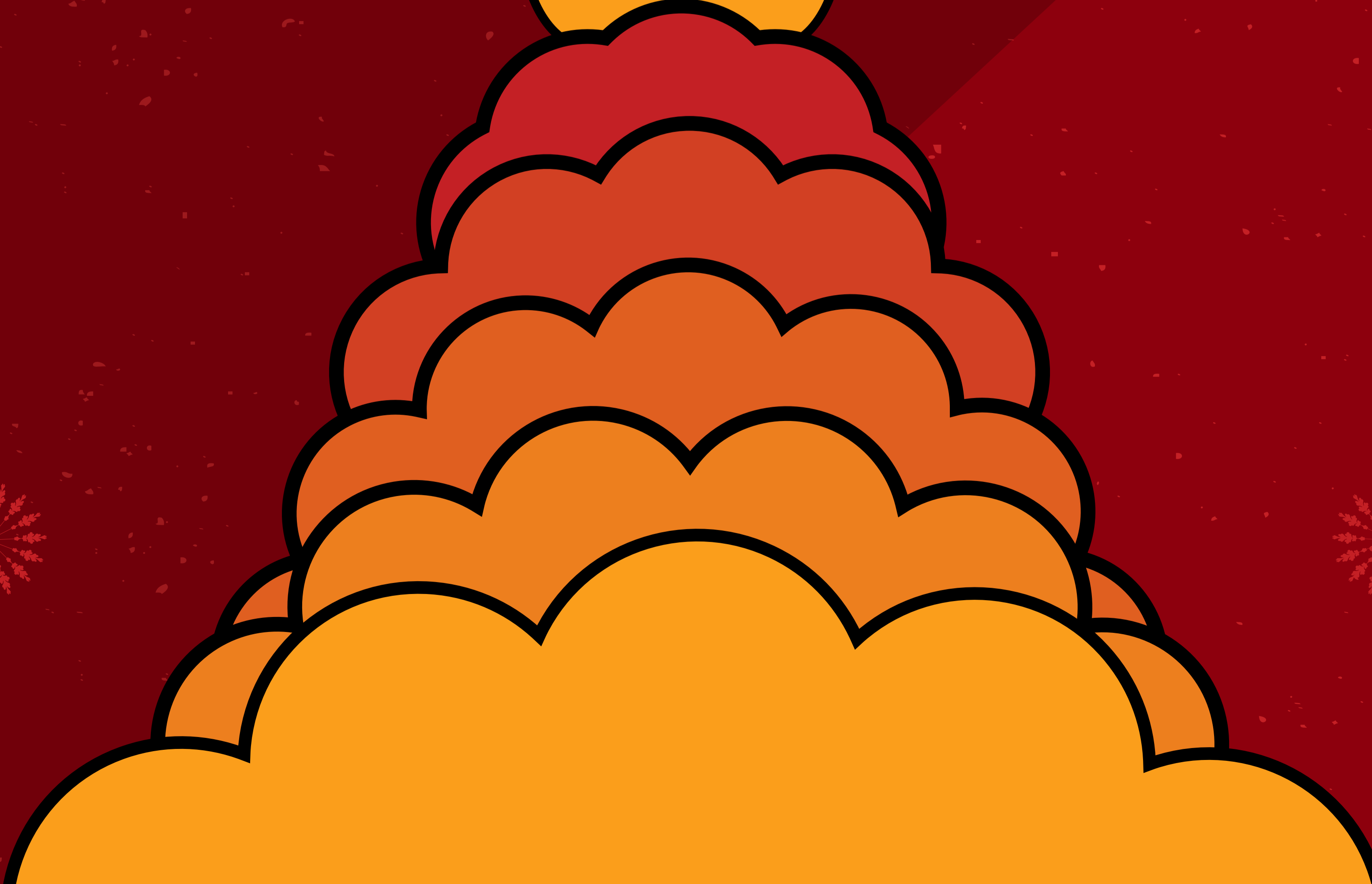
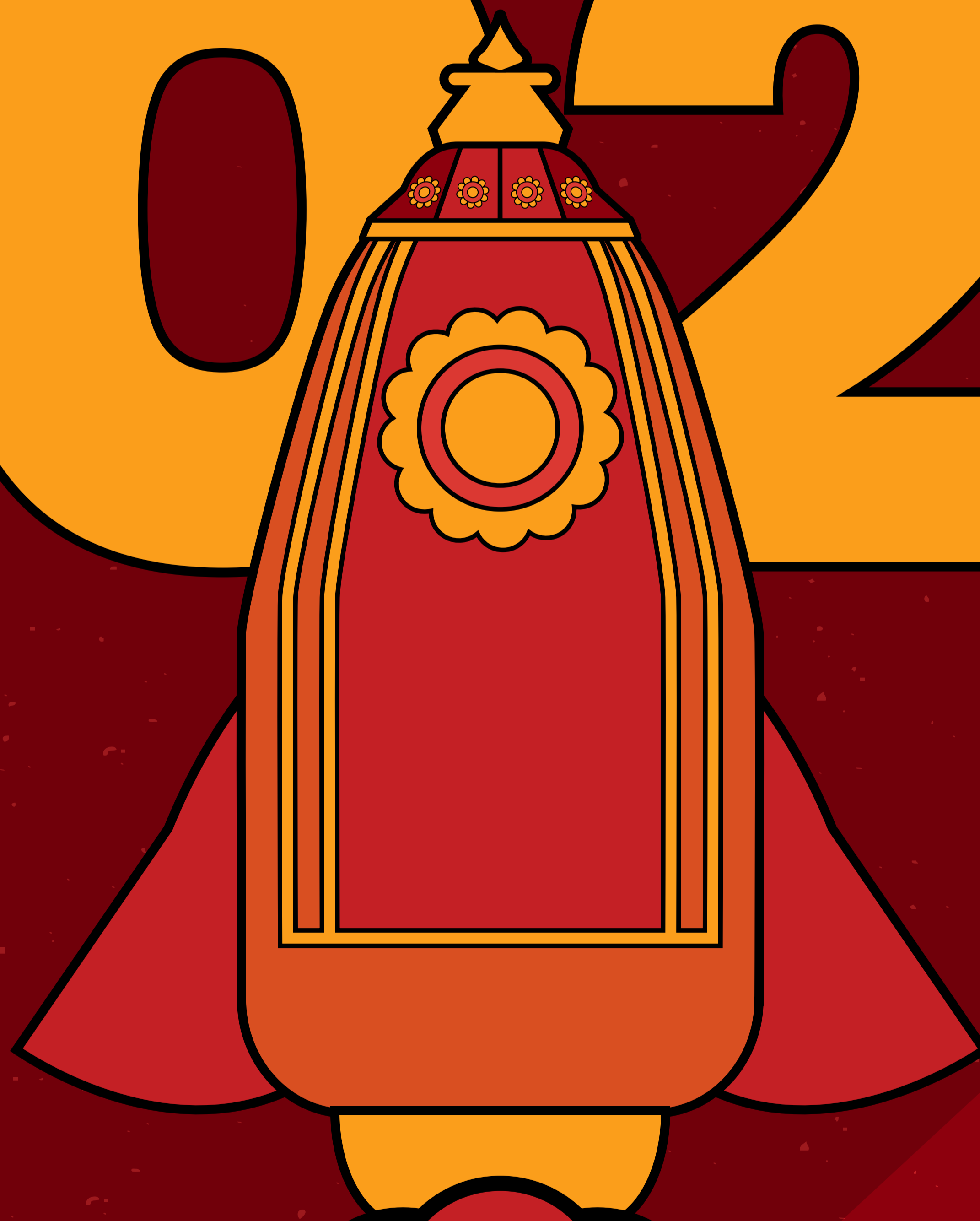




IMPACT REPORT 2023



NAVIGATION PANEL

Introduction & Overview

Testimonials

India-wide Impact

Global Impact

Key Highlights

Partners



Program Alignment

	Startups	Investors	Corporates	Incubators, Enablers & Service Providers
ACCELERATOR PROGRAMS	🔦		🔦	🔦
BHARAT PITCHATHON	🔦	🔦		🔦
HSX	🔦	🔦	🔦	🔦
REGIONAL SUMMITS	🔦	🔦		🔦
STARTUP SEPTEMBER	🔦		🔦	🔦
INDIA-WIDE EVENTS	🔦	🔦	🔦	🔦



In association with



CELEBRATING THE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

IN INDIA & BEYOND...

Headstart is India's biggest & oldest startup-centric community. With a volunteer network of 100+ and an alumni cohort of 500+, Headstart has chapters in more than 20 cities in the country. Over the course of last 17 years, Headstart has impacted more than 18,000 ventures, hosted more than 3,500 events, and facilitated over 3,00,000 connections.

Headstart is a vibrant community of 50,000 members from various stakeholders of startup ecosystem including founders, enablers,

government officials, mentors etc. Our network boasts of more than 800 mentors and association with 150+ incubators and accelerators throughout the country.

As we bid farewell to 2023, we, Headstarters, reflect on a year filled with innovation, impact, and growth within the Indian startup ecosystem. Headstart has mobilised 1900+ startups in the entire year through various programs & initiatives. This newsletter encapsulates the essence of our journey, the meaningful strides we've taken, and our unwavering vision for the future.



2023

A year of transformation,
growth & impact.

253

Events

1997

Startups
Supported

8400

Participants

218

Speakers

20

Event IPs

I really am thankful for the work they do to ensure another Mabel doesn't have to leave her hometown to startup. Cheers to all the enablers here!

Mabel Chacko
Co-founder & COO
Open Financial Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

...an incredibly insightful event, full of inspiring conversations and opportunities to learn from fellow entrepreneurs and community builders.

Adarsh Das
Manager (Investment) at AIC-Nalanda,
Supported by NITI Aayog, Govt of India

For Young Entrepreneurs, Guidance and Global Connectivity would be the key to fostering Growth in the ecosystem; hence, Headstart Network Foundation is the key for them to up their game.

Ankush Sabharwal
Founder & CEO, CoRover

HSX was crazy! Numerable startup founders and countless stories Headstart did an amazing job in bringing together about a 1000 startups and ecosystem enablers under one roof!

Sanadh Srivastava
Growth & Strategic Alliances,
Heyo Phone

INCREDIBLE INSIGHTFUL INSPIRING 2023

Thanks for enabling events like HSX! The fact that I left the event energised even after spending a whole day on my feet, shows the success of the event.

Chandramouli Gopalakrishnan, Ph.D
Product Leader @ Microsoft

A big shoutout to Headstart Network Foundation for hosting such an exciting and wonderful event that celebrates innovation and entrepreneurship.

Manash Mishra
Founder, HOMEATZ

it was truly inspiring to see the raw energy & innovation that's brewing in our tier 2 and tier 3 cities. The vibe was electric, and what struck me the most was the determination and drive of the young innovators I met. They're rewriting the startup narrative in India!

Kartik Kumar Choudhary
Assistant Manager, NSRCEL

Always love the energy here, & so proud of what the organisation has grown into. Late 2000s, I was a volunteer at Headstart in Delhi, & at that time it was THE thing that introduced (lured!) me into the world of startups. Forever grateful.

Akshay Chaturvedi
Founder & CEO, Leverage Edu

Headstart is where I was introduced to all things startup...It is a community where everyone wants each other to win. I am lucky to be a part of the Women Entrepreneurship initiative as well. Apart from all the support I got, it is the feeling of having a tribe who have your back was the icing on the cake.

Roma Roy Choudhry
Founder, Evolved Foods

We've seen some great traction from Headstart. Thank you for all your support on this.

Chandrika Deb
India Growth Lead, Canva

Absolutely resonating with this beautiful reflection on #HSX2023. Having attended the event, I can truly vouch for the overwhelming sense of community, gratitude, and passion that enveloped the day. The commitment of the organizing team and the infectious energy of every HSXer was palpable.

Robin Arya
Founder, GoalFi

Thrilled to have been part of a game-changing collaboration at Headstart Network Foundation's annual summit #HSX2023 with BHIVE Workspace as exclusive #coworking partner.

Saritha Jain
Growth & Partnerships, BHIVE

Had an opportunity to attend a HSX2023, an annual event conducted by Headstart Network Foundation. It was fascinating to see so many young and budding entrepreneurs under one roof. There were some brain tickling sessions.

Dr. Srinath Bhat
AVP, MediAssist

STRENGTHNING STARTUPS THROUGH
ACCELERATION PROGRAMS

D2C BLAZE

D2C Blaze, a 12-week growth accelerator, became the nurturing ground for 30 startups in their quest for scaling and brand recognition. The program featured 10+ masterclasses led by industry mentors and offered clinics and 1:1 mentorship on critical aspects such as brand building, performance marketing, influencer marketing, investment readiness, and digital intervention.



INDIA-FINLAND STARTUP HUB

India Finland Startup Hub (IFSH) is an exceptional collaboration between Business Finland and Headstart Network Foundation. Started in April 2021, it aims to connect the two startup ecosystems of India and Finland. In 2023 IFSH Accelerator was launched. Over the course of nine months, 10 startups were provided 1:1 mentorship program by Industry experts from Finland & India. Special focus was given to help them understand what it takes to set up a business in Finland and strengthening strategic relationships to scale their respective startups in the European region.



BHARAT PITCHATHON 2.0

Bharat Pitchathon paved way for a growth accelerator, nurturing startups through deep dive & group sessions with industry experts, facilitating industry and investor connects, GTM support, etc.



BHARAT PITCHATHON 2.0

Bharat Pitchathon, our entrepreneurial quest, invited startups nationwide to showcase their prowess. This platform aimed to amplify promising ventures. BP 2.0 had a grand launch at a mixer attended by 60 VCs from all over India. Through partnerships with 80+ funds, we fostered 590 investor-startup connections, spotlighting 70 emerging stars.

HIGHLIGHTS

UTTARAKHAND ROADSHOW

1000 Kms **10** Pitches
4 Events **10** Investors



Applications



Editions
 [Physical & Virtual]



Startups



Funds



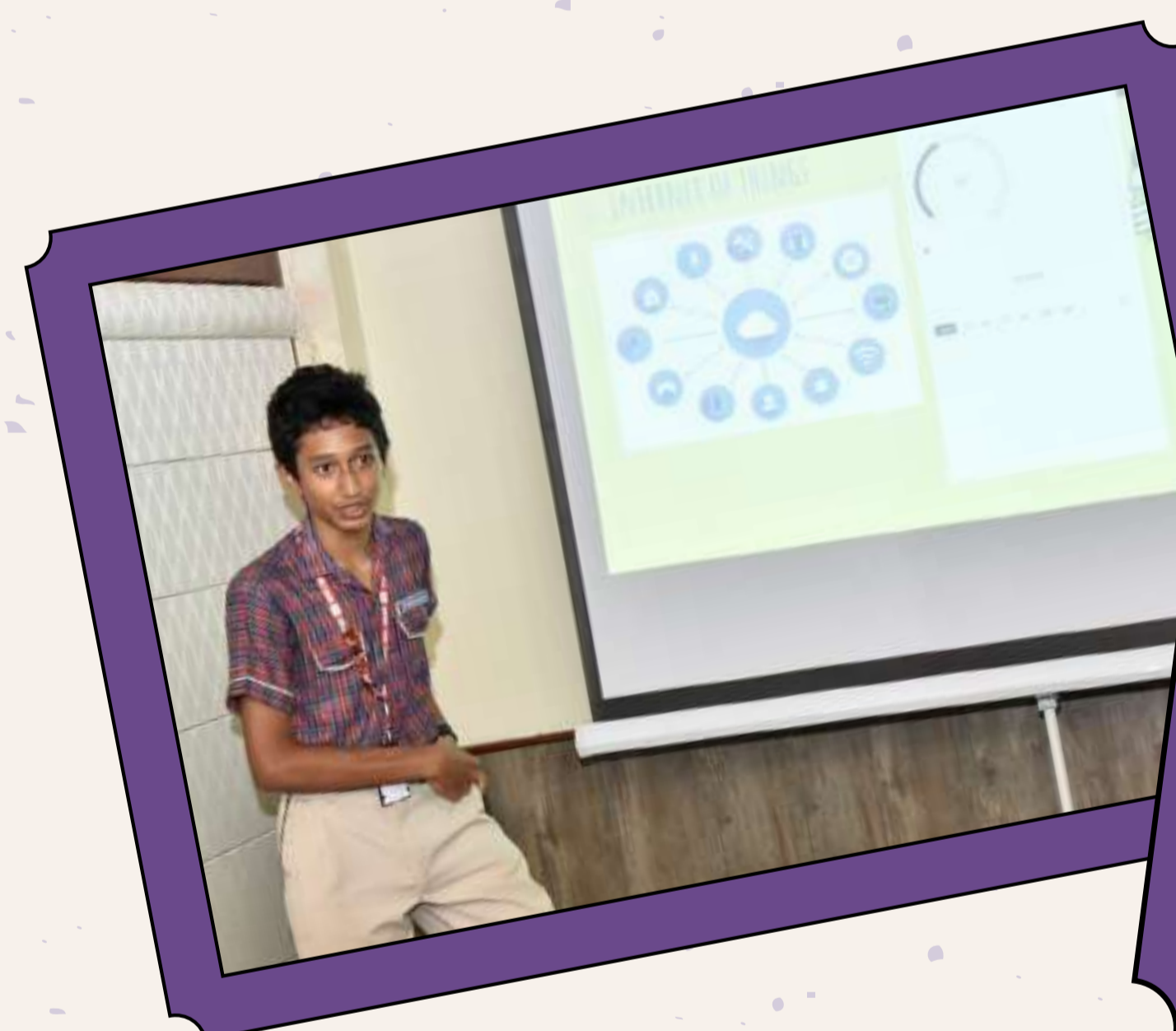
Connects



Jury Members

Bharat Pitchathon Junior!

5 student startups pitched and got feedback from an investor jury in Bhubaneswar at Odisha edition & received a cash prize from Headstart.



70 Emerging Startups of the Year



BHARAT PITCHATHON 2.0

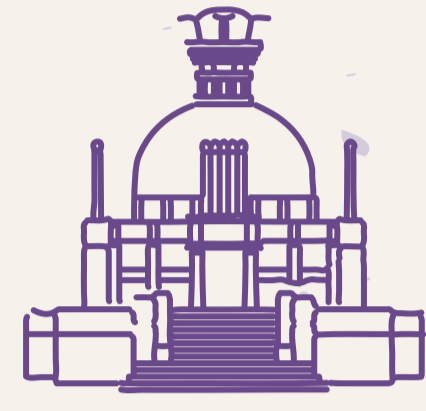
HOST CITIES



AHMEDABAD



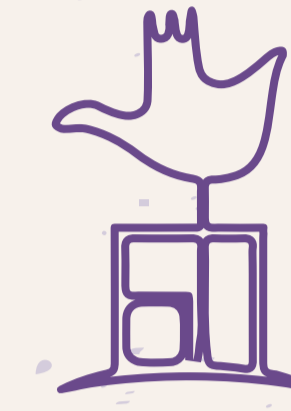
BENGALURU



BHUBANESHWAR



CALICUT



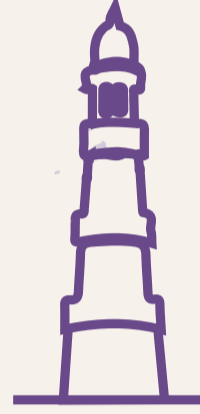
CHANDIGARH



CHENNAI



DELHI



GUNTUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



BHOPAL



JAIPUR



KOCHI



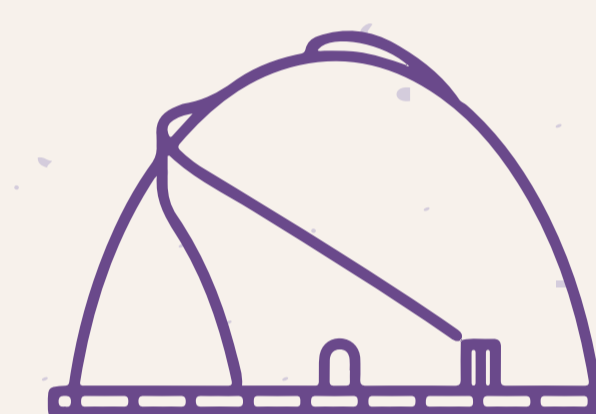
LUCKNOW



MUMBAI



NAGPUR



PATNA



PUNE



RAIPUR



ROORKEE



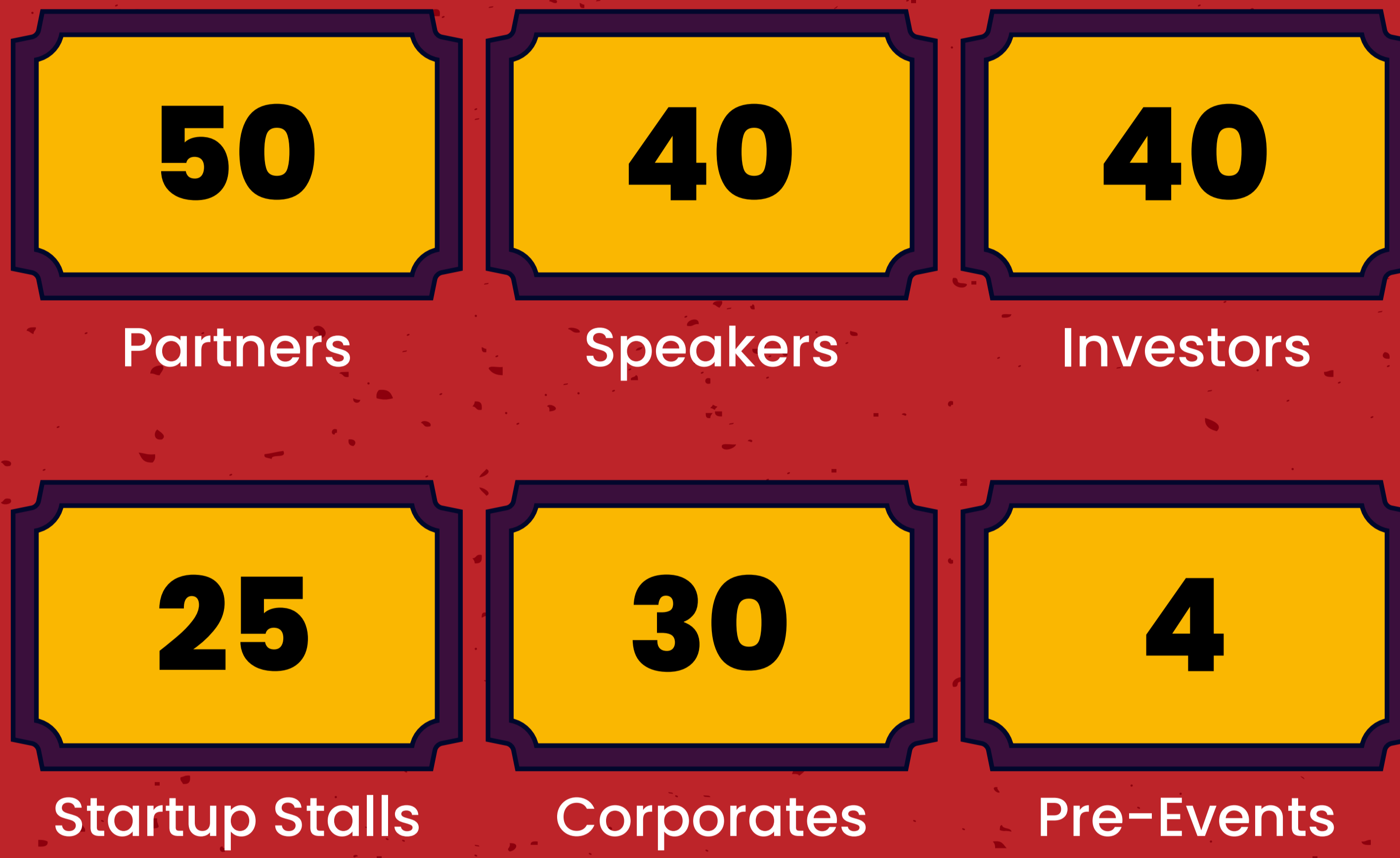
VIRTUAL



HSX

INDIA'S MOST LOVED STARTUP SUMMIT | 2023

HSX, Headstart's flagship annual startup summit. The recent edition registered 1000 participants, 800 attendees, featured 40+ speakers, and hosted 25+ startup stalls. The summit served as a vibrant platform, fostering networking and collaboration in a dynamic space for startups and stakeholders.



Inc42

Headstart's HSX Is Back — Startup Summit To Bring Together 1K+ Founders, Investors Under One Roof

India

EducationDiary.com

800 Startups Converge At HSX 2023: Founders, VC's And Aspiring Entrepreneurs Attend Headstart's Annual Startup Summit

Outlook Start-Up

HEADSTART GEARS UP FOR ANNUAL PREMIER START-UP SUMMIT HSX 2023



REGIONAL SUMMITS

HEADSTART RISE

HS Rise came to life with the vision of bringing together North India's startup stakeholders for a day of interactions. The goal was to inspire synergies among investors, successful startups, and new-age entrepreneurs. The event unfolded as a dynamic day, drawing in 550+ attendees and featuring 35+ speakers and investors. It facilitated over 100 introductions between startups and investors, along with 14+ live startup showcases, making it a vibrant and impactful gathering.

35

Speakers

550

Participants

40

Startups

110

Investor Connects

14

Startups Showcases

CENTRAL INDIA STARTUP SUMMIT

Mumbai Angels
A 360 ONE Company

arali
ventures

VC partners

12

Speakers

130

Founders

7

Cities

Featuring **TOP RANKERS** where career starts Bhopal based startup that raised \$6 Mn

Session on policies



SaaS workshop



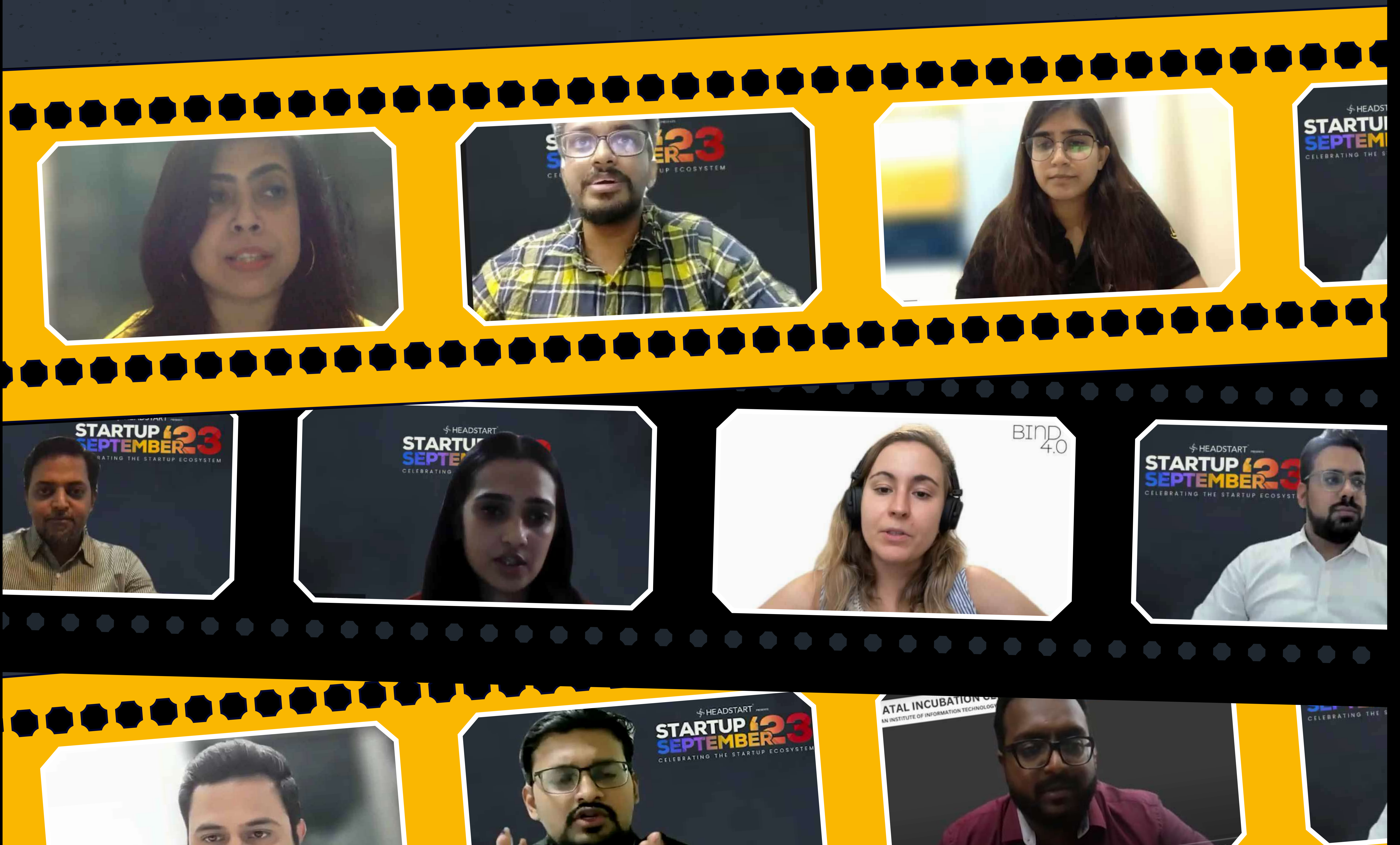
Marketing 101



STARTUP 123 SEPTEMBER

CELEBRATING THE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

Startup September, marked a month-long celebration of the Indian startup ecosystem, unfolded a series of 28 webinars, bringing together 30+ speakers and over 2,000 attendees. The sessions covered diverse aspects of the startup journey, including funds, enablers, and product discussions, fostering a rich platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.



BOOSTERS

5000

Boosters
Availed

150

Creore worth
Boosters Availed

38

Boosters

Headstart Boosters is a transformative initiative that offers carefully curated tools and services to empower startups, at crucial junctures. Boosters include offerings from various service providers such as law firms, CAs, startup consultants, SaaS, co-working spaces, design agencies, etc. These service providers benefit startups of various scale but especially bootstrapped and those at seed stage. Over the course of last few year, Headstart Boosters has become the goto point for startups to implement solutions for in their journey to structure & streamline their ventures.

INVESTOR SATURDAY

4

Sessions

206

Participants

5

Speakers

Investor Saturday, is an educational forum aimed to educate budding angel investors on various aspects of investing in startups. Through these sessions, we aim to foster a fresh investment avenue and also open up avenues for startups to reach out for investment in their businesses. This initiative reaches out extensively through email, social media, and WhatsApp groups, aiming to broaden the understanding of startup investment. These sessions are also accentuated by providing an opportunity to budding startups to present their pitches to a select group of investors.



Headstart, in collaboration with IDFC First Bank and CNBC-TV18, played a pivotal role in "Leap To Unicorn" (LTU), a transformative initiative for startups. LTU provided a platform for startups to secure funds, connect with industry experts, and gain insights from unicorn founders. With 5,500 nationwide applications, the grand finale, featured on CNBC-TV18, highlighted the final 6 startups, and the top 100 earned recognition in Forbes India's "Top 100 Startups to Watch."

Headstart has 3 focussed clubs for Women Entrepreneurs, SaaS Founders, and D2C Founders. These domain specific clubs cater to specific needs of the segment. Apart from providing a co-learning forum, these clubs also provide perspective and insights by organising sessions from experienced speakers from the industry. These clubs also operate across various geographical chapters addressing the needs of a diverse consumer-base.

LEAP TO UNICORN

4000

Applications

20

VC
Pitches

628

Bootcamp
Participants

6

Final Pitches on
National TV

CLUBS @ HEADSTART

3

Clubs

700

Members

9

Engagements

INDIA-WIDE IMPACT

With chapters in almost every state in the country (with few states boasting of more than one chapter), Headstart makes a positive impact in the life of startup founders from various walks of life. Our programs ensure learning, hand-holding and boosting in a founder's journey right from the inception of their idea through its launch and subsequent blossoming as a venture.

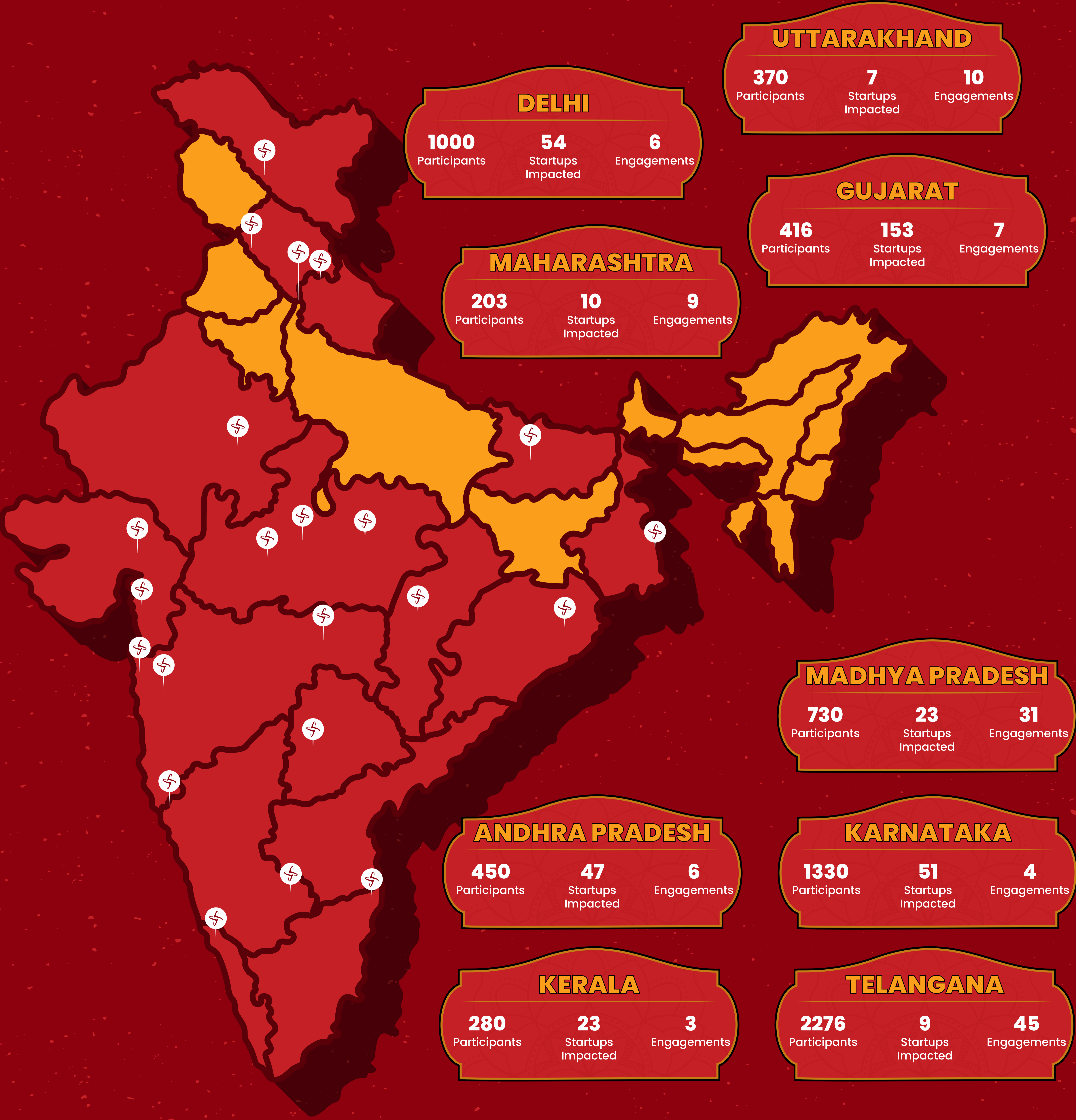
17
States

22
Cities

253
Events

8.4k
Participants

50k
Community
Members



MAKING A MARK IN THE WORLD!

With an alumni network of 500+ volunteers, Headstarters are to be found in almost every major country of the world. Sharing a passion for 'all things startup', Headstarters often form international communities and international chapters. Headstart also fosters collaborative learning experience across startup ecosystems of the world by partnering with government bodies, events, incubators etc. We currently have an active chapter in Dubai and collaborate in various countries including Germany, Singapore and Finland.

3	1125	77	19
Countries	Registrations	Speakers	Engagements

DUBAI

475	12	45
Registrations	sessions	Speakers

HS BEYOND

6	350	20
Sessions	Participants	Speakers



OTHER KEY HIGHLIGHTS



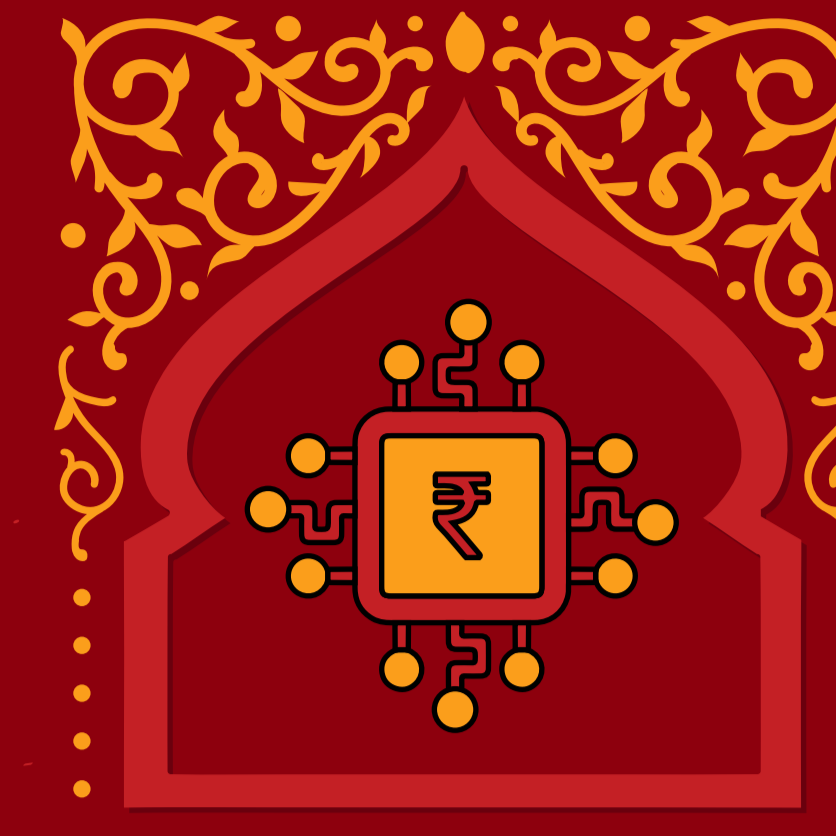
Startup23 Kerala

In Kochi, the Startup23 Kerala initiative highlighted the local startup ecosystem's vibrancy, listing 23 startups with significant impact. The initiative garnered extensive media coverage, featuring over 100 PR articles across 10+ local outlets.



WE in Delhi

The Headstart WE initiative in Delhi celebrated women entrepreneurs, uniting 50+ women founders in engaging discussions. The HS Mentor session in July provided hands-on mentoring for startups.



Headstart x Afthonia

In partnership with Afthonia Labs, Headstart hosted a series of discussions around Innovation in Fintech in Bangalore, Mumbai and New Delhi.



New Beginnings: Headstart Andhra Pradesh

Headstart's Andhra Pradesh chapter inauguration was marked by a dynamic panel discussion and the prestigious Bharat Pitchathon. The impact resulted in a community of 130 entrepreneurs and enablers from tier 2 and tier 3 cities in AP. A significant milestone was the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the AP Government Innovation Society (APIS) in Visakhapatnam, laying the foundation for future collaborations with an estimated value of 15 crores.



Gujarat's Startup Cricket League

Gujarat chapter hosted Startup Cricket League featuring 8 teams, transforming the cricket field into a lively networking arena. Gujarat Pitchathon Summit in Ahmedabad fostered connections between 80+ startups & investors. Women Founder's Meetup in the city attracted 71 entrepreneurs. Startup Masterclasses in Surat engaged 253 participants, and a strategic partnership with Brinc.



Going Global: Headstart UAE

Headstart marked a significant milestone with its first chapter in Dubai, UAE, drawing approximately 250 members. The Dubai chapter swiftly became a focal point for entrepreneurs in the vibrant UAE landscape, forming a successful partnership with GITEX UAE, the world's largest tech conference.



Jabalpur Startup Summit

The inaugural Jabalpur Startup Summit drew 150 participants, including 100 enthusiastic startup enthusiasts, featuring a dynamic lineup of 10+ speakers, including startup founders and investors from Jabalpur and India. Building on this success, Jabalpur Startup Summit-21 attracted 125 participants, mainly startup enthusiast students exploring entrepreneurship.



Intel AI Open Innovation Day

Headstart in partnership with Blume Ventures and Novo Nordisk hosted Intel Corporation's AI Open Innovation Day. The platform got together corporates, investors, and enablers who came together to ensure start-ups from across the country got access to pitch, understand technology that could accelerate their growth, network, and explore synergies.



MeitY's G20 Digital Alliance Innovation Roadshow














































Headstart Bangalore and Indore hosted MeitY's G20 Digital Alliance Innovation Roadshow in their respective cities. G20 is a prestigious platform, helping showcase India's efforts toward Global advancement. The delegates included top Founders, Investors, Corporate Leaders & International Partners. The discussion focussed on understanding how startups can create Global Impact with their ventures and increasing awareness about G20 DIA Startup Program.

IN 2023, WE PARTNERED WITH...

EVENT PARTNERS



BOOSTERS

 cometchat®	 leadsquared	 INTERNSHALA JOBS	 Inc4Plus	 HEYO PHONE
 Canva	 Pandora's Box <small>strategic analysis grow</small>	 CleverTap	 Bugasura	 MyDesigner <small>by SANGATI</small>
 clear <small>from the makers of cleartax</small>	 moengage	 LASN	 zendesk Startups	 EquityList
 TWILIO segment	 RazorpayX	 QAPITA	 plum	 paytm for Business
 Mtalkz	 Honest Create <small>Creating winning investor & sales decks</small>	 Funngro	 exotel	 upscale
 GitHub	 MSG91 for Startups	 freshworks for Startups	 craloft	 wowelz <small>easing communication</small>
 N	 aws activate	 REVERIE Language Technologies	 Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub	 BHIVE WORKSPACE
 Fynd Platform	 eShipz	 EZE Cloud	 COVRZY	 Helical Insight
 MyOperator	 Zoho for Startups	 Netcore for Startups	 THE STARTUP ZONE <small>grow without worry</small>	 SetMyCart

 Click & Avail

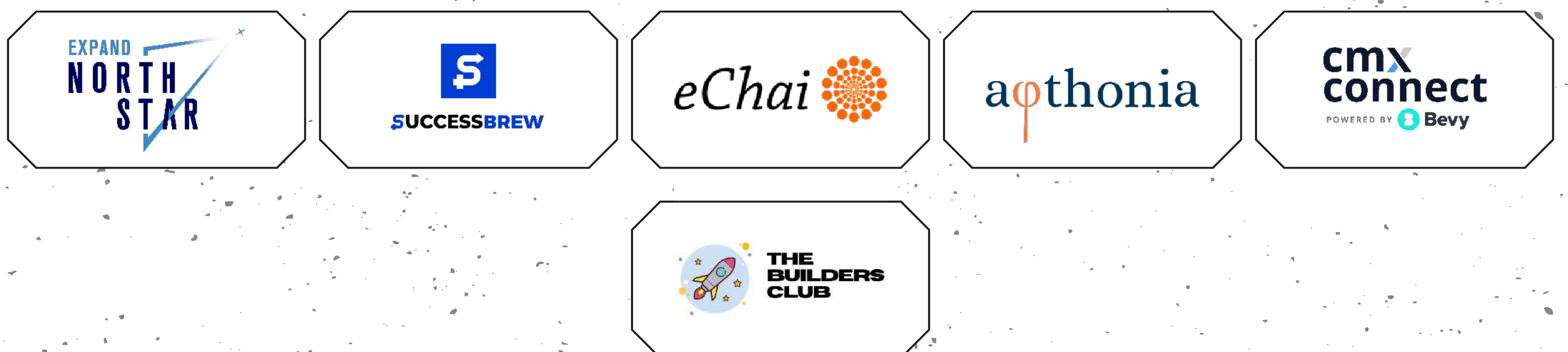
STATE STARTUP CELLS



VENTURE CAPITAL FIRMS



OTHER PARTNERS



TIME TO STARTUP IS NOW!



 HEADSTART®

ALL THIS & MORE IN
2024



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Ruchi Vora
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