

UP brings new startup policy to boost innovation ecosystem

Gives Nod To ₹1,000Cr Fund For Innovation

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Lucknow: To position Uttar Pradesh as a leading startup destination, the state cabinet on Monday approved the Startup Policy 2026, which promises higher financial incentives, a dedicated institutional framework and a Rs 1,000-crore fund to support entrepreneurs and attract private investment.

Announcing the decision after the cabinet meeting, IT and electronics minister Sunil Kumar Sharma said the new policy aims to strengthen every stage of the startup lifecycle — from ideation and incubation to funding and commercialisation.

The policy enhances financial assistance for startups. Eligible ventures can re-

KEY FEATURES

	₹1,000 cr Startup Fund to improve access to early-stage capital	
	Seed funding of up to ₹15 lakh; strategic projects eligible for assistance up to ₹50L	
	₹400 cr corpus for AKTU Innovation Hub	
	Matching grants of up to ₹5cr and prototype grants of ₹10L	
	Dedicated UP Startup Mission to implement the policy and coordinate startup ecosystem	

ceive seed funding of up to Rs 15 lakh, while projects of strategic importance may qualify for support of up to Rs 50 lakh.

It provides annual cloud service reimbursement of up to Rs 2 lakh, besides expanding financial support for incubators, centres of excellence and research innovation.

A key feature of the policy is the creation of a Rs 1,000-crore Startup Fund to improve

access to early-stage capital. The govt has also proposed a Rs 400-crore corpus for the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University Innovation Hub, along with matching grants of up to Rs 5 crore, prototype development assistance of Rs 10 lakh, and special incentives for deep-tech and research-driven startups.

► **Advisory committee, P 10**

Jalalabad renamed as Parshurampuri

The latest city to see a name change in UP is Jalalabad, which has been renamed Parshurampuri. Jalalabad Nagar Palika Parishad will also be called Parshurampuri. Finance minister Suresh Khanna said the demand to rename Jalalabad had been pending since years, as Jalalabad was the birth place of Lord Parshuram. **P 6**

Nod to cashless health cover for home guards

UP govt approved a proposal to provide cashless medical treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year to home guard volunteers, honorary officers and their dependent family members serving under the UP home guards department. The cabinet also approved an increase in uniform allowance for police department. **P 6**