	52.6
Enforcing contracts	65	60.51	74	61.4
Resolving insolvency	108	39.08	115	39.2

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - Kuwait made starting a business easier by merging procedures to obtain a commercial license and streamlining online company registration.
- Dealing with construction permits - Kuwait made dealing with construction permits easier by streamlining its permitting process, integrating additional authorities to its electronic permitting platform, enhancing inter-agency communication and reducing the time to obtain a construction permit. This has allowed Kuwait to cut the time needed to get a construction permit to 103 days from 194, almost 50 days fewer than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) high-income economy average.

Reforms:

- Getting electricity - Kuwait made getting electricity easier by digitizing the application process, streamlining connection works and meter installations and using a geographic information system to review connection requests. This has reduced the time a company needs to obtain electricity to 49 days from 65.
- Registering property - Kuwait made property registration easier by streamlining the inspection process and property registration. Kuwait also improved the quality of its land administration system by publishing official service standards on property transfers. The time it takes to complete all necessary procedures was cut in half from 35 days to 17 days.
- Trading across borders - Kuwait made trading across borders easier by improving the customs risk management system and by implementing a new electronic clearance system.
- Protecting minority investors - Kuwait strengthened minority investor protections by providing a 21-day notice for general assembly meetings.
- Getting credit - Kuwait improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers the legal right to inspect their credit data and offering credit scores as a value-added service to banks and financial institutions.

CHINA

China made significant efforts to improve its business environment for small and medium sized enterprises, maintaining active pace of reforms which yielded great results and is also reflected in rankings .

DB Scores:

Table 4.16: CHINA DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

China	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	136	77.46	27	94.1
Dealing with construction permits	176	48.29	33	77.3
Getting electricity	92	68.66	12	95.4
Registering property	43	75.02	28	81.0
Getting credit	79	50	80	60.0
Protecting minority investors	134	43.33	28	72.0
Paying taxes	132	64.46	105	70.1
Trading across borders	96	69.13	56	86.5
Enforcing contracts	7	77.56	5	80.9
Resolving insolvency	55	55.43	51	62.1

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - China (Beijing) made starting a business easier by fully integrating the obtention of company seals into the one-stop shop.
- Dealing with construction permits - China made obtaining building permits easier by simplifying the requirements for low-risk construction projects and by reducing the time to get water and drainage connections. China also made construction safer by imposing stricter qualification requirements for professionals in charge of technical inspections and verifying architectural plans as well as differentiated building quality supervision schemes. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai.

Reforms:

- Getting electricity - China made getting electricity easier by streamlining the application process. China also increased the transparency of electricity tariff changes. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai.
- Trading across borders - China made exporting and importing easier by implementing advance cargo declaration, upgrading port infrastructure, optimizing customs administration and publishing fee schedules. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai.
- Protecting minority investors - China strengthened minority investors protections by imposing liability on controlling shareholders for unfair related-party transactions and clarifying ownership and control structures. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai.
- Paying Taxes - China made paying taxes easier by implementing a preferential corporate income tax rate for small enterprises, reducing the value added tax rate for certain industries and enhancing the electronic filing and payment system. This reform applies to Beijing and Shanghai.
- Enforcing Contracts: China made enforcing contracts easier by regulating the maximum number of adjournments that can be granted and limiting adjournments to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai. China (Shanghai) made enforcing contracts easier by publishing court performance measurement and progress reports.
- Resolving Insolvency: China made resolving insolvency easier by providing rules for post-commencement credit priority and increasing the participation of creditors in insolvency proceedings. This reform applies to both Beijing and Shanghai.

INDIA

India has jumped from rank 130 in 2016 to rank 63 in 2020. The government turned to the Doing Business indicators to show investors India's commitment to reform and to demonstrate tangible progress. Prime Minister Modi's 'Make in India' campaign focused on attracting foreign investment, boosting the private sector manufacturing in particular and enhancing the country's overall competitiveness, the World Bank said in its report.

DB Scores:

Table 4.17: INDIA DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

India	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	151	73.74	136	81.6
Dealing with construction permits	184	32.83	27	78.7
Getting electricity	51	79.76	22	89.4
Registering property	140	49.97	154	47.6
Getting credit	42	65.0	25	80.0
Protecting minority investors	10	73.33	13	80.0
Paying taxes	172	43.17	115	67.6
Trading across borders	144	56.45	68	82.5
Enforcing contracts	178	32.41	163	41.2
Resolving insolvency	135	32.75	52	62.0

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - India made starting a business easier by abolishing filing fees for the SPICe company incorporation form, electronic memorandum of association, and articles of association. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai. It also made starting a business easier by fully integrating multiple application forms into a general incorporation form. India also replaced the value added tax with the GST (Goods and Services Tax) for which the registration process is faster. At the same time, Mumbai abolished the practice of site inspections for registering companies under the Shops and Establishments Act.

Reforms:

- Dealing with construction permits - India (Delhi) streamlined the process, reduced the time and cost of obtaining construction permits, and improved building quality control by strengthening professional certification requirements. India (Mumbai) streamlined the process of obtaining a building permit and made it faster and less expensive to get a construction permit
- Getting electricity - The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission reduced charges for low voltage connections. Getting electricity was also made easier in Delhi through a reduction in the time for the utility to carry out the external connection works.
- Trading across borders - India made trading across borders easier by enabling post clearance audits, integrating trade stakeholders in a single electronic platform, upgrading port infrastructures, and enhancing the electronic submission of documents. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.
- Protecting minority investors - India strengthened minority investor protections by increasing the remedies available in cases of prejudicial transactions between interested parties. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.
- Paying Taxes - India made paying taxes easier by replacing many indirect taxes with a single indirect tax, the GST, for the entire country. India also made paying taxes less costly by reducing the corporate income tax rate and the employees' provident funds scheme rate paid by the employer. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.
- Enforcing Contracts: India made enforcing contracts easier by introducing the National Judicial Data Grid, which makes it possible to generate case measurement reports on local courts. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.
- Resolving Insolvency: India made resolving insolvency easier by promoting reorganization proceedings in practice. India also made resolving insolvency more difficult by not allowing dissenting creditors to receive as much under reorganization as they would receive in liquidation. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.

NIGERIA

Nigeria has brough various reforms which have brought improvement across the indicators, its intent to reform and it had derived motivation through the developmental achievements of its neighbors has led to various positive outcomes.

DB Scores:

Table 4.18: NIGERIA DB INDICATOR RANKS & SCORES

Nigeria	Year 2016		Year 2020	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Starting a business	139	77.13	105	86.2
Dealing with construction permits	175	49.61	55	73.6
Getting electricity	182	30.91	169	47.4
Registering property	181	31.43	183	29.5
Getting credit	59	60.0	15	85.0
Protecting minority investors	20	68.33	28	72.0
Paying taxes	181	32.17	159	53.7
Trading across borders	182	18.05	179	29.2
Enforcing contracts	143	48.59	73	61.5
Resolving insolvency	143	30.68	148	30.6

Source

Reforms:

- Starting a business - Nigeria made starting a business easier by reducing the time needed to register a company and by improving online platforms. This reform applies to both Kano and Lagos. Nigeria (Kano) also made starting a business easier by no longer requiring on-site inspections for business premises registration..
- Dealing with construction permits - Nigeria (Lagos) made dealing with construction permits less costly by eliminating the Infrastructure Development Charge (IDC, the fee for construction permits) for warehouses.
- Getting electricity - Nigeria made getting electricity easier by allowing certified engineers to conduct inspections for new connections. This reform applies to both Kano and Lagos.

Reforms:

- Registering property - Nigeria (Lagos) improved its land administration system by implementing a geographic information system.
- Trading across borders - Nigeria reduced the time to export and import by further upgrading its electronic system and by launching e-payment of fees. This reform applies to both Kano and Lagos.
- Enforcing Contracts: Nigeria made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a pretrial conference as part of the case management techniques used in court. This reform applies to both Kano and Lagos. Nigeria (Kano) also made enforcing contracts easier by issuing new rules of civil procedure for small claims courts, which limit adjournments to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances.

CONCLUSION

The Government of India has been very supportive for entrepreneurship and has brought forward various schemes to support young entrepreneurs and for those who facilitate the entrepreneurs into launching and building successful start-ups i.e. the incubators. This support helps the incubators in setting up better facilities for entrepreneurs. So the incubators should consider such opportunities as per their applicability and make the best of it. There are also other options for financial support and there will be even more sources coming up in the near future since there are many businesses emerging and even becoming huge companies. Overall the environment for start-ups and incubators is very supportive and will be the same in near future because as more businesses will be introduced ultimately it will help in growth of the country's economy.

Ease of Doing Business provides a great overview of areas of regulation in an economy. The study brings about analysis of top 5 countries in Ease of Doing Business index & 10 most improving countries in Ease of Doing Business report from 2016 to 2020. It is clear from this study that top 5 countries have improved compared to the base year and have brought reforms to resolve certain issues or make current regulations better, the most improving economies have brought many reforms since most of the countries are developing countries and are in growth stage. In case of India, The Government of India has brought many reforms for ease of doing business, ambitious programs like 'Make in India' was introduced to attract foreign investments in the country and has yielded great results. India is being growing steadily as a economy and is making regulations supportive for business and reduce compliance requirement where ever possible yet it has a long way to go when compared to the top 5 countries in EoDB index since all those economies are developed and overall have achieved great advancements. So, it is evident that in all these countries great opportunities are created by their respective governments for the growth of their business and for growth of their economy as a whole.

WEBLIOGRAPHY

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