

**National Startup Awards** Are you sure you want to sign out? Cancel Sign Out English हिंदी বাংলা العربية Urdu Sign In Back Details Benefits Eligibility Application Process Documents Required Frequently Asked Questions Sources And References Feedback Something went wrong. Please try again later. Ok You need to sign in before applying for schemes Cancel Sign In Something went wrong. Please try again later. Ok It seems you have already initiated your application earlier. To know more please visit Cancel Apply Now Check Eligibility Ministry Of Commerce And Industry National Startup Awards Business Empower Self Employment Startup Details

The National Startup Awards by the Department of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the government of India gives to benefit entities from such recognition in various aspects of their business, including but not limited to, business, financing, partnerships, and talent, a role model for other entities and budding entrepreneurs. It will inspire them to be purposeful and responsible about their socio-economic impact.

The first-ever National Startup Awards (NSA™) were concluded in October 2020, to recognize and reward outstanding startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.

**Award Categories**

**Award Category**

**Award Focus Area**

Women-Led Innovation Startups led by at least one-woman director

Impact in Rural Areas Startups creating wealth, livelihood and improving lives through their innovations in rural areas

NextGen Innovator Startups with student founders who have built innovative solutions at a young age

India's Social Impact Champion Startups working towards social impact in healthcare, Indic language, education, livelihood, or any other allied area

Excellence in Innovation from the North-East and Hilly States/UT Startups with innovative solutions from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Uttarakhand

Sustainability Champion Startups focused on climate change, sustainability, waste management, renewables, or allied sectors

Champions of Cultural Heritage Startups preserving or proliferating textiles, art, and tourism among others

Retail Innovator of the Year Startups in retail technologies or food processing

Best Startup of the Year Startup with the aggregate highest score amongst all categories

Rising Star Award Early-stage startups with growth potential

Genesis Innovators of the year Startups focused on disruptive technology, including, Deep-Tech

Accessibility Innovation Award Startups working towards improving accessibility for people with disabilities (PwD)

Financial Inclusion Award Startups working towards financial inclusion & literacy

AeroInnovate Award Startups focused on aerospace, drones, or aviation solution

Excellence in Local to Global Startups with an international consumer base

Independent Trailblazer Award Startups who have been bootstrapped from their inception

PivotPro Award Startups that have changed the existing business model and successfully revamped their business in the face of adversity

The Next Pioneer Award Startups that have strong product-market fit, and are building a sustainable, successful business

Innovators for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Startups working for adoption and promotion of innovative farming and production practices

Indigenous Ingenuity Champion Startups that have been manufacturing in India

**Rules for National Startup Awards 2023**

Participation in the National Startup Awards is voluntary. Startups who have been declared winners under any sector/sub-sector or category in any of the previous editions of the National Startup Awards will not be eligible. However, the finalists of the previous editions may apply. Award application form is to be filled in English only. One startup can nominate itself in maximum 2 categories. Finalists may be subject to a legal due diligence review by independent third-party evaluators. If the individual/organization refuses to such a request, Startup India holds the right to select the next highest scoring nominee as the award winner. By participating in the National Startup Awards, the startups agree to the Government of India and its partners use of its name, URL, photos, and videos for promotional purposes on its website and other promotional material. Any false information provided within the context of National Startup Awards by any entity concerning identity, mailing address, telephone number, email address, ownership of right, or non-compliance with these rules or any terms and conditions or the like may result in the immediate elimination of the entity from the awards process. The decisions of the jury and the evaluation agency shall be final and binding. All support agencies, jury, shall sign (physically or digitally) a non-disclosure agreement with Startup India. DPIIT reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the National Startup Awards or not award any entity in any of the categories. DPIIT further reserves the right to disqualify any candidate/entity that tampers with the submission process, commits fraud or is in violation of criminal and/or civil laws. Allowances shall not be paid to any entity for travel or presentation before jury.

**Benefits** A cash prize of ₹ 10,00,000/- will be awarded to one winning startup in each of the categories by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The winner and the finalists will be given the opportunity to present their solutions to relevant public authorities and corporate for potential pilot projects and work orders. The winners and finalists will be given priority for participation in various national and international startup events where DPIIT is participating.

**Eligibility** The startup should be a (DPIIT) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade -recognized startup. The entity must submit its certificate of recognition. The entity must submit the Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs or Certificate of Registration from the Registrar of Firms of the respective state. The entity must have a hardware or software product or a process solution that is present in the market. The entity must have all applicable trade-specific registrations (for example (CE) Common Era, (FSSAI) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, (MSME) Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, (GST) Goods and Services Tax Registration, etc.) There should not have been any default in the last three years (FY) Fiscal year 2019-20, 20-21, 21-22) by the entity or any of its promoters or any of their group entities. The entity must submit audited financial statements (balance sheet, profit & loss account) for the last three financial years (FY) Fiscal year 2019-20, 20-21, 21-22. In case your startup is less than 3 years old, please upload all available financial statements. Startups that are less than a year old and do not have audited financials will be exempt from this requirement. In case of non-availability of audited financials for (FY) Fiscal year 21-22, provisional statements issued by Chartered Accountants may be provided. The entity should not be completing 10 years of incorporation on or before March 31st, 2024.

**Application Process**

**Online Step 1:** Register on Startup India and obtain DPIIT recognition. In case you are already registered on Startup India and have a DPIIT recognition number, ensure that all the details given on Startup India registration are correct as certain fields will auto-populate in the application form.

**Step 2:** Go to the National Startup Awards™ tab on the Startup India Website.

**Step 3:** Click on the Apply for National Startup Awards 2023™ tab.

**Step 4:** Click on Apply™ under the application closing countdown and select the category under which the startup wishes to apply. You will only be able to fill out the form through the registered account of the recognized startup on the Startup India portal.

**Step 5:** Check the auto-populated details in the participation form for National Startup Awards.

**Step 6:** Fill in the details as mentioned in the application form.

**Step 7:** Ensure to keep the documents ready for upload.

**Step 8:** Ensure that all the uploads required to comply with the size requirement as mentioned.

**Step 9:** Click Submit™ Documents Required

Certificate of Recognition issued by DPIIT. Certificate of Incorporation/Certificate from the Registrar of Firms. Memorandum of Association, Partnership deed or other government accepted proof as proof for a woman founder (if applicable). PAN card for founder/co-founder. Aadhar card for founder/co-founder. Startup Pitch Deck (Not more than 10 slides). Trade specific registrations. Proof of Patent, IPR (if applicable). Audited financial statements for the past 3 years (Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Income Tax Return) or Provisional financial statements issued by a Chartered Accountant, in case of non availability of audited financials for FY 2021-22. Please attach all relevant documents, MOUs or agreements that would make your application stand out, specially, to differentiate your application and to make it more relevant and specific for the applied category. Eg : Proof of admission into academic institution or proof of graduation or any other relevant document for your

application under “Next Gen Innovator”™. Product proof of manufacturing and ownership certificates for manufacturing facility for your application under “Indigenous Ingenuity Champion”™ and etc. 120 seconds video explaining your product or service (this video cannot be a YouTube link; it has to be made for application to National Startup Awards). The video should cover “ business model, scalability, innovation, social & economic impact on environment Self attested documents with proof of active users, number of employees hired, R&D and prototype development, proof of funding raised, proof of TRL level of startup (if applicable).”

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**What are the National Startup Awards 2023?** The National Startup Awards 2023 aims to recognize and reward outstanding startups that have demonstrated exceptional capabilities and have built innovative, scalable, and impactful business solutions. These awards will be conferred across 20 categories this year.  
**Who can apply for the National Startup Awards?** Only Startups can apply for the National Startup Awards.  
**What is the process and eligibility to get my startup recognized by DPIIT?** DPIIT Recognition is a simple online process where an “eligible”™ entity as defined under the G.S.R Notification 127 (E) applies for startup recognition, and after verification of the incorporation of the entity, supporting documents attached, and evaluation of the startup briefs provided, the startup may get recognized by DPIIT. Apply for recognition here - [https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/startupgov/startup\\_recognition\\_page.html](https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/startupgov/startup_recognition_page.html)  
**Is there a Caste-related Eligibility Criteria in this scheme?** No, there are no Caste-related Eligibility Criteria in this scheme.  
**Can a applicant fill the application form in a language other than English?** The application form is to be filled out only in English by all applicants.  
**How many categories do we have for National Startup Awards?** Startups will be awarded across 20 categories. Startups can apply across 19 categories.  
**Can a applicant apply in multiple categories?** Each startup is allowed to apply for a maximum of 2 categories depending on the nature of the solution and the startup's interests. The startup can, however, choose to apply for just 1 category as it is not mandatory to apply for more than 1 category.  
**How many startups would be declared winners in each of the categories?** Only one startup in each category would be declared a winner.  
**What is the incentive to apply for National Startup Awards 2023?** A cash prize of INR 10 lakhs will be awarded to one winning startup in each of the categories by DPIIT. Every edition of the National Startup Awards provides the winners and finalists with curated handholding support, which is across focus areas such as mentorship, investor connect, corporate connect, government pilot and procurement support among others. The startups will also be given priority for participation in various national and international startup events where DPIIT is participating.  
**Can a applicant apply for National Startup Awards 2023 if he/she was already a past winner?** Startups who have won in any of the sectors or special categories in any of the previous editions of the National Startup Awards will not be eligible to apply. Startups who have been finalists in any of the previous editions are eligible to apply for the National Startup Awards 2023.  
**What documents are required for the scheme?**  
 1. Certificate of Recognition issued by DPIIT.  
 2. Certificate of Incorporation/Certificate from the Registrar of Firms.  
 3. Memorandum of Association, Partnership deed or other government accepted proof as proof for a woman founder (if applicable).  
 4. PAN card for founder/co-founder.  
 5. Aadhar card for founder/co-founder.  
 6. Startup Pitch Deck (Not more than 10 slides).  
 7. Trade specific registrations.  
 8. Proof of Patent, IPR (if applicable).  
 9. Audited financial statements for the past 3 years (Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Income Tax Return) or Provisional financial statements issued by a Chartered Accountant, in case of non availability of audited financials for FY 2021-22.  
 10. Please attach all relevant documents, MOUs or agreements that would make your application stand out, specially, to differentiate your application and to make it more relevant and specific for the applied category.  
 Eg : Proof of admission into academic institution or proof of graduation or any other relevant document for your application under “Next Gen Innovator”™. Product proof of manufacturing and ownership certificates for manufacturing facility for your application under “Indigenous Ingenuity Champion”™ and etc.  
 11. 120 seconds video explaining your product or service (this video cannot be a YouTube link; it has to be made for application to National Startup Awards). The video should cover “ business model, scalability, innovation, social & economic impact on environment  
 12. Self attested documents with proof of active users, number of employees hired, R&D and prototype development, proof of funding raised, proof of TRL level of startup (if applicable).  
**Sources And References**  
**Website** Ok Was this helpful?  
**News and Updates** No new news and updates available  
**Share** Something went wrong. Please try again later.  
**Ok** You need to sign in before applying for schemes  
**Cancel** Sign In  
**Something went wrong.** Please try again later.  
**Ok** It seems you have already initiated your application earlier. To know more please visit  
**Cancel** Apply Now  
**Check Eligibility** Ministry Of Commerce And Industry National Startup Awards Business Empower Self  
**Employment** Startup Details Benefits Eligibility Application Process Documents Required  
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» Categories of Award  
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**Award Focus**  
**Area**  
**Women-Led Innovation** Startups led by at least one-woman director  
**Impact in Rural Areas** Startups creating wealth, livelihood and improving lives through their innovations in rural areas  
**Next Gen Innovator** Startups with student founders who have built innovative solutions at a young age  
**India’s Social Impact Champion** Startups working towards social impact in healthcare, Indic language, education, livelihood, or any other allied area  
**Excellence in Innovation from the North-East and Hilly States/UT** Startups with innovative solutions from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Uttarakhand  
**Sustainability Champion** Startups focused on climate change, sustainability, waste management, renewables, or allied sectors  
**Champions of Cultural Heritage** Startups preserving or proliferating textiles, art, and tourism among others  
**Retail Innovator of the Year** Startups in retail technologies or food processing  
**Best Startup of the Year** Startup with the aggregate highest score amongst all categories  
**Rising Star Award** Early-stage startups with growth potential  
**Genesis Innovators of the year** Startups focused on disruptive technology, including, Deep-Tech  
**Accessibility Innovation Award** Startups working towards improving accessibility for people with disabilities (PwD)  
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**Excellence in Local to Global** Startups with an international consumer base  
**Independent Trailblazer Award** Startups who have been bootstrapped from their inception  
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startups agree to the Government of India's™s and its partners use of its name, URL, photos, and videos for promotional purposes on its website and other promotional material. Any false information provided within the context of National Startup Awards by any entity concerning identity, mailing address, telephone number, email address, ownership of right, or non-compliance with these rules or any terms and conditions or the like may result in the immediate elimination of the entity from the awards process. The decisions of the jury and the evaluation agency shall be final and binding. All support agencies, jury, shall sign (physically or digitally) a non-disclosure agreement with Startup India. DPIIT reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the National Startup Awards or not award any entity in any of the categories. DPIIT further reserves the right to disqualify any candidate/entity that tampers with the submission process, commits fraud or is in violation of criminal and/or civil laws. Allowances shall not be paid to any entity for travel or presentation before jury. Ok Was this helpful? Share News and Updates No new news and updates available ©2024 Powered by Digital India Corporation (DIC) Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) Government of India @ Quick Links About Us Contact Us Screen Reader Accessibility Statement Frequently Asked Questions Disclaimer Terms & Conditions Useful Links Get in touch 4th Floor, NeGD, Electronics Niketan, 6 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003, India support-myscheme[at]digitalindia[dot]gov[dot]in (011) 24303714 Last Updated On : 28/03/2024 | v-2.1.1