



INDIALAW

Startups

Leading Startup Law Firm in India for Incorporation, Funding, and IP

PRACTICE PROFILE • MAY 2026

Overview

India's startup ecosystem is vibrant and rapidly evolving, with significant contributions from sectors such as technology, fintech, edtech, and e-commerce. The legal framework governing startups encompasses various laws and regulations, including the Companies Act, 2013, Goods and Services Tax (GST), Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), and others. Our team is well-versed in these regulations and provides strategic legal advice to ensure compliance and facilitate successful business operations.

We provide comprehensive legal services to startups across India, guiding entrepreneurs from inception through growth and scaling. Our expertise spans incorporation, funding, intellectual property, regulatory compliance, and dispute resolution. We serve as trusted legal partners, enabling founders to focus on innovation while we handle the complexities of the legal landscape.

Our Services

- **Business Incorporation and Structuring:**

- Advising on the selection of appropriate business structures (e.g., Private Limited Company, Limited Liability Partnership).
- Assisting with company registration and obtaining necessary licenses and approvals.
- Drafting and reviewing incorporation documents, including Memorandum and Articles of Association.

- **Intellectual Property Protection:**

- Assisting in the registration of trademarks, copyrights, patents, and designs.
- Advising on brand protection strategies and handling infringement issues.
- Drafting and negotiating licensing and assignment agreements.

- **Funding and Investment Structuring:**

- Advising on seed funding, venture capital, and private equity investments.
- Drafting and negotiating term sheets, shareholder agreements, and investment contracts.
- Assisting with regulatory compliance related to funding transactions.

- **Regulatory Compliance and Licensing:**

- Ensuring compliance with industry-specific regulations and obtaining necessary licenses.
- Advising on compliance with labour laws, data protection laws, and other applicable regulations.
- Assisting with Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration and filings.

- **Employment and Labor Law:**

- Drafting employment contracts and advising on labour law compliance.
- Assisting with employee stock option plans (ESOPs) and other incentive schemes.
- Advising on termination, retrenchment, and other employment-related matters.

- **Contract Drafting and Negotiation:**

- Drafting and reviewing contracts related to supply, procurement, and service agreements.
- Advising on terms and conditions for online and offline sales.
- Negotiating and drafting partnership, joint venture, and franchise agreements.

- **Dispute Resolution:**

- Representing clients in disputes related to contracts, intellectual property, and other business matters.
- Assisting with arbitration, mediation, and litigation proceedings.
- Advising on conflict resolution strategies to preserve business relationships.

- **Exit Strategies and Mergers & Acquisitions:**

- Advising on exit strategies, including mergers, acquisitions, and initial public offerings (IPOs).
- Conducting due diligence and assisting with transaction structuring.
- Drafting and negotiating transaction documents and agreements.

Key Highlights

Our firm combines deep industry knowledge with legal expertise to deliver practical solutions tailored to the unique needs of startups. We understand the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and offer proactive legal support to help them navigate the complexities of business operations, secure funding, protect intellectual property, and achieve sustainable growth.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 What legal services do startup lawyers provide in India?

Startup lawyers advise on entity incorporation, founder agreements, equity structuring, intellectual property protection, fundraising documentation, regulatory compliance, and commercial contracts. The goal is to build a sound legal foundation that supports the company through each stage of growth and funding.

Q2 At what stage should a startup engage a lawyer in India?

Ideally, before incorporation. Early legal advice on entity selection, founder equity splits, vesting schedules, and IP assignment prevents costly restructuring later. Investors during seed or Series A rounds expect clean cap tables and compliant documentation from day one.

Q3 Which Indian laws and regulators primarily govern startups?

The Companies Act, 2013 and MCA govern incorporation and corporate compliance. FEMA and RBI regulations apply to foreign investment. GST law covers indirect tax obligations. The IT Act and DPDP Act address data handling. SEBI regulations become relevant if the startup plans a public listing.

Q4 How long does it take to incorporate a startup in India?

A private limited company can typically be incorporated with MCA in 7 to 15 business days, assuming all documents are in order. Timelines extend if you need sector-specific licences, FEMA filings for foreign founders, or GST and shop establishment registrations post-incorporation.

Q5 What documents do founders need to begin the incorporation process?

Founders should prepare PAN and identity proof, address proof, passport-size photographs, a proposed company name list, registered office address proof, and a brief note on the business activity. Foreign founders additionally need apostilled passports and address proof with notarisation.

Q6 What common legal mistakes do Indian startups make early on?

Frequent pitfalls include skipping founder agreements, failing to assign IP from founders to the company, issuing equity without proper valuation, ignoring FEMA pricing guidelines for foreign investment, and missing statutory compliance deadlines with MCA or GST authorities. These create significant friction during due diligence.