

# MSME and Startup IP Scheme Guide (India)

Guide to all government IP support schemes, subsidies, and programmes for Indian MSMEs and startups

## HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE

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| 1. | This document: MSME and Startup IP Scheme Guide (India).     |
| 2. | Fill all bracketed fields before use.                        |
| 3. | Template only — not a substitute for qualified legal advice. |

## 1. DPIIT STARTUP RECOGNITION BENEFITS

**Patent Fee Reduction (80%).** DPIIT-recognised startups receive 80% reduction in all Patent Office fees: filing, examination, renewal, and appeal. Standard complete specification filing fee: Rs. 17,500; startup rate: Rs. 4,400. Saving: Rs. 13,100 per application. Applies while DPIIT recognition is current.

**Trademark Fee Reduction (50%).** 50% reduction in all trademark filing fees. Standard: Rs. 9,000 per class; startup rate: Rs. 4,500 per class. Applies to all trademark forms: TM-A (application), TM-O (opposition), TM-R (renewal).

**SIPP Scheme — Zero Professional Fees.** The Scheme for Startups' Intellectual Property Protection reimburses empanelled facilitators' professional fees. The startup pays only the discounted official fee. Total cost of a patent provisional under SIPP: Rs. 1,750 official fee only. Apply through [startupindia.gov.in](http://startupindia.gov.in). Select an empanelled IP facilitator.

**Expedited Examination (Form 18A).** DPIIT startups file Form 18A for expedited examination at Rs. 4,000 (startup rate). Has reduced examination wait times from 3 to 5 years to 6 to 18 months for startups. File with or shortly after the complete specification.

## 2. MSME UDYAM REGISTRATION BENEFITS

**MSME Classification.** Micro (investment under Rs. 1 crore; turnover under Rs. 5 crores); Small (investment under Rs. 10 crores; turnover under Rs. 50 crores); Medium (investment under Rs. 50 crores; turnover under Rs. 250 crores). MSME-registered businesses access: 50% discount on patent fees; SIDBI SMILE Fund; Credit Guarantee Fund for Technology Upgradation.

**MSME Technology Centres.** The network of MSME Technology Centres provides: IP awareness workshops; assistance with patent and trademark filing; access to design registration services; and technology transfer support. Over 18 centres across India. Find the nearest at [msme.gov.in](http://msme.gov.in).

**SIDBI IP Financing.** SIDBI has piloted IP-backed lending schemes for MSMEs. Registered patents and trademarks can be supplementary collateral for SIDBI SMILE loans. Engage your relationship bank to explore SIDBI schemes.

## 3. STATE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

**Karnataka.** KITS (Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society): patent reimbursement up to Rs. 2,00,000 per patent for Karnataka-based startups. Apply through Invest Karnataka portal.

**Maharashtra.** Maharashtra State Innovation Society and MahaIT: IP support including patent filing subsidies. Apply through Maharashtra Startup Week portal.

**Tamil Nadu.** TANSIM (Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission): patent and trademark fee reimbursement. Apply through startuptn.in.

**Telangana.** T-Hub and Telangana Innovation Cell: IP filing support and subsidised attorney access. Apply through T-Hub's programme portal.

**Kerala.** KSUM (Kerala Startup Mission): IP filing support and attorney fee subsidies. Apply through startupmission.in.

**National cross-cutting.** NITI Aayog Atal Innovation Mission TBI incubators; Technology Development Board (TDB) technology loans; BIRAC (biotech); MEITY Startup Hub (digital and deep-tech); DST NIDHI programme for technology startups.

#### 4. APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIPS

**DPIIT Recognition — First Step.** Register at [startupindia.gov.in](http://startupindia.gov.in). Requirements: incorporated as a private limited company, LLP, or partnership firm; no more than 10 years since incorporation; annual turnover not exceeding Rs. 100 crores; working towards innovation, development, or improvement of products, processes, or services. Recognition is typically granted within 2 working days if all documents are in order.

**Combining Multiple Schemes.** DPIIT recognition and MSME Udyam registration are not mutually exclusive — obtain both for maximum benefit. For filing strategy: use the SIPP Scheme for professional fee reimbursement; file under DPIIT startup status for the 80% official fee reduction; and apply to your state government scheme for any remaining costs. Well-planned, a startup can file a patent for under Rs. 5,000 in official fees with all schemes combined.

**Documentation Required.** For most schemes: DPIIT recognition certificate or Udyam registration certificate; incorporation documents; details of the IP filing for which reimbursement is claimed; invoices from the IP attorney; official fee receipts; and bank account details for reimbursement. Keep all documents organised and readily accessible.

##### IMPORTANT NOTE

Working template for MSME and Startup IP Scheme Guide (India). Verify requirements with a qualified IP advocate.

## NAVIGATING GOVERNMENT IP PROGRAMMES — PRACTICAL TIPS

Successfully accessing government IP support schemes requires systematic navigation of multiple portals, documentation requirements, and approval processes. The following practical guidance helps startups extract maximum value from available schemes. DPIIT recognition is the gateway to most startup IP benefits. Obtain it immediately after incorporation — the process takes 2 to 3 working days online

and the benefits are immediate and significant. Do not wait until you need to file IP before obtaining recognition — some schemes require recognition to have been in place before the IP filing date. For the SIPP Scheme (zero-cost patent filing): the process requires advance planning. First, identify an empanelled SIPP facilitator (the list is at [startupindia.gov.in](http://startupindia.gov.in)) before you need to file. Meet

with 2 to 3 facilitators to assess their experience in your technology area — facilitator quality varies significantly. Confirm the facilitator is currently accepting SIPP engagements (the scheme has capacity limits). Work with the facilitator to draft the patent application before the filing date — SIPP engagements require the startup to be actively involved in the preparation process, not passively

ve. For state government reimbursement schemes: the reimbursement is typically applied for after the IP is filed, not before. Keep all original invoices, receipts, and filing acknowledgements. Apply for reimbursement promptly after filing — do not wait until the end of the financial year when application queues are longest. Some state schemes have annual disbursement caps — early applications in the

financial year are more likely to be funded. MSME Udyam registration is free and takes 15 minutes online at [udyamregistration.gov.in](http://udyamregistration.gov.in). Register even if you have DPIIT recognition — the two are complementary, and MSME registration opens access to bank credit guarantees, priority government procurement, and delayed payment protection under the MSME Act in addition to IP fee benefits.

## ADDITIONAL COMPLIANCE GUIDANCE AND BEST PRACTICES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON COMPLIANCE AND BEST PRACTICES. Indian IP law continues to evolve rapidly, with the Patent Office, Trade Marks Registry, and Copyright Office all implementing digital transformation initiatives that affect how IP is filed, prosecuted, and enforced. The Patents Amendment Rules 2024 introduced new provisions for startup fee concessions and updated the examination procedure timelines. The Trade Marks Act 1999 has been interpreted by courts in a growing body of decisions that clarify how confusion is assessed, how well-known

marks are recognised, and how bad faith is established. The DPDP Act 2023 has implications for IP-linked customer data and product development processes. For each IP action described in this document, the Company should consult a qualified IP advocate licensed to practice before the Indian Patent Office and Trade Marks Registry. IP advocates combine technical expertise with legal training specific to Indian IP law. When selecting an IP advocate, assess: their specific experience in your technology sector or product category;

their track record at the relevant Patent Office branch or Trade Marks Registry; and their ability to coordinate international filings through their network of foreign associates. The IP Manager should maintain a master calendar tracking all IP filing deadlines, prosecution response deadlines, renewal dates, and opposition window close dates. IP deadlines are typically non-extendable and missing them can result in permanent loss of rights. Use a dedicated IP management tool or a carefully maintained calendar system with triple-reminder alerts. Document

all IP decisions and the reasoning behind them. When the Company decides not to file a patent application for a particular technology, document the decision and reasoning. When a trademark opposition is decided not to pursue, document the decision. This decision trail is important for investor due diligence, management continuity, and defence of subsequent IP disputes. Build a quarterly IP Committee meeting cadence: the IP Manager, CTO or Head of Product, CFO, and CEO should review IP programme status, upcoming

decisions, and strategic IP priorities every quarter. This keeps IP on the leadership agenda and ensures that commercial and technical strategy is aligned with IP investment decisions. The IP Committee meeting should produce a brief written record of decisions taken and actions assigned. International IP coordination requires proactive management of priority deadlines. The Paris Convention priority period of 12 months for patents and 6 months for trademarks and designs starts from the Indian filing date. If international protection is planned,

calendar these priority deadlines immediately on the Indian filing date. The cost of filing internationally increases significantly if priority is not claimed because prior art in the intervening period may destroy novelty. Budget for professional indemnity insurance for the IP function. As IP becomes a larger component of the Company's value and IP decisions involve significant financial stakes, the IP Manager and the Company's IP counsel should be appropriately insured against errors and omissions. Review the IP programme's documentation quality

annually. The best IP strategy is undermined by poor documentation. Every IP right should have a complete file: the registration or application document, all prosecution history, all renewal receipts, and all related agreements. Files should be backed up in at least two locations and access-controlled to prevent inadvertent deletion. Template only. Not legal advice. Consult a qualified IP advocate for all decisions affecting the Company's intellectual property rights.