

Tel/Fax: 0381 – 235 5751
e-mail : itdept-tr@nic.in
website: - <http://dit.tripura.gov.in>

**GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

ITI Road, Indranagar, Agartala – 799 006

No. F.17(24)/DIT/IT/2018

November __, 2024

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Introduction of Tripura Start-Up Policy-2024

The Governor is pleased to accord sanction to the introduction of the Tripura Start-Up Policy- 2024 for interested entities to be recognized by the State Level Start-Up Council in the State of Tripura on or after 1st April, 2024, as per the details appended with this Notification.

The Tripura Start-Up Policy-2024 shall be considered to come into effect w.e.f. 1st April, 2024 and shall will remain in operation until substituted by another policy.

(Gitte Kirankumar Dinkarrao)
Secretary, IT
Govt. of Tripura

To

1. The Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries/ Special Secretaries of all Department, Govt. of Tripura.
2. All IT/ITeS Industry Associations and IT/ITeS Industries.
3. All the Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Tripura.

Copy for kind information to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Govt. of India
2. The Secretary, Department of Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade , Govt. of India
3. The Director General, STPI, Govt. of Tripura
4. The Dean/ Register/ Principal of NGIN on-boarded institutes
5. The Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India
6. Invest India
7. The Manager, Tripura Govt. Press, Printing and Stationeries Department, Government of Tripura, for publication of the Notification in the next issue of the Tripura Gazette.
8. State Portal Team, DIT for placing the Policy in the Tripura State Portal.

TRIPURA START-UP POLICY - 2024
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

Contents

1.	Definitions.....	3
2.	Preamble.....	5
3.	Advantages of Tripura	5
4.	Vision	6
5.	Objectives.....	6
6.	Mission.....	7
7.	Definition of a Start-up & Eligibility Criteria	8
8.	Exit Clauses	8
9.	Exclusions	8
10.	Potential Sectors	9
11.	Policy Period	9
12.	Startup Ecosystem.....	9
12.1	Infrastructure: Germinating Startups through Incubation	10
12.1.1	Startup Incubation and Innovation Park.....	10
12.2	New Generation Innovation Network (NGIN) Scheme	10
12.2.1	NGIN Implementation procedure.....	10
12.2.2	Assistance under NGIN Scheme.....	11
12.3	Incubators	11
12.4	Eligibility Criteria for Incubators.....	11
12.5	Industry groups / Industry House.....	12
12.6	Academic Interventions.....	13
12.6.1	University Syllabus	13
12.6.2	State School Syllabus	13
12.6.3	Faculty Up-gradation	13
12.7	Startup Skills Ecosystem	13
12.7.1	Startup Role Model Program.....	13
12.7.2	Training Program - Startup Festival / Innovation Week	14
12.7.3	Boot Camps.....	14
12.7.4	International Startup Culture and Exchange Programme.....	14
13.	Funding.....	15
13.1	Tri-Infra Fund.....	15
13.2	Tripura Start-Up Venture Capital Fund.....	15
13.3	Assistance for Startup Funding.....	15
14.	Financial Incentives.....	15
14.1	Financial Assistance during Idea Stage.....	15
14.1.1	Tri-Seed Funding	15
14.1.2	Start-Up Operational Cost reimbursement.....	16
14.2	Financial Assistance during Prototype Stage.....	16
14.3	Assistance once the Idea / Concept get commercialized.....	16
14.4	Procedure disbursement of Financial Incentives.....	17
15.	Support and Assistance: Government Procurement	17
16.	Governance.....	19
16.1	State Level Start-Up Council	19
16.2	Executive Committee.....	20
17.	Implementation Procedure.....	20
18.	General Terms and Condition.....	21

1. Definitions

- 1.1 Accelerator:** Accelerator is an organization or program that enables rapid growth of new Startups by providing specific services like: mentoring, training, resources and networking to help Startups to increase their customer base, generate more profits, prepare for funding and professionalize their organization.
- 1.2 Entity:** Private Limited Company or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) (under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008) or a Registered Partnership Firm (under the Partnership Act, 1932).
- 1.3 Incubator:** An organization designed to support Startup companies during the early stages to help develop a scalable business model through business support resources and services such as physical space, capital, coaching and mentoring, common services including corporate and legal services and providing networking connections. An Incubator shall also mean a Technology Business Incubator (TBI) recognized either by the Central or State Government.
- 1.4 Innovation:** The process of translating an idea or invention into a good or service that creates value for which customers will pay. Innovation involves deliberate application of information, imagination and initiative in deriving greater or different values from resources training, resources and networking to help Startups increase their customer base, generate more profits, prepare for funding and professionalize their organization.
- 1.5 Start-up:** Start-up is an entity involved in crafting repeatable and scalable product or service making a positive impact in the society, where the solution is not obvious and success is not guaranteed.
- 1.6 Successful Startup:** Startup would be considered successful once it raises series "B" funding i.e. second round of financing by Private Equity Investors or Venture Capitalists.
- 1.7 Angel investor:** "angel investor" means any person who proposes to invest in an angel fund and satisfies one of the following conditions, namely, (a) an individual investor who has net tangible assets of at least two crore rupees excluding value of his principal residence, and who: (i) has early stage

investment experience, or (ii) has experience as a serial entrepreneur, or (iii) is a senior management professional with at least ten years of experience; Explanation: For the purpose of this clause, 'early stage investment experience' shall mean prior experience in investing in start-up or emerging or early-stage ventures and 'serial entrepreneur' shall mean a person who has promoted or co-promoted more than one start-up venture. (b) a body corporate with a net worth of at least ten crore rupees; or (c) an Alternative Investment Fund registered under these regulations or a Venture Capital Fund registered under the SEBI (Venture Capital Funds) Regulations, 1996.

1.8 Women led Start-Ups: Startups, wherein a women founder/co-founder with at least 50 per cent equity in the Startup entity and meeting other criteria as prescribed in the policy.

1.9 Physically Challenged Person led Start-Ups: Startups, wherein a founder/co-founder with at least 50 per cent equity in the Startup entity is Physically Handicapped (PH) [not less than 40% physically handicapped] and meeting other criteria as prescribed in the policy. Proof of Physically Handicapped of not less than 40% must be submitted by the entity/ person during application of recognition under the policy.

2. Preamble

Tripura has several strengths to enable the growth of various Industries. It has good network of Universities/Institutions, and every year, around 3000 technically educated students are passing out from different institutions in Tripura.

A number of potential Start-up companies have innovative products/business ideas in various Sectors. The products/ideas may require minimum R&D process and marketing support to emerge as successful commercial products. Start-up companies can create huge employment opportunity for the technical Resources of the State.

Government of Tripura plans to create conducive environment for Start-ups in the state, empower Start-ups to grow through innovation and development, create a Start-up ecosystem and enable its youth to pursue their dreams within the State. Realizing the high potential for setting up of industries, Tripura will be promoted as one of the favorable destinations for high-tech industries including e-Commerce and IT enabled sector, Handloom, Handicraft, Horticulture, Agro & Food Processing based industries, Civil Construction Industry, Healthcare/Life Sciences, Fisheries and Logistics etc. through setting up of dedicated Industrial Clusters across geographical locations in the state.

3. Advantages of Tripura

Tripura is strategically located between Bangladesh and South East Asia to boost foreign trade. Endowed with Natural Resources: Tripura is rich in natural resources like natural gas, rubber, tea, bamboo, Agar tree, pineapple and medicinal plants. It is also known for its vibrant food processing, bamboo and sericulture industry. Improved Connectivity and Infrastructure: HIRA – Highway, Internet way, Railway, Airway.

- **Power:** Tripura is the only Power surplus state in NE, having uninterrupted power supply across the state.
- **Gas Network:** Second largest Natural Gas producing State of North East. Mostly being used in power sector; CNG pipeline in Industrial estate, PNG Network for domestic cooking gas.

- **Industrial Infrastructure:** Network of Industrial estates all over the state, Industrial Growth Centre at Bodhjungnagar over 700 Acres, Only 10 Km. away from Agartala.
- **Industry specific infrastructure:** Food Park, Rubber Park, Bamboo Park , Export Promotion Industrial Park, Software Technology park, Mega Food Park, Wood based industrial Estate, Mini Tool Room etc.
- **Special Economic Zone:** Multi sector SEZ being established at Jalefa in Sabroom, around 120 km from Agartala, Total area: 16.35 Hectares.
- **International Trade Opportunities:** Tripura to become a gateway between Southeast Asia including Bangladesh. Maitri Bridge connecting Chittagong port & establishment of trade routes through Chittagong will further facilitate the trade.

3.1 Untapped Sectors: Tripura is the 2nd largest producer of rubber, 1st in jackfruit, GI tagged world famous Queen Pineapple, Power surplus state, exporting power to Bangladesh. One-fifth of the total area under bamboo , 54 tea Gardens and Natural gas for CNG, PNG and industrial use.

4. Vision

To make Tripura, one of the top Start-up incubation and innovation hub in the North East India by creating a culture of an entrepreneurship and Start-up ecosystem thereby transforming Tripura into a leading Start-up Hub of India by 2028.

5. Objectives

- a. Develop a world class “Startup Hub” in Tripura by 2028.
- b. Create State of the Art sector agnostic Startup Incubation Center.
- c. Encourage incubators including sector specific ones aligning with the State’s strengths and requirements.
- d. Take steps to provide skill-based training to encourage youth to take up Startups.
- e. Encourage all major companies to include skill and infrastructure development for Startups as an integral component of their CSR activities.
- f. Create a strong institutional framework for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

- g. The Government would establish one or more Startup / Innovation Park in the State as one-stop-destination for Startups, either on its own or in partnership with private sector.

6. Mission

- a. Build a holistic Startup ecosystem in Tripura to enable the State to become one of the top Startup destinations in the country.
- b. Provide fiscal and non-fiscal benefits in a transparent and time bound manner.
- c. Streamline rules, regulations and legislations to create a Startup friendly environment.
- d. Implement a supportive regulatory framework and robust governance structure that enables hassle-free, time bound statutory clearances and monitoring of this policy.
- e. To provide appropriate infrastructural support required to enable start-ups to set up and grow rapidly.
- f. To create an ecosystem to promote innovations in the educational institutions and transform student ideas & concepts to successful business enterprises.
- g. To create a platform for accessing multiple avenues that provide financial support to start-ups in Tripura, like grants, bank loans, fiscal incentives.
- h. Encourage and inspire the youth of Tripura to actively consider entrepreneurship as a career choice by including appropriate learning modules, developing relevant entrepreneurship development programs in vocational institutions, and supporting outreach programs, interactions with entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship development centres across educational institutions in the State.
- i. To support and strengthen existing business incubators & accelerators in the State.
- j. To encourage setting up new business incubators in the State in collaboration with private sector.
- k. To continuously provide enabling mechanisms to start-ups, through training and skill development, capacity building, networking, access to knowledge & support services, etc.

- l. Create a strong institutional framework for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.
- m. Take steps to provide skill-based training to encourage youth to take up Start-ups.

7. Definition of a Start-up & Eligibility Criteria

An entity shall be considered as a “Startup” provided that:

- a. The entity is incorporated as a Private Limited Company or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) or a Registered Partnership Firm.
- b. The date of incorporation / registration should not be prior to 10 (Ten) years from the date of submission of application for recognition as ‘Start-Up’.
- c. Annual turnover not exceeding Rs.25 Crore for any preceding financial year.
- d. Such entity is working for development or improvement of an innovation, product, process or service and/or have scalable business model with high potential for creation of wealth & employment
- e. Registration address of the entity should be in Tripura and should have fully operational office set-up in Tripura.
- f. Such entity should not have been formed by demerger or reconstructing an already existing business.
- g. The entity should employ at least 50 (fifty) per cent of its total salaried skilled workforce from Tripura.

8. Exit Clauses

A start-up will cease to receive benefits under this policy upon the company reaching Turn-over more than Rs.25 Crores.

9. Exclusions

- a. A subsidiary of a firm in the State, except subsidiary of a start-up itself – that still qualifies as start-up and the combined entity also satisfies the start-up criteria.
- b. A merged entity in the State, except if the combined entity satisfies the criteria listed above.
- c. A franchisee of an existing business.

10. Potential Sectors

The policy would primarily encourage the Start-Ups from the sectors mentioned below, which will be updated regularly as per interest of the potential Start-Ups.

- a. Agriculture and Allied Fields (Horticulture, Tea industry)
- b. Bio Technology
- c. Building Materials/Construction Technology
- d. Electricity, New and Renewable Energy and Environmental sustainability
- e. Education
- f. Health and Pharmaceuticals
- g. IT/ITeS
- h. Food Processing
- i. Manufacturing and Engineering
- j. Forest and allied fields (Rubber, Bamboo, Agar based industry)
- k. Tourism
- l. Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
- m. Housing – Urban and Rural
- n. Transport
- o. Handicrafts and Handloom
- p. Animal Husbandry and allied sectors (Poultry and Piggery)
- q. Any other sector as per review mechanism

11. Policy Period

The Tripura Startup policy will remain in operation from the date of its notification until substituted by another policy.

12. Startup Ecosystem

The Government of Tripura recognizes the fact that the seeds of entrepreneurship and the instinctive ability to innovate must be nurtured through an enabling ecosystem, such as:

- a. Creation of State of the Art Start-up Incubation and Innovation infrastructure to support Startups;
- b. Promoting the culture of innovation through Academic Interventions.

- c. Institutionalizing the culture of entrepreneurship by providing training for the requisite Skills.

12.1 Infrastructure: Germinating Startups through Incubation

Realizing the importance of quality infrastructure required for creating successful Startups, government would create world class incubation and innovation center. State Government will also help R&D/Incubators, where innovation is encouraged through a structured approach and Industry/place of work, where new challenges and opportunities lead to innovation.

12.1.1 Startup Incubation and Innovation Park

The Government would establish one or more Startup / Innovation Park in the State as one-stop-destination for Startups, either on its own or in partnership with private sector. The Startup / Innovation-park shall have necessary common facilities and support infrastructure, such as:

- a. Common Testing labs, Design Studio & Tool Rooms
- b. Shared support services for Startups such as legal, accounting, technology, patents and banking services
- c. Community Events and Promotional support for incubators and Startups
- d. Enterprise Software and shared Hardware.

The CSR Funds of State PSUs shall also be channelized and utilized for the Development of Startup / Innovation Park in compliance with the Companies Act 1956/2013.

12.2 New Generation Innovation Network (NGIN) Scheme

With the vision to create an ecosystem to promote innovations in the educational institutions and transform student ideas & concepts to successful business enterprises, a scheme, "New Generation Innovation Network (NGIN)" for the students of different institutions of Tripura has been launched.

12.2.1 NGIN Implementation procedure

- A. Under the NGIN Scheme, interested institutes will apply to Directorate of Information (DIT), Govt. of Tripura for onboarding.
- B. State Level Start-Up Council will evaluate and take decision on approval of the

application.

- C. Once approved by State Level Start-Up Council, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed between Directorate of Information (DIT), Govt. of Tripura and the approved institute.
- D. On boarded institutes will submit student projects to the nodal agency. Nodal agency will scrutinize the student projects and will place the projects before State Level Start-Up council for approval.

12.2.2 Assistance under NGIN Scheme

- A. Host Educational Institute will setup required infrastructure for the implementation of the scheme. A grant of Rs.10 Lakhs to setup the infrastructure in the selected institutions will be provided.
- B. Each Host Educational Institute will get a funding of Rs.5 Lakhs per year to be used towards operating expenditure for the program e.g. employing a program manager, other contingency expenditure like purchase of computer and travel of student to attend conference, seminar etc.
- C. Each Project team will get a maximum funding of Rs.1 lakhs and each of the institute will take up maximum of 5 projects in a year. Each project/idea selected by the college/incubated team shall have to be approved by the State Level Start-Up Council.

12.3 Incubators

The State will encourage incubators recognized either by the Central or any other State Government and approved by State Level Start-Up Council to be eligible to support and mentor Startups. Such approved incubators shall be eligible for assistance for mentoring service.

The approved incubators shall be eligible for a performance capital grant of Rs.5 lakh for each successful Startup they incubate.

12.4 Eligibility Criteria for Incubators

- A. Incubator must be a legal entity:
 - i. A society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, or
 - ii. A Trust registered under the Indian Trusts Act 1882, or

- iii. A Private Limited company registered under the Companies Act 1956 or the Companies Act 2013, or
 - iv. A statutory body created through an Act of legislature
- B. Incubator should be operational for at least two years on the date of application to the scheme
 - C. Incubator must have facilities to seat at least 25 individuals
 - D. Incubator must have at least 5 startups undergoing incubation physically on the date of application.
 - E. Incubator must have a full-time Chief Executive Officer, experienced in business development and entrepreneurship, supported by a capable team responsible for mentoring startups in testing and validating ideas, as well as in finance, legal and human resources functions.
 - F. Incubator should not be disbursing seed fund to incubatees using funding from any third-party private entity.
 - G. Incubator must have been assisted by Central/State Government(s).
 - H. In case the has not been assisted by Central or State Government(s):
 - i. Incubator must be operational for at least two years
 - ii. Must have at least 10 separate startups undergoing incubation in the incubator physically on the date of application
 - iii. Must present audited annual reports for the last 2 years
 - iv. Any additional criteria as may be decided by the State level Start-Up Council.

12.5 Industry groups / Industry House

The State will encourage existing Industrial groups in existence for at least 5 years in the State to support the Startup/ innovation drive. The can utilize their existing facility or set up new Incubators to create Startup ecosystem. The industry group shall be approved by the State Level Start-Up Council to be eligible to support and mentor Startups. Such Industry group shall be eligible for assistance for mentoring service.

These approved Industry houses shall be eligible for a performance capital grant of Rs.5 lakh for each successful Startup that they create.

12.6 Academic Interventions

To foster a culture of entrepreneurship and build the ecosystem for Startups, the State Government shall undertake the following academic interventions in association with Industry Associations:

12.6.1 University Syllabus

The Universities shall be advised to introduce courses related Startup Ecosystem and entrepreneurship development.

12.6.2 State School Syllabus

Inputs in Entrepreneurship and innovation shall be introduced as part of the State School Syllabus to give students an introduction to the subject and help develop an aptitude for the same.

12.6.3 Faculty Up-gradation

A special scheme of faculty up-gradation shall be introduced to encourage faculty participation in Professional Conferences, Workshops, including faculty deputation to an industry for 3-6 months, with a view to up-dating and enriching their knowledge-base and developing closer professional and industrial contacts.

Implementation Procedure:

Directorate of Information (DIT), Govt. of Tripura will organize Workshops/ seminars etc. DIT, Govt. of Tripura may organize these workshops/seminars by its own resources or may engage external agency selected through Government notified procurement process.

12.7 Startup Skills Ecosystem

The below mentioned initiatives shall be taken up in association with Industry Associations, Angel Investors etc.

12.7.1 Startup Role Model Program

The Government will encourage innovation amongst the entrepreneurs and students which focus on innovative products that address societal problems. Top 10 Startups operating in the State shall be identified through a selection process and shall be given a platform to meet and interact with mentors for getting funding support for

product development and marketing.

“Startup of the Year” award shall be given to top 3 shortlisted Startups from the State. Similar awards such as “Best Mentor”, “Investor of the year” shall also be given through this program which would be conducted annually with the assistance of Industry Associations etc. operating in the state.

Selection procedure:

Selection of Start-Ups/ mentors/ Investors will be done by the “Executive Committee” with the approval of Secretary, IT on the basis of pre-defined parameters which will be framed during the selection process.

12.7.2 Training Program - Startup Festival / Innovation Week

The Government will encourage institutions and Industry Associations to have Startup Festival / Innovation Week. Such fests would help in showcasing innovation and provide a platform for collaboration thereby connecting with investors, mentors, incubators, exhibitions, product launches, etc.

12.7.3 Boot Camps

College and School Level Startup Development Clubs (Boot camps) will be established through incubators or Start-Up PMU team to foster innovation and entrepreneurial spirit at the school and college levels. The objective of Boot Camp is to provide physical and mental agility and strength along with cognitive learning.

Implementation Procedure:

Directorate of Information (DIT), Govt. of Tripura will organize Boot Camps by engaging an external experienced agency selected through Government notified procurement process.

12.7.4 International Startup Culture and Exchange Programme

An international Startup exchange program shall be setup to garner knowledge and experience from global startup destinations to enhance the startup culture in the State. The Government will tie-up with the international organizations to send Startups to leading global Startup destinations for gaining international exposure. Similarly, tie-ups may be setup to bring world class Startups to work alongside

Startups in Tripura for faster learning and cultural exchange.

50% reimbursement of the expenditure incurred for travelling expenses of one person and transportation of goods to participate in State & National level fares subject to an upper ceiling of Rs.1.00 Lakhs for each participation & maximum participation of 2 fares in a year. For participation in National and International Level fares, prior approval of the Director, IT is to be obtained.

Officials of the nodal agency (Directorate of Information Technology, Govt. of Tripura) and consultants working in Tripura Start-Up cell will be eligible to attend in national and international Start-Up events on full reimbursement basis.

13. Funding

13.1 Tri-Infra Fund

A Tri-Infra Fund (Startup Capital Infrastructure fund) with an initial corpus of Rs.25 crores shall be setup to support development of hard and soft infrastructure for the startup ecosystem in the State such as physical infrastructure for incubators including testing labs, design studio, tool rooms, virtual incubators etc.

13.2 Tripura Start-Up Venture Capital Fund

Venture Capital fund with corpus fund of Rs.50 Cr has been created. Ticket size of the funding to the potential Start-up would be Rs.25 Lakhs to Rs.2 Crore.

13.3 Assistance for Startup Funding

The Government shall encourage banks and other financial institutions to extend and enhance their lending facilities to Startups and set up dedicated desks for Startups in select branches for easy funding. The Government shall also encourage Angel Investors Network and various seed capital funding agencies to forge strategic partnership with industry/Startup associations in the State.

14. Financial Incentives

14.1 Financial Assistance during Idea Stage

14.1.1 Tri-Seed Funding

All recognized Start-Ups will be eligible for one time Grant of Rs.2 Lakhs as a seed fund after receiving Recognition certificate.

14.1.2 Start-Up Operational Cost reimbursement

Reimbursement of Rs.20,000/- per month will be provided to the recognized Start-Up for the expenses incurred for operational and management of the entity such as electricity bill, rent, internet bandwidth cost etc. for a period of maximum One (1) year from the issue date of Start-Up recognition certificate. Women led Start-Ups will be eligible for additional 10% amount as reimbursement. Physically Challenged Person led Start-Ups will be eligible for additional 20% amount as reimbursement. The recognized Start-Ups will be submitting self-declaration through Start-Up portal only regarding the start-up is operational and working towards Prototype designing/ development duly for obtaining of the incentive.

14.2 Financial Assistance during Prototype Stage

Need-based assistance as reimbursement up to Rs.10 lakhs will be provided to a recognized and certified Startup for hiring of manpower, cost of raw material / components and other related equipment required for the innovative process for the new product development after approval of Proof of Concept (PoC) by State Level Start-Up Council. Women led Start-Ups will be eligible for additional 10% amount as reimbursement. Physically Challenged Person led Start-Ups will be eligible for additional 20% amount as reimbursement. The breakup of assistance is as below:

- Hiring of Manpower – Maximum 25% of claimed reimbursement amount.
- Procurement of Raw Materials and Capex Amount - Minimum 75% of claimed reimbursement amount.

14.3 Assistance once the Idea / Concept get commercialized

- a. **Marketing / publicity assistance:** Up to Rs.5 lakhs will be provided for the introduction of innovated product/ service in the market. Break up of cost component of marketing/ publicity will be as:
 - Digital and Social Media Marketing: up to 50% of claimed amount
 - Attending of Trade Shows: 15% of claimed amount.
 - Advertisement in print/ TV Ads/ Radio channels: 15% of claimed amount.
 - Hosting of contest: 10% of claimed amount.
 - Giving of free samples/ services: 10% of claimed amount.

- b. **Reimbursement of Taxes:** GST paid in Tripura by the Startup companies shall be reimbursed as per the Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme (TIIPIS), 2022 Policy.
- c. **Reimbursement of Patent filing:** The cost of filing and prosecution of patent application will be reimbursed to the incubated start-up companies subject to a limit of Rs.2 lakh per Indian patent awarded. For foreign patents on a single subject matter, up to Rs.10 lakhs would be reimbursed. The reimbursement will be done in 2 stages, i.e., 50% after the patent is filed and the balance 50% after the patent is granted.

14.4 Procedure disbursement of Financial Incentives

- A. Recognized and eligible Start-Ups will submit application for Financial Assistance along with all necessary documents through the dedicated Start-Up portal only.
- B. Verification of all documents will be done by Directorate of Information Technology through the Start-Up portal only.
- C. Financial incentives will be disbursed within 30 days from the financial incentives claim application submission by eligible Start-Ups subject to the authenticity of the documents submitted by the eligible Start-Ups.

15. Support and Assistance: Government Procurement

- 15.1 Waiver of minimum turn over:** Under this policy, there would not be any minimum turnover requirement for Start-Ups in participating in Government procurement process for procurement of similar kind of product/ services for which the relevant Start-Up has been recognized under the policy.
- 15.2 Relaxation in prior experience and years of existence:** May relax condition of prior experience and years of existence with respect to Startups in all Government procurements subject to meeting of quality and technical specifications. This clause will be applicable for similar kind of product/ services for which the relevant Start-Up has been recognized under the policy.

15.3 Waiver of EMD and Tender fees: Waiver of EMD and Tender fee payment for eligible Start-Ups for similar kind of product/ services for which the relevant Start-Up has been recognized under the policy.

15.4 Procurement preference

- A. Subject to their meeting the quality, delivery and other specifications of the purchasing State Government Agencies, Procurement Preference will be given on all purchases by State Government Agencies – including Departments/ Corporations/ Public Sector Enterprises/ Autonomous Bodies/ Aided Institutions of the State Government – on Services/ Products developed in Tripura by eligible Start-Ups of Tripura.
- B. The procurement preference would be applicable in case of items being procured through tendering process by the State Government Agencies. For extension of procurement preference, the price of the Services/ Products being procured shall be calculated for all the eligible tenderers at the destination specified by the purchaser before imposition of all kinds of taxes as applicable under Goods and Services Tax Acts.

The Procurement Preference for recognized Start-Ups in Tripura shall operate as follows:

- a) In cases where after comparison of the landed price of all eligible tenderers, recognized Start-Up emerges as the first lowest tenderer, the said Start-Up shall be eligible to get supply order for 100% of the tendered quantity of Services/ Products being procured by the State Government Agencies.
- b) In cases where after comparison of the landed price of all eligible tenderers, the first lowest tenderer is an enterprise other than local Start-Up, but the price of any recognized Start-Up is not over 15% of the price quoted by the first lowest tenderer, the recognized Start-Up shall be eligible to get supply order for 50 % of the tendered quantity of the Services/ Product being procured by the State Government Agencies wherever feasible, provided that they shall be ready to provide services/ product by matching the price offered by the first lowest tenderer.

However, if more than one Start-up has quoted not more than 15% above the first lowest tenderer (excluding Non-Start-Up Entities), the Start-up with the lowest quote amongst the Start-ups will be eligible to receive a supply order for 50% of the tendered quantity."

16. Governance

The policy shall enable proper implementation and smooth functioning of all the provisions to facilitate the Startups. The policy shall be governed by a "State Level Start-Up Council" and "Executive Committee".

16.1 State Level Start-Up Council

To foster innovation in the State, a Start-up council shall be set up. The council shall be responsible to drive innovation, advise prospective Start-ups and guide the innovation eco-system. The council, based on the requirement, may form sub-committees to work in specific areas. The council shall review the progress and modifications/ review on regular basis.

The council shall have the following member:

- A. Secretary (IT) – Chairman.
- B. Secretary/ Representative (Finance) - Member.
- C. Secretary/ Representative (Industries & Commerce) - Member.
- D. Secretary/ Representative (Higher Education) – Member.
- E. Secretary/ Representative (Agriculture and Horticulture as Thrust Sector) – Invitee as per Agenda
- F. Secretary/ Representative (Tourism as Thrust Sector) – Invitee as per Agenda.
- G. Secretary/ Representative (Health & Family Welfare as Thrust Sector) – Invitee as per Agenda
- H. Chairman/ representative (Tripura Tea Board as Thrust Sector)- Invitee as per Agenda.
- I. Director (IT) – Member.
- J. Four Members from stakeholder including representatives from industry, academia, incubators and Apex Industry Associations, regional Industry Associations, University, training and development institutions etc.

The council shall perform following functions including but not limited to:

- A. Approval of Nodal Agencies
- B. Empanelment of Mentor Institution/ Incubators /Industry House.
- C. Monitor performance through periodic review.
- D. Selection of seed fund/venture fund managers and review of performance.
- E. Revisit the policy document and suggest modifications from time-to-time.
- F. Amendment of this policy other than Financial Incentives clauses.
- G. Approval of Start-ups

16.2 Executive Committee

An Executive Committee under the chairmanship of Director, IT will be formed. The Executive committee shall have the following member:

- A. Concerned JD/ Add. Director – IT
- B. Representative from Sector wise Line Department not below the rank of Deputy Director
- C. Concerned JD/SIO – IT
- D. Project Manager- Start-Up PMU
- E. Need based members shall be co-opted as and when required

The Executive committee shall perform following functions including but not limited to:

- A. Review of application for Start-Up recognition and recommendation to the State Level Start-Up Council.
- B. The committee will review and certify the proposal for release of various fiscal and non-fiscal incentives approved by the State Level Start-Up Council.

17. Implementation Procedure

- a. The Scheme will be implemented by Directorate of IT, Govt. of Tripura.
- b. Online platform will work as a “Single Window” system for end-to-end implementation of the policy.
- c. Interested entity will apply for “RECOGNITION” under this policy by the dedicated Start-Up portal along with necessary documents as mentioned in the portal.
- d. Executive Committee will do initial scrutiny of the application along with supporting documents. If found satisfactory, the application will be placed

- before State Level Start-Up Council for decision.
- e. Once approved by State Level Start-Up Council, a recognition certificate as “Recognized Start-Up” will be issued through the Start-Up portal to the concern entity mentioning the sector and product/service name along with other relevant details.
 - f. A “Recognized Start-Up” will submit application for financial / any other assistance through the dedicated Start-Up portal only.
 - g. For implementation of the policy, a Section 8 company will be formed. A Section 8 company is defined as non-profit organization whose objectives are to promote arts, commerce, science, research, education, sports, charity, social welfare, religion, environmental protection, or other similar activities goals. These entities utilize their profits to achieve their mission and do not distribute dividends to their shareholders
 - h. A dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set-up for implementation of the policy. Composition of the PMU will be as but not restricted to:
 - i. Project Manager
 - ii. Consultant- Legal and Finance
 - iii. Consultant- Business Development
 - iv. Consultant- Technology/ Intellectual property rights (IPR)
 - v. Consultant- Awareness and Social media
 - i. Tie-up with Private/Public/ Government entity as “Knowledge Partner” for organizing ideation workshops, regulatory roundtables, Government sensitization etc.
 - j. The corpus fund will be managed under Directorate of IT, Govt. of Tripura.
 - k. With the introduction of this scheme, “Tripura IT/ITeS Start-up Scheme 2019” will be discontinued.

18. General Terms and Condition

- a. Doubts relating to interpretation of any term and/or dispute relating to the operation of any provision under this policy shall have to be referred to the Directorate of IT, Government of Tripura for clarification / resolution and the decision of Directorate of Information Technology, Govt. of Tripura in this

regard shall be final and binding on all concerned.

- b. No right or claim for any incentive under this scheme shall be deemed to have been conferred merely on the ground of provision in this policy. Implementation of various provisions covering the incentives, concessions, etc. will be subject to the issue of detailed guidelines/statutory notifications, wherever necessary in respect of each item by the Directorate of Information Technology, Govt. of Tripura.

-: The +End: -