DISTRICT-WISE STARTUP DENSITY ANALYSIS

DISTRICT	POPULATION	STARTUP PER CAPITA
Thiruvananthapuram	33,07,284	79.82380709
Kollam	26,29,703	18.63328292
Alappuzha	21,21,943	13.19545341
Pathanamthitta	11,95,537	15.05599576
Kottayam	19,79,384	17.68226883
Idukki	11,07,453	19.86540287
Ernakulam	32,79,860	132.01783
Thrissur	31,10,327	22.82718184
Palakkad	28,10,892	12.45156342
Kozhikode	30,89,543	40.45905818
Wayanad	81,65,58	14.695833
Malappuram	41,10,956	12.89237832
Kannur	25,25,637	15.8375887
Kasargod	13,02,600	10.7477353
Total	**3,33,87677**	

Kerala's most densely populated district, Malappuram, has a population of 4,110,956, followed by Ernakulam with 3,279,860 people. However, startup activity does not always correlate directly with population size. Ernakulam, despite being the second-most populous district, has the highest Startup Per Capita value of 132.01, making it the most significant startup hub in the state. This is due to its strong infrastructure, active government support, presence of startup incubators, and access to funding opportunities. Thiruvananthapuram follows with a Startup Per Capita of 79.81, largely driven by Technopark and its well-established entrepreneurial ecosystem. Districts such as Kozhikode (40.45), Thrissur (22.82), and Kottayam (17.68) fall into the moderate-performing category, indicating steady but slower startup growth compared to the leading districts. These districts have a growing number of startups and are gradually building their ecosystems. However, challenges such as limited access to venture

capital, underdeveloped infrastructure, and fewer networking opportunities hinder their progress. These districts require more incubators, funding opportunities, and government-backed initiatives to compete with the leading startup hubs of Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram. At the lower end of the spectrum, Kasargod (10.74) and Wayanad (14.69) have the lowest Startup Per Capita values, reflecting minimal startup activity. These districts face significant barriers such as inadequate infrastructure, weak investor presence, and a shortage of skilled entrepreneurial talent. The lack of a robust startup ecosystem in these regions suggests that entrepreneurs struggle with operational challenges, making it difficult for startups to sustain themselves. Government intervention, in the form of targeted funding programs, skill development initiatives, and improved connectivity, will be crucial in promoting entrepreneurship in these underperforming regions. The findings confirm that urban centers outperform rural districts in startup growth due to better infrastructure, stronger industry presence, and more extensive networking and investment opportunities. The presence of incubators and startup accelerators is another significant factor influencing startup success. Districts such as Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram, which have a higher number of incubators, exhibit greater startup density. This suggests that investing in incubators and co-working spaces in underperforming regions could help in balancing startup growth across the state. The Startup Per Capita Index findings underscore the need for targeted policy interventions to support emerging and underdeveloped startup regions. Encouraging venture capital investments, enhancing digital infrastructure, and increasing awareness about government startup schemes could help reduce the regional disparity in entrepreneurial growth. By addressing these gaps, Kerala can create a more inclusive and dynamic startup ecosystem that fosters innovation across all districts