



**Sanskriti IAS**



**THE HINDU**



**The Indian EXPRESS**

# **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS**

**4th June 2026**

## **TOPICS:-**

- 1. How India scaled its startup industry from 2016 to 2025**  
(GS Paper III Economy)
- 2. Capital tragedy, national shame**  
(GS Paper III Disaster Management)
- 3. India, Myanmar and a shifting balance**  
(GS Paper II International Relations)

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# 1. HOW INDIA SCALED ITS STARTUP INDUSTRY FROM 2016 TO 2025

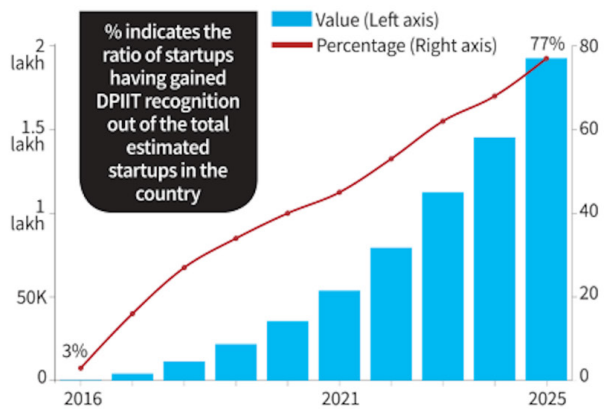
(GS Paper III Economy)

This editorial ‘How India scaled its startup industry from 2016 to 2025’ was published in **The Hindu** on 4th Jun 2026, highlights **India’s startup expansion** through policy support, wider regional spread, founder diversity and stronger funding.

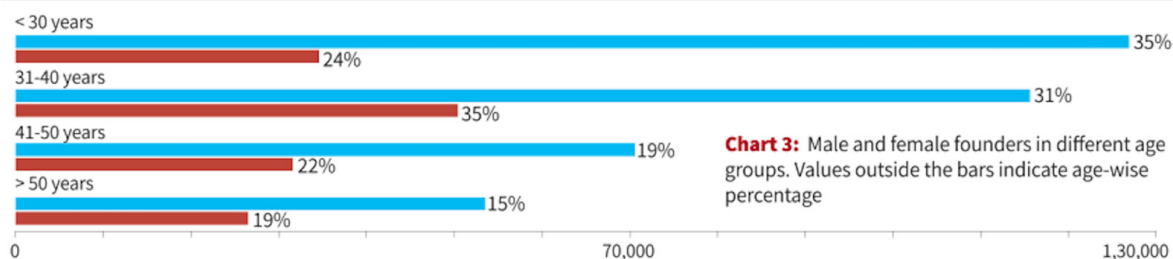
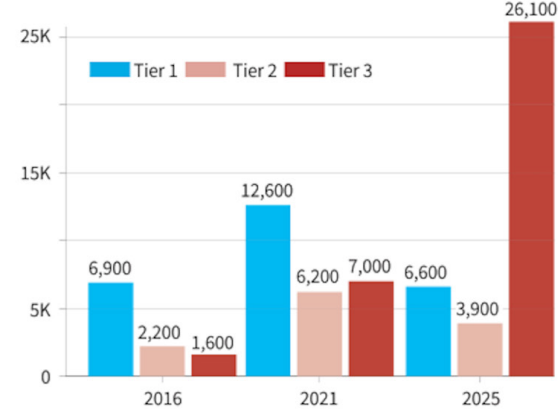
## Startup India and Formal Ecosystem Expansion

- Startup India helped convert the Prime Minister’s **2015 call** into institutional recognition, with DPIIT coverage rising from 288 startups in 2016 to 77% of total startups in 2025.
- DPIIT recognition is not mandatory, yet rising registration reflects growing **formalisation** and the success of India’s startup-support ecosystem.
- India’s startup base expanded from nearly **10,000 startups** in 2016 to 2.5 lakh in 2025, placing India among the top four startup nations.

**Chart 1:** The growth in the number of DPIIT-recognised startups between 2016 and 2025



**Chart 2:** The number of startups set up in Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 cities and towns in 2016, 2020, and 2025



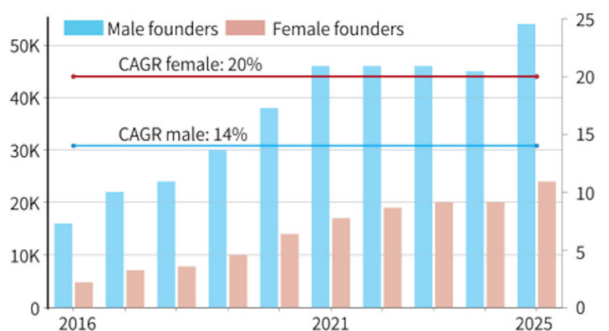
**Chart 3:** Male and female founders in different age groups. Values outside the bars indicate age-wise percentage

## Regional and Demographic Deepening

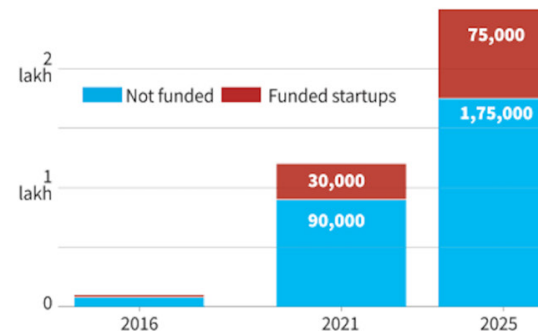
- Startup formation shifted beyond metros, as **Tier 1** cities fell from 65% of new startups in 2016 to 18% in 2025, while Tier 3 towns rose to 71%.
- Founder data shows strong **youth presence**, with nearly 66% male founders and 59% female founders below 40 years.

- Women's entrepreneurship shows wider **age distribution**, with 33% female founders under 30 and 22% above 50.
- Female founders recorded **20% CAGR** compared with 14% for male founders, indicating rising women-led entrepreneurial participation.

**Chart 4:** The growth in male and female founders between 2016 and 2025



**Chart 5:** The growth in startup formation and funded startups between 2016 and 2025



## Funding and Policy Climate

- Funded ventures rose from nearly **2,000 startups** in 2016 to 75,000 in 2025, reflecting a 38-fold expansion in funded startups.
- Overall startup formation grew **25-fold**, showing how policy support, ecosystem confidence and investment appetite reinforced each other.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Quality of Startup Growth Beyond Numbers

- **Job quality:** Startup success should be judged not only by DPIIT registrations, but also by stable jobs, formal employment and Skill India-linked capabilities.
- **Innovation depth:** India needs more deep-tech, climate-tech, biotech and semiconductor startups, because platform ventures alone cannot build long-term technological competitiveness.
- **Survival challenge:** High startup formation must be matched by survival, profitability and governance, since funding winters exposed weak unit economics in many ventures.
- **Regional support:** Tier 2 and Tier 3 startup growth needs Atal Incubation Centres, mentoring, credit access and BharatNet-backed digital infrastructure.
- **Women founders:** Rising women-led entrepreneurship requires Stand-Up India credit, safer workspaces, childcare support and investor confidence to reduce enterprise gender gaps.
- **Research linkage:** Stronger IIT, IISc and industry collaboration can help startups move from app-based innovation to patents, prototypes and commercially useful research.
- **Global competitiveness:** Indian startups must shift from unicorn valuations to product quality, exports, intellectual property and global market presence.

## 2. CAPITAL TRAGEDY, NATIONAL SHAME

*(GS Paper III Disaster Management)*

This editorial ‘**Capital tragedy, national shame**’ was published in **The Indian Express** on 4th Jun 2026, highlights India’s recurring **urban fire tragedies** as failures of safety regulation, municipal enforcement and urban governance.

### Pattern of Urban Fire Neglect

- The **Malviya Nagar** fire killed at least 21 people, continuing a pattern seen in Palam, Cuttack and Kolkata fires within six months.
- These incidents reveal **breached norms**, overcrowded structures, narrow exits, exposed wiring, ageing electrical systems and weak safety protocols.
- The repeated tragedies show the low priority given to **urban safety** in governance as more Indians live in cities.

### Local Vulnerabilities and Hidden Urbanisation

- Malviya Nagar’s dense mix of **eateries**, shops, paying-guest rooms and medical tourists turned congestion into a fire-risk multiplier.
- The fire spread from a **basement kitchen** to another building, while congested lanes delayed timely help and rescue.
- The **NIDM 2020** report links most urban fires to a complex web of vulnerabilities in dense urban settlements.
- A PM-EAC working paper notes **hidden urbanisation**, with GHSL satellite data suggesting India was already 63% urban in 2015.

### Regulatory Failure and Municipal Accountability

- The **National Building Code** and State fire-safety guidelines already exist, but weak supervision and poor enforcement blunt their impact.
- Municipalities need stronger **regulatory powers**, since they are directly responsible for fire-safety operations and local enforcement.
- After the **Saidulajab** building collapse killed six people, promised audits of unsafe buildings showed the need for sustained follow-up.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Urban Fire Safety as a Governance Capacity Test

- **Risk mapping:** Cities need ward-level fire-risk audits covering hospitals, hotels, coaching centres, PG housing and mixed-use markets like Karol Bagh.

- **Municipal capacity:** Fire safety requires trained inspectors, GIS building records, digital permits and regular audits, not only post-tragedy inspections.
- **Emergency access:** Encroachments, illegal parking and narrow lanes delay rescue operations, as seen in dense Delhi and Old City markets.
- **Public compliance:** Shop owners, landlords and RWAs must treat exits, extinguishers, wiring and evacuation drills as basic civic responsibilities.
- **Building accountability:** Occupancy certificates and fire clearances should follow NBC norms and periodic renewal, since later alterations often escape scrutiny.
- **Data systems:** Fire departments need real-time building databases, hazard maps and NFIRS-like incident records to plan inspections and deploy resources.
- **Preventive governance:** Urban safety must shift from ex-gratia compensation after tragedies like Uphaar to inspection, enforcement and accountability before disaster.

### 3. INDIA, MYANMAR AND A SHIFTING BALANCE

*(GS Paper II International Relations)*

This editorial ‘**India, Myanmar and a shifting balance**’ was published in **The Indian Express** on 4th Jun 2026, highlights India’s need for **flexible engagement** with Myanmar amid civil war, border instability and China’s expanding influence.

#### **Myanmar’s Legitimacy Crisis and Regional Fallout**

- Min Aung Hlaing’s India visit sought to reduce **diplomatic isolation**, but Myanmar’s junta remains legitimacy-deficient after the **2021 coup** and stage-managed elections.
- Myanmar’s civil war between the military, **pro-democracy forces** and ethnic militias now creates transnational risks India cannot ignore.

#### **India’s Security and Connectivity Stakes**

- India-Myanmar talks covered **security**, trade, rare earths, healthcare and connectivity, but the shared 1,600-km border makes security the most urgent concern.
- Militancy, ethnic ties and **cross-border movement** have spilled into India, with Chin refugees seeking shelter in Mizoram and Manipur.
- Myanmar remains central to India’s **Act East Policy**, but weak junta control over border regions complicates connectivity and frontier stability.

## China Factor and Flexible Engagement

- Despite atrocities against the **Rohingya** and democracy supporters, the junta retains urban centres and institutional power.
- Western isolation has expanded **China's influence** in Myanmar, driven by interests such as protecting oil and gas infrastructure.
- New Delhi must balance engagement with **Naypyidaw** and non-state actors controlling border stretches until Myanmar stabilises.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Humanitarian Diplomacy in India's Myanmar Policy

- **Border communities:** India's Myanmar policy must consider Zo-Chin-Kuki ties across Mizoram, Manipur and Chin State, where conflict affects social stability.
- **Refugee management:** Security screening should be balanced with humane shelter, non-refoulement principles and coordination with States facing refugee inflows.
- **People-centric policy:** Border stability needs not only military engagement, but also trust among displaced communities in Zokhawthar, Champhai and Moreh.
- **Democratic credibility:** India's regional image improves when strategic engagement is combined with concern for civilians affected by the 2021 coup violence.
- **State coordination:** New Delhi must work with Mizoram and Manipur, since border States carry the immediate administrative burden of refugee inflows.
- **Aid diplomacy:** Operation Sadbhav and Operation Brahma show how medical aid and relief supplies can protect interests without escalating confrontation.
- **Balanced approach:** Humanitarian diplomacy can complement security policy by managing displacement, reducing resentment and preserving India's Act East credibility.