

Chief Secretary reviews Amendments to Startup Policy Ladakh, Stresses Effective Implementation of Revised Support Framework



Leh, August 19, 2026: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, chaired a review meeting on the Startup eco system of Ladakh, focusing on financial incentives and the implementation framework aimed at strengthening the startup ecosystem and providing structured support to entrepreneurs across the Union Territory.

Officials from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) associated with the implementation of the Startup Policy Ladakh made a detailed presentation highlighting the changes introduced in the financial incentive and support framework, based on the principle that a uniform support mechanism may not adequately address the requirements of enterprises at different stages of development.

The revised framework provides for a structured, four-level enterprise support mechanism covering different stages of the startup journey, along with dedicated financial support windows for ideation, seed funding and founder support. It also incorporates eligibility and entry provisions extending beyond conventional startup categories, a common scorecard-based assessment mechanism with progressively higher benchmarks, a streamlined process for different financial instruments and safeguards to ensure responsible utilisation of public funds.

Reviewing the revised provisions, the Chief Secretary stressed the need to make the policy simple, accessible and outcome-oriented, particularly for young entrepreneurs and early-stage enterprises in Ladakh. He suggested examining the possibility of rationalising the four-level framework into three stages by appropriately merging the growth and scale categories, while retaining adequate support for the ideation and early stages.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised the need to strengthen support at the initial stages of enterprise development, particularly for ideation, prototype development and early-stage startups. He stressed the importance of providing appropriate founder support and ensuring that eligible startups have access to patent-related assistance, including provisions for domestic and international patents, as applicable under the revised policy.

Discussing eligibility and assessment, the Chief Secretary called for a transparent and inclusive mechanism for startups registered under the recognised Startup India framework. He also emphasised the need for an effective screening and appraisal mechanism involving appropriate district-level structures so that deserving entrepreneurs can access support without unnecessary procedural delays.

The meeting also focused on developing a user-friendly digital platform through which startups can register, submit applications, access information on available schemes and track their applications. The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of integrating the registration, appraisal and disbursement processes through a streamlined digital mechanism.

The proposed linkage of the startup support framework with J&K Bank's interest-subvention and lending mechanisms was also reviewed. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned

officials to clearly work out the operational framework for the loan component, fund management and submission of interest-subvention claims. He stressed the need to promote responsible credit access for young entrepreneurs and explore convergence with existing initiatives such as Mission YUVA, wherever feasible.

The Chief Secretary further emphasised the need to establish a single-window mechanism for startup-related clearances, including those involving SIDCO, pollution control and other regulatory agencies, so as to simplify the process of setting up and operating enterprises in Ladakh. He directed the concerned officials to examine successful models adopted in other States and UTs and assess their suitability for Ladakh.

The institutional framework for incubation and entrepreneurship support was also discussed. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments and the implementing agency to further refine the implementation mechanism in accordance with the revised policy provisions and ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders. He stressed that the Startup Policy should provide a clear and accessible pathway for entrepreneurs, from ideation and product development to enterprise growth and scaling, while creating sustainable opportunities for youth in Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Industries Himanshu Gupta; Secretary Finance Tsewang Tharchin; OSD Special Projects Moses Kunzang; Joint Director, Planning, Tsewang Gyalson; Director Industries, Ladakh and other senior officers from the concerned departments.