

Reimbursement of Expenses for Startups Operating from Leased/ Privately Owned Premises – Lease Subsidy Scheme

1. Preamble to the Policy:

Government has approved and notified the Goa Start-up Policy 2025 with a vision to make Goa the creative capital of the country and a beacon for startups, innovation and entrepreneurship driving economic prosperity and creating job opportunities thus earning recognition as a premier destination by 2028. This ambitious vision is to be realised through a comprehensive approach, targeting key pillars of support, including access to capital, education, market, institutional support, infrastructure development, regulatory enablement, and administrative facilitation. Moreover, the policy also aims to promote the entry of startups from academia, enhance outreach and awareness and foster strong linkages with industry. The policy contains various incentives for Startups and to avail the benefits of these incentives the Government has proposed many schemes under the policy.

2. Short title and commencement:-This scheme shall be called “Reimbursement of Expenses for Startups Operating from Leased/ Privately Owned Premises – Lease Subsidy Scheme”.

3. Benefits under the Scheme:-

- 1. For start-ups that operate from privately owned premises-
 - 1.1. The cost towards internet connectivity, software license fees, and cloud services fee, will be reimbursed subject to an upper limit of INR 1 lakh per quarter for a period of one year. This benefit can be availed by 20 start-ups each year which shall be selected by the SITPC as per its guidelines.
- 2. For start-ups that operate from rented premises,

- 2.1. The cost towards internet connectivity, software license fees, and cloud services fee, will be reimbursed subject to an upper limit of INR 1 lakh per quarter for a period of one year. This benefit can be availed by 20 start-ups each year which shall be selected by the SITPC as per its guidelines.
- 2.1.1. For local start-ups which operate out of rented premises, a lease rental subsidy of up to INR 20/-per square foot per month will be reimbursed quarterly for a period of up to two years. This incentive is subject to a cap of INR 3 lakh per annum and can be availed by 25 start-ups each year which shall be selected by the SITPC as per its guidelines.
- 3. A start-up can only avail the benefits either as per clause 2.1 or clause 2.1.1 at any given time.
- 4. Under no circumstance shall the benefits under this scheme be considered an entitlement. The SITPC shall reserve the sole right to accept or reject applications.

4. Eligibility:-

- 1. All Start-ups certified by the Startup IT Promotion Cell (SITPC) having a valid start-up certificate number which are not using any government developed co-working spaces/ incubators/ accelerators for their operations are eligible to apply for this scheme.
- 2. The bank accounts of the Directors of the company should be linked to Aadhaar.
- 3. The benefits of lease rental subsidy are applicable only for Local start-ups and only for a period of two years.
- 4. Only expenditure incurred after notification of Goa Start-up Policy 2021, being within the validity of this policy and paid for digitally will be considered for reimbursements under this scheme. In case digital payments are not possible then it shall be up to the SITPC to admit the expenditure as per its guidelines.

- Provided that for the purpose of this scheme Local start-up shall mean a start-up in which at least 50% equity/share is held by one or more Goans continuously since the time of inception.
- Provided also that for the purpose of this scheme the term Goan shall mean:
 - 1. Person born in the State of Goa; or,
 - 2. Person having domicile for 10 years or more in the State; or,
 - 3. Spouse of a person covered under any of the conditions mentioned in (1.) and (2.), through marriages registered in Goa

5. Procedure for filing and disbursement of claims:-

- 5.1. Start-ups who desire to claim incentives under this scheme shall submit the application form to SPC along with requisite set of documents. The form and the documents are to be submitted on the web portal to the SPC.
- 5.2. Based on the evaluation of the SPC, the approved amount shall be reimbursed.
- 5.3. The SPC shall be the competent authority to solely accept or reject any claims filed by the Start-ups. The decision of the SPC shall be final and binding.
- 5.4. The applicant can apply for this scheme at any time of the financial year but only within 6 months of incurring the relevant expenditure.
- 5.5. The applicant can avail the benefits of this scheme bi- annually.
- 5.6. The applications received by the SPC under this scheme shall be evaluated and approval or rejection shall be notified within 45 days from receipt of the application by the SPC. Once the application is approved by the SPC, the approved amount shall be disbursed within 60 days from the date of approval

6. Document Needed for Submission:

- Address proof of operational office in the State of Goa
- Cancelled Cheque of the start-up/incubator/accelerator
- Goan Domicile/Residence Certificate of 10 years
- Identity Proof - Aadhaar card of Director/ CEO

- Bills/Invoices from company certified vendors
- Proof of payment towards lease
- Proof of Payment for Cloud charges
- Proof of Payment for Internet charges
- Proof of Payment for Software cost
- Property Proof - Valid registered Lease Deed
- Software License - License details of software purchased and other documents