

Rajasthan Startup Ecosystem

Monthly
Progress
Report

2017

August Edition



Overview:

Rajasthan, the cradle of entrepreneurship, is the birthplace of some of the most successful business persons and large industrial houses of India, some of whom also have a global footprint. In spite of such a legacy, educated youth in large numbers leave the state after completing their education in search of better employment opportunities in other parts of India and abroad.

Rajasthan also faces some serious challenges in areas like water availability, arid land, agriculture, rural healthcare, food processing and efficient food supply chains – answer to lot of these problems would need the development of low cost, indigenous and technology - enabled solutions. Towards this, the Rajasthan Startup Policy was formulated in 2015.

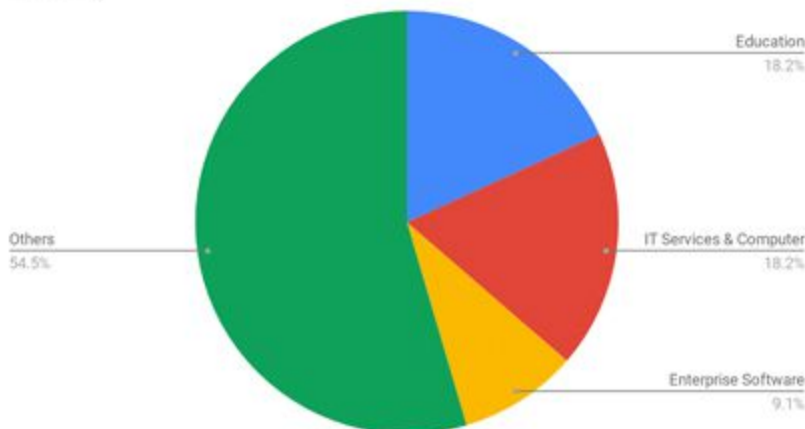
To build awareness of the various policy initiatives and to implement the provisions under the StartUp Policy, Rajasthan government plans to organise Digifests in different cities every few months. The 1st in this series was held in Kota on 17th-18th August. During the event Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje inaugurated a new start up platform called iStart, which would serve as a single point for registration, functioning, support and hand-holding for the start up firms as well as angel funding groups and venture capital funds. Also launched were Rajasthan Stack DIGISTAN of India and Challenge for Change.



Traction

Sector - The portal provides multiple sectors under various categories. In the month of August the majorly covered sectors from which startups registered were: Education, IT Services & Computer vision and Enterprise software management.

Industry



Policy Update

The Startup Scenario of the state as we see today, is at a nascent stage. In July 2017, the Department of Information Technology & Communication (DoIT&C) has been assigned as the Nodal Institution for implementation of the Startup Policy. The Nodal institution, under the guidance of Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje and following the able leadership of Principal Secretary-IT, Mr. Akhil Arora aims to work towards nurturing and building the startup ecosystem in the state.

Business Updates:

Expansion Strategy: For the effective implementation of Startup policy, the Government of Rajasthan aims to execute well-thought out strategies, focused around:

- > Building awareness of the policy
- > Use Outreach events like Digifests to provide startups a platform to showcase their unique ideas and products
- > Bringing all stakeholders in the ecosystem under a unique platform, connecting startups and entrepreneurs with funding agencies, mentors, incubators and the government
- > Implementing initiatives under a single flagship program, iStart

Key agenda for next month/upcoming events:

Outreach events and seminars at colleges and schools to spread awareness about the various startup policies and initiatives by the Government. Also, to increase the number of startups, investors and incubators empanelled with the Government on the startup program iStart.

Notable event:

DoIT&C, Digifest 2017 - Kota Edition: DoIT&C, Government of Rajasthan organized the 1st edition of Digifest in the education hub of the state Kota. This 2-day Carnival of technology saw an incredible participation from startup and technology enthusiasts from across the state. The Government of Rajasthan has organized various competitions, workshops, sessions and IT Job Fair etc. all in one go. The event was organized at UIT Auditorium, Balaji market Kota on 17-18 August 2017.



i) Key Highlights

Hackathon - A world class Hackathon event was organised where participants showcased their coding skills over a multi-hour non-stop coding competition. Coders, developers & designers were given a platform to use their cutting-edge technique and inventive methods on themes spread across sectors and industries.

Projects Competition - over 200 teams of technologists, startups and other enthusiasts presented their ideas out of which the best three were selected. The selected start-ups were awarded projects worth Rs 30 lakh. CM Smt. Vasundhara Raje also said that the project awards is most likely to cross Rs 1 crore in the future.



Showcasing of e-Governance initiatives -

During Digifest, various state government departments also exhibited e-governance initiatives they had been undertaking. They had set up nearly 40 stalls exhibiting their initiatives. One of the reasons why some government programmes don't reach the intended beneficiaries is lack of awareness about when and how to avail those benefits. The idea was to make people aware of e-governance facilities that government provides.

Investor pitch and Startup mentoring sessions - the event gave a unique platform to startups and entrepreneurs by bringing them to one platform with funding agencies, mentors and other investors. Seminars like "Tricks and for a Good MVP", "Get Your Venture Investor - Ready", "New Era of a Startup" and "Sunrise Startups" got a huge audience and provided much needed knowledge to upcoming venture founders of the state.

ii) New launches at the Kota Digifest

At the Kota Digifest, August 2017 Hon'ble Chief Minister, Smt. Vasundhara Raje launched several initiatives for startups and gifted several other citizen-centric services to State's people. This includes:

- > Announcement of setting up of a Rs 500-crore fund for promotion of startups in the state
- > Launch of Startup platform iStart and launch of Startup ranking system Qrate
- > Launch of Challenge for change
- > Launch of Rajasthan Stack

- > Dedication of Kotal Clean Energy Network - Kota became the first city in the state where city-based gas distribution system has been launched
- > Jaipur-Kota flight services



iii) Keynote speakers

Eminent speakers from the IT & Startup industry joined the event and shared their thoughts on various subjects. The prominent speakers at the event were Abhishek Kakkar (91Springboard), Rajendra Mhalseker (Yes Bank), Anurag Jain (Cardekho), Ajay Data (Data Infosys), Arvind Singhatia (Ola), Smita Bhagat (HDFC), S. Rajesh (Reliance Jio), Vijay Rajan (SBI) and Mr. Prajakt Raut.

Conclusion:

Rajasthan Startup Policy 2015 is the torch bearing front-runner in order to strengthen the startup ecosystem across the state. The recently launched web portal for startups "iStart" will now kickstart this and bring everything under a single umbrella for the ease of each stakeholder in the startup ecosystem.

The constant reforms and amplifications in the policy and portal are going to become the major driving forces in the inclusive and sustainable growth. Along with these recent steps of the government, visionary leader CM Smt. Vasundhara Raje has been giving a considerable transformation and guidance with consecutive and catch-all efforts going forward.



भारत 2024

