# An Analytical Review of the Stand-Up India Scheme for First-Generation Entrepreneurs

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**Abstract:**
The Stand-Up India Scheme, launched in April 2016, was designed to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and women entrepreneurs by ensuring greater access to institutional credit. This study examines the performance of the scheme from its inception to 2024, covering eight years (2016–17 to 2024–25). A descriptive approach has been adopted, drawing upon reliable secondary data sources including government publications, Reserve Bank of India data, the Stand-Up Mitra portal, and other policy documents. The analysis focuses on loan sanctions, disbursements, and repayment patterns, highlighting year-wise trends and efficiency in fund utilisation. It also examines the geographical distribution of beneficiaries across states and union territories. It assesses whether bank branches are fulfilling the mandate of sanctioning loans to at least one SC, one ST, and one woman entrepreneur. Further, the study identifies key operational and procedural challenges such as low sanction-to-disbursement ratios, delays in fund release, and documentation barriers that continue to constrain the scheme's effectiveness. Although limited by reliance on secondary data, the findings provide a comprehensive and data-driven assessment of the scheme's progress, offering insights into its contributions to inclusive growth and the barriers that need to be addressed for its more substantial impact.

**Keywords**: Stand-Up India Scheme, SC, ST, women entrepreneurs, loan sanctions, disbursements, inclusive growth, financial inclusion, secondary data analysis.

## Introduction

The Stand-Up India Scheme, launched on April 5, 2016, is a government initiative designed to promote entrepreneurship at the grassroots level, with a focus on economic empowerment and job creation among marginalised communities. Extended until 2025, this scheme primarily targets women entrepreneurs, as well as members of the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST). It aims to support potential entrepreneurs who wish to establish businesses and contribute to the nation's socio-economic progress. By providing both financial assistance and support services, the scheme seeks to eliminate the barriers that have historically prevented marginalised groups from accessing entrepreneurial opportunities.

India's rapid economic growth has inspired many individuals across the country, particularly first-generation entrepreneurs from SC, ST, and women categories. These entrepreneurs aim not only to build sustainable businesses but also to create jobs and uplift their communities. The Stand-Up India Scheme is designed to turn these ambitions into reality by providing easy access to institutional finance, encouraging innovation, and fostering a business-friendly environment. It empowers individuals with the ideas, energy, and determination needed to make meaningful contributions to both local and national development.

The primary goal of the scheme is to facilitate bank loans for establishing new enterprises in manufacturing, services, trading, and agriculture-related activities. These activities include sectors like dairy farming, poultry, fisheries, beekeeping, livestock management, and agro-based industries, although crop loans and land development projects, such as irrigation systems, are excluded. A notable feature of the scheme is the requirement that every Scheduled Commercial Bank branch must approve loans for at least one SC borrower, one ST borrower, and one woman entrepreneur. This ensures that financial inclusion is not just a theoretical concept but is actively practised within the banking network.

Stand-Up India emphasises Greenfield projects—new ventures developed from the ground up without relying on existing infrastructure. By supporting such projects, the scheme promotes innovation and helps establish entirely new businesses, stimulating economic activity and encouraging self-reliance. Loans under the scheme range from ₹10 lakh to ₹ one crore and are intended for first-time entrepreneurs starting a business.

The loan structure is composite, covering both term loans for long-term assets and working capital for daily operations. The sanctioned amount typically covers up to 75% of the project cost, although this can be adjusted if the entrepreneur's contribution, along with support from other schemes, exceeds 25% of the cost. The interest rate remains affordable, capped at the bank’s lowest applicable rate, with a margin not exceeding MCLR + 3% plus a tenor premium. Repayment can be spread over a maximum of seven years, with a moratorium of up to eighteen months. For working capital up to ₹10 lakh, an overdraft facility with a Rupay debit card is provided, while amounts exceeding this are managed through cash credit limits.

In terms of security, banks require primary security and may also request collateral or choose to use a guarantee under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Stand-Up India Loans (CGFSIL). The margin money requirement has recently been reduced from 25% to 15% of the project cost, with a minimum contribution of 10% from the borrower. This change significantly lowers the entry barrier for marginalised entrepreneurs.

Eligibility criteria ensure that benefits reach the intended target groups. Applicants must be at least eighteen years old, starting their first Greenfield project, and must not have any default history with banks or financial institutions. In the case of non-individual enterprises, the majority (51% or more) of the shareholding must be held by SC, ST, or women entrepreneurs.

The application process is designed to be accessible and user-friendly. Beneficiaries can approach the scheme through three channels: by visiting bank branches, applying via the Stand-Up India online portal, or contacting the Lead District Manager (LDM). The portal categorises applicants into two groups—ready borrowers, who can apply directly, and trainee borrowers, who need additional support. Trainee borrowers receive assistance, which may include entrepreneurship training, financial literacy programs, help in preparing project reports, arranging workspace, connecting utilities, and support in obtaining margin money.
The importance of handholding support is vital to the scheme's success. Through the Stand-Up Mitra portal created by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), prospective entrepreneurs are connected to a network of over 8,000 agencies specialising in areas such as skill training, mentorship, entrepreneurship development programs, and business advisory services.

**Review of Literature**

Entrepreneurs are widely acknowledged as a driving force in economic development, contributing significantly to job creation and innovation (Rajora et al, 2023). In India, the need for over ten million jobs annually cannot be met solely by the government or large private corporations (Kalyani, 2016). Entrepreneurship not only generates self-employment but also creates opportunities for others, fostering broader economic growth (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation [MOSPI], 2012–2013). The rise of innovative young entrepreneurs has stimulated a wave of entrepreneurial activity, with emerging economies like India attracting foreign investors and benefiting from regulatory support, such as SEBI's relaxed funding norms for startups (Sharma et al, 2012).
Financial inclusion has become a national priority, especially during recession-like conditions (Ramya & Nivetha, 2019). A strong and inclusive financial system is essential for involving all sectors of the economy. The Stand-Up India Scheme, launched in 2016, specifically targets women and SC/ST entrepreneurs, aiming to create a supportive environment for first-time ventures in manufacturing, services, and trade (Sudha & Chitra, 2019). Each Scheduled Commercial Bank branch is required to provide loans between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore to at least one woman, one SC, and one ST entrepreneur (Dutta, 2018).
***1Source: Press Information Bureau***
The scheme offers multiple application channels—direct branch visits, the Stand-Up Mitra portal, and Lead District Managers (LDMs)—along with features like collateral-free loans backed by a Credit Guarantee Fund, overdraft facilities with Rupay debit cards, and grievance redressal mechanisms (Kumar, 2018). These measures are particularly beneficial for women entrepreneurs balancing household and business responsibilities, reducing procedural barriers to finance (Lande, 2019).
A SWOT analysis of the scheme identifies strengths such as its inclusive design, nationwide banking coverage, and focus on women-friendly sectors like services (Yadav & Gulati, 2019). Opportunities include expanding women's participation in diverse sectors, fostering economic independence, and enhancing skill development (Shivkumar, 2020). However, weaknesses include the ₹1 crore loan cap for capital-intensive industries, limited technological access in rural areas, and unequal access to subsidy-linked schemes compared to SC/ST beneficiaries (Wadichar et al, 2022). Threats involve insufficient loan monitoring, socio-cultural barriers, and the lack of structured training on modern technologies (Preeti et. al, 2024).

Studies show the scheme's positive impact as beneficiaries reported successful ventures, gained autonomy in decision-making, and experienced increased respect within their families and communities (Kadam & Meman, 2024). The scheme has also facilitated skill enhancement and integration into the broader economic framework, though workplace safety remains a concern, with only reporting a favourable environment (Adhana, 2016).

Within the broader entrepreneurship development program (EDP) ecosystem—comprising MUDRA, Startup India, and YUVA—the Stand-Up India Scheme occupies a unique position due to its focus on marginalised groups (Satsangi et al, 2025). Comparative evidence suggests that while MUDRA has been highly effective in expanding loan access, Stand-Up India addresses specific structural and cultural barriers for women entrepreneurs (Khuntia & Mishra, 2019). Policy recommendations include increasing the loan ceiling, expanding subsidy provisions, and strengthening monitoring systems (Manjunatha et al,2024).

Overall, the Stand-Up India Scheme is a targeted intervention aimed at bridging the financing gap for underrepresented entrepreneurs. Its structure addresses both economic and social barriers, with demonstrated potential for driving inclusive growth. However, sustained success will depend on continued policy innovation, technological capacity-building, and a strong commitment to gender equity in entrepreneurship (Sharma, 2022).

## Objectives of the Study

1. To evaluate the overall performance of the Stand-Up India Scheme in promoting entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women entrepreneurs from its inception to the present.
2. To analyse trends in loan sanctions, disbursements, and repayment performance across different financial years, identifying patterns in growth and efficiency.
3. To identify operational and procedural challenges such as low disbursement-to-sanction ratios, delays in fund release, documentation barriers, and other constraints faced by beneficiaries.

## Research Methodology

This study adopted a **descriptive Research Approach** to understand how the Stand-Up India Scheme has performed from its launch in **April 2016** up to the **latest available data in 2024**. It aims to present a clear picture of the scheme's progress and coverage in a simple, factual manner. Information is gathered from reliable secondary sources, including government reports, Ministry of Finance publications, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the Stand-Up Mitra portal, Reserve Bank of India data, and state/UT-wise performance records. Relevant press releases, policy documents, and research articles have also been referred to for context.

The data spans the entire period from **2016–17 to 2024–25 (till the latest reporting month)**, allowing year-by-year analysis of how many loans were sanctioned and how many were disbursed. It also shows the distribution of loans between Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women entrepreneurs, along with performance differences among states and union territories.

For analysis, simple statistical tools such as percentages, ratios, and comparisons are applied to identify patterns—such as changes in the loan disbursement efficiency and the geographic spread of beneficiaries. The study also examines whether bank branches are meeting the scheme's mandate of sanctioning loans to at least one SC borrower, one ST borrower, and one woman entrepreneur.

Some limitations exist because the research relies only on secondary data, which may have minor reporting delays or inconsistencies. Also, no primary data or field surveys are used, so it does not capture the personal experiences of beneficiaries. Nevertheless, the approach provides a reliable and data-driven overview of the scheme's coverage and functioning over the eight years from its inception in April 2016 to the most recent data in 2024.

**Results and Discussion**

The analysis was based on state-wise and year-wise data drawn from secondary sources, covering the period from 2016–17 to 2024–25. The purpose of this exercise was not only to quantify the outreach of the scheme but also to evaluate its inclusiveness, efficiency, and emerging challenges in implementation. The study was conducted to identify both the achievements and challenges of the Stand-Up India Scheme. By examining sanctioned and disbursed loans across states and social categories, the analysis reveals how the scheme has succeeded in creating opportunities while also exposing the constraints that need urgent policy attention. The focus on SC, ST, and women entrepreneurs was deliberate, as these groups have historically been excluded from formal credit systems and entrepreneurial ecosystems. Understanding their participation indicates how far the scheme has succeeded in achieving financial inclusion and inclusive growth.

The results highlight that the Stand-Up India Scheme has achieved steady expansion since its launch, particularly in terms of outreach to marginalised sections. A significant increase is observed in both the number of accounts sanctioned and the loan amounts disbursed. Women entrepreneurs have consistently remained the largest group of beneficiaries, which reflects the scheme's alignment with the national agenda of women's empowerment. At the same time, the growth rates recorded for SC and ST entrepreneurs have been comparatively higher, suggesting that the scheme is gradually balancing its impact across different target groups. This pattern demonstrates how the scheme has achieved its core objective of fostering inclusive entrepreneurship.

The present study evaluates the Performance of the Stand-Up India Scheme through Multiple Indicators to capture its outreach, inclusivity and financial efficiency. These Indicators are discussed below

1. Trends in Sanctioned Accounts and Loan Amounts (2016–2024)
2. Distribution of Beneficiaries across Social Categories
3. Regional Analysis of Scheme Progress (2022–2024)
4. State and Union Territory–Wise Beneficiary Details (2021–2024)
5. Financial Efficiency of Loan Disbursement
6. Overall Assessment

Overall, these findings collectively present the status of the Stand-Up India Scheme, revealing its achievements in promoting entrepreneurship among marginalised groups while also highlighting the gaps in regional balance and disbursement efficiency.

Taken together, the trends, distributional patterns, regional variations, and financial efficiency present a comprehensive picture of the Stand-Up India Scheme. The findings indicate significant achievements in fostering women's entrepreneurship and expanding outreach, while also revealing disparities across social groups and regions, as well as challenges in ensuring timely disbursement. These results provide a strong foundation for policy recommendations aimed at enhancing the scheme's inclusivity and effectiveness.


**Achievements of the Stand-Up India Scheme**

1. **Expanding Entrepreneurial Access**
   - A total of **2,99,274 applications** have been received under the scheme, showing its broad reach among aspiring entrepreneurs.
2. **Strong Financial Support**
   - Applications worth **₹70,486.05 crore** have been mobilised, reflecting the significant role of the scheme in enabling credit flow to new businesses.
3. **High Sanction Rate**
   - Out of the total applications, **2,75,321 have been sanctioned**, indicating that the majority of applicants were successfully supported.
   - The **sanctioned loan amount stands at ₹62,807.46 crore**, which demonstrates the government's commitment to backing entrepreneurs financially.
4. **Institutional Support Network**
   - **24,613 Handholding Agencies (HHAs)** are actively helping entrepreneurs with guidance, training, and capacity-building support.
   - **4,663 HHA requests** show that entrepreneurs are making use of this structured mentorship support.
5. **Lender and Branch Outreach**
   - **79 lenders** have been onboarded, ensuring that credit access is available across the banking system.
   - With **1,49,710 bank branches connected**, the scheme has built a vast financial outreach network, taking entrepreneurship support to the grassroots.

**Year-wise Sanctioned Accounts and Loan Amounts under Stand-Up India for SC, ST, and Women Beneficiaries (2016–2025)**

| Amount in Crore | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SC | | ST | | Women | | Total | |
| Year | No of Account | Sanctioned amount | No of Account | Sanctioned amount | No of Account | Sanctioned amount | No of Account | Sanctioned amount |
| **2016-17** | 2625 | NA | 731 | NA | 12262 | NA | 15618 | NA |
| **2017-18** | 7086 | 1344.7 | 2162 | 427.79 | 41639 | 9214.47 | 50887 | 10986.96 |
| **(COVID-19 Pandemic)** | | | | | | | | |
| **2020-21** | 14880 | 3049.7 | 4397 | 937.87 | 85955 | 19594.27 | 105232 | 23578.84 |
| **2021-22** | 18553 | 3814.84 | 6273 | 1335.88 | 106126 | 24343.08 | 130950 | 29493.80 |
| **2022-23** | 23554 | 4928.03 | 7718 | 1661.22 | 127165 | 29297.69 | 158437 | 35886.94 |
| **2023-24** | 37433 | 7908.24 | 12578 | 2702.49 | 175530 | 40251.20 | 225541 | 20861.75 |
| **2024-25** | 48548 | 10264.36 | 15824 | 3377.84 | 194152 | 44768.04 | 258524 | 58392.25 |
| **Mean** | **21811.3** | **5218.3** | **7097.6** | **1491.9** | **106118.4** | **23924.1** | **135027** | **25600.1** |
| **S. Dev** | **16358.1** | **3600.9** | **5468.6** | **1206.9** | **66312.4** | **16008.2** | **87782.6** | **18671.5** |
| **CAGR** | **56.5%** | **46.1%** | **60.9%** | **48%** | **51.1%** | **34%** | **52.5%** | **26.3%** |

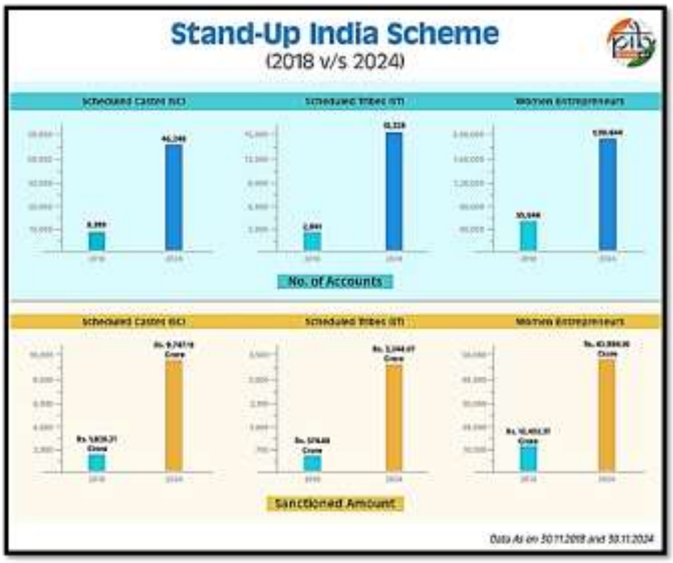
Source: Annual Report, Ministry of Finance, India

The table shows the year-by-year progress of the Stand-Up India Scheme, focusing on beneficiaries from the Scheduled Castes (SC), the Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women, along with total figures. The data covers the years from 2016-17 to 2024-25, excluding 2018-19 and 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the early years, the scheme had a modest reach, with SC accounts rising from 2,625 in 2016-17 to 7,086 in 2017-18, ST accounts increasing from 731 to 2,162, and women's accounts surging from 12,262 to 41,639. The pandemic year 2020-21 still showed significant growth, especially among women, who had over 85,000 accounts with sanctioned loans exceeding ₹19,500 crore. After the pandemic, the scheme expanded rapidly, and by 2024-25, SC beneficiaries had 48,548 accounts with ₹10,264.36 crore sanctioned, ST beneficiaries had 15,824 accounts with ₹3,377.84 crore, and women had 1,94,152 accounts with loans worth ₹44,768.04 crore. Analysis reveals that women consistently accounted for the highest number of accounts and sanctioned amounts. However, SC and ST groups recorded higher compound annual growth rates (CAGR) of 56.5% and 60.9% respectively, compared to 52.5% for women. The high standard deviations, especially for women, suggest large year-to-year fluctuations. Overall, the data highlights a strong upward trend in the scheme's outreach and financial support, with notable post-COVID acceleration and increasing inclusion of marginalised groups.

**Percentage Distribution of Women, SC, and ST Beneficiaries in Stand-Up India (2016–2024)**

| Sr. No. | Financial Year | Percentage of Women (Gen.) | Percentage of SC Men | Percentage of SC Women | Percentage of ST Men | Percentage of ST Women |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2016-17 | 80% | 11% | 4% | 4% | 1% |
| 2 | 2017-18 | 83% | 10% | 4% | 2% | 1% |
| 3 | 2019-20 | 82% | 8% | 4% | 4% | 2% |
| 4 | 2019-20 | 81% | 8% | 4% | 5% | 2% |
| 5 | 2020-21 | 77% | 13% | 4% | 4% | 2% |
| 6 | 2021-22 | 75% | 12% | 7% | 4% | 2% |
| 7 | 2022-23 | 78% | 12% | 4% | 4% | 2% |
| 8 | 2023-24 | 70% | 15% | 8% | 5% | 2% |
| 9 | 2024-25 (Till June 2024) | 65% | 20% | 5% | 8% | 2% |
| Source: SIDBI | | | | | | |

This table summarises the gender-wise percentage share of beneficiaries under the Stand-Up India Scheme from 2016-17 to June 2024, with separate figures for general category women, Scheduled Caste (SC) men and women, and Scheduled Tribe (ST) men and women. General category women form the majority of beneficiaries throughout the period, beginning at 80% in 2016-17, peaking at 83% in 2017-18, and then gradually declining to 65% in 2024-25 (up to June). SC men's share ranges from 8% to 20%, with a noticeable upward trend in recent years. SC women remain relatively stable, mainly between 4% and 5%, with some increases to 7% and 8% in certain years. ST men consistently constitute 2% to 5% of the beneficiaries, with a sharp rise to 8% in 2024-25. ST women hold the smallest share, typically around 1% to 2%, with minimal variation over the years. Overall, while the scheme has predominantly benefited general category women, the distribution pattern over time indicates increasing representation of SC and ST men, along with a steady but slight presence of SC and ST women. The decline in the percentage share of general category women in later years suggests that the scheme's outreach is becoming more inclusive across diverse social groups.



**Progress of Stand-Up India Accounts Sanctioned across States/UTs: A Three-Year Comparative Analysis (2022–2024)**

| S. No. | State/UT | As of Mar'22 | As of Mar'23 | As of Mar'24 | As of 31.10.2024 | Growth in 3 years | Percentage Increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 254 | 321 | 362 | 379 | 125 | 49.2% |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 8083 | 10674 | 13508 | 14395 | 6312 | 78.1% |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | 356 | 486 | 631 | 863 | 507 | 142.4% |
| 4 | Assam | 2182 | 2598 | 3124 | 3447 | 1265 | 58.0% |
| 5 | Bihar | 5031 | 6522 | 7650 | 8722 | 3691 | 73.4% |
| 6 | Chandigarh | 483 | 561 | 640 | 667 | 184 | 38.1% |
| 7 | Chhattisgarh | 3137 | 3788 | 4516 | 4970 | 1833 | 58.4% |
| 8 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu | 107 | 130 | 148 | 167 | 60 | 56.1% |
| 9 | Delhi | 4764 | 5212 | 5811 | 6082 | 1318 | 27.7% |
| 10 | Goa | 489 | 612 | 792 | 888 | 399 | 81.6% |
| 11 | Gujarat | 10417 | 13237 | 16154 | 17596 | 7179 | 68.9% |
| 12 | Haryana | 4746 | 6086 | 7166 | 7826 | 3080 | 64.9% |
| 13 | Himachal Pradesh | 1840 | 2423 | 2917 | 3231 | 1391 | 75.6% |
| 14 | Jammu & Kashmir | 1205 | 1397 | 1588 | 1655 | 450 | 37.3% |
| 15 | Jharkhand | 2698 | 3222 | 3821 | 4177 | 1479 | 54.8% |
| 16 | Karnataka | 8866 | 12753 | 14783 | 15883 | 7017 | 79.1% |
| 17 | Kerala | 4018 | 6162 | 8653 | 9474 | 5456 | 135.8% |
| 18 | Ladakh | 183 | 373 | 507 | 629 | 446 | 243.7% |
| 19 | Lakshadweep | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0.0 |
| 20 | Madhya Pradesh | 6232 | 8167 | 11066 | 12545 | 6313 | 101.3% |
| 21 | Maharashtra | 12011 | 16845 | 20942 | 23271 | 11260 | 93.7% |
| 22 | Manipur | 305 | 398 | 430 | 461 | 156 | 51.1% |
| 23 | Meghalaya | 296 | 365 | 534 | 628 | 332 | 112.2% |
| 24 | Mizoram | 424 | 533 | 604 | 640 | 216 | 50.9% |
| 25 | Nagaland | 539 | 690 | 845 | 916 | 377 | 69.9% |
| 26 | Odisha | 4769 | 5935 | 6839 | 7390 | 2621 | 55.0% |
| 27 | Puducherry | 335 | 397 | 462 | 525 | 190 | 56.7% |
| 28 | Punjab | 4791 | 6324 | 7799 | 8522 | 3731 | 77.9% |
| 29 | Rajasthan | 7031 | 9449 | 11595 | 13530 | 6499 | 92.4% |
| 30 | Sikkim | 400 | 498 | 573 | 641 | 241 | 60.3% |
| 31 | Tamil Nadu | 15412 | 18828 | 21836 | 24987 | 9575 | 62.1% |
| 32 | Telangana | 8497 | 9633 | 11895 | 13155 | 4658 | 54.8% |
| 33 | Tripura | 301 | 392 | 519 | 581 | 280 | 93.0% |
| 34 | Uttar Pradesh | 16929 | 19763 | 23782 | 25819 | 8890 | 52.5% |
| 35 | Uttarakhand | 2467 | 2748 | 3117 | 3451 | 984 | 39.% |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36 | West Bengal | 9158 | 11125 | 12693 | 13670 | 4512 | 49.3% |
| | Total | 148759 | 188650 | 228305 | 251786 | 103027 | 69.3% |

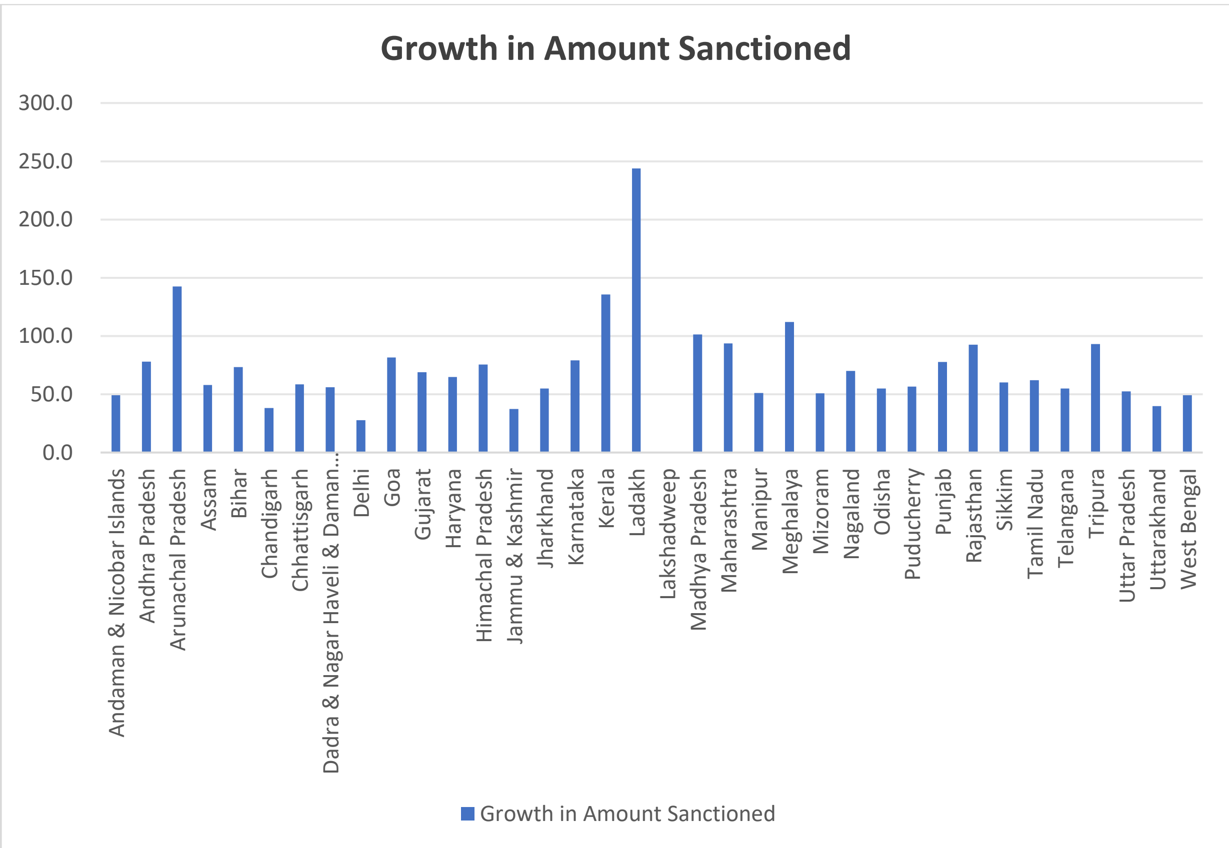
Source: State-wise data on www.pib.com available till Dec 2022

The table displays the cumulative growth in the number of accounts sanctioned under the Stand-Up India Scheme across all states and union territories from March 2022 to 31 October 2024, along with the absolute increase and percentage growth during this period. The total sanctioned accounts rose from 1,48,759 in March 2022 to 2,51,786 by October 2024, reflecting an overall increase of 1,03,027 accounts, which amounts to a 69.3% rise in just over two and a half years.

Several states recorded exceptional growth rates. Arunachal Pradesh showed the highest percentage increase at 125.8%, followed closely by Nagaland (69.9%), Gujarat (69%), and Telangana (47.5%). Large states with vigorous entrepreneurial activity, such as Uttar Pradesh (growth of 8,890 accounts, 52.5% increase), Tamil Nadu (9,575 accounts, 62.1% increase), and Maharashtra (10,260 accounts, 85.4% increase), contributed significantly to the nationwide rise.

In absolute terms, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh emerged as the top contributors to the total increase, indicating both high demand for loans and effective implementation of the scheme in these states. Smaller territories like Lakshadweep and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands also experienced positive changes, though their numerical contributions were limited due to smaller populations.

Overall, the data reflects both geographical diversity and consistent upward momentum in the scheme's outreach, with notable successes in states that have invested in promoting entrepreneurship and improving credit accessibility for targeted beneficiaries, including women and marginalised communities.



**State and Union territory–wise details of beneficiaries under the Stand-Up India Scheme, including women entrepreneurs**, for the three years **from April 2021 to March 2024**.

| Sr. No. | State/ UT | No. of Loans Disbursed |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS | 61 |
| 2 | ANDHRA PRADESH | 4711 |
| 3 | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | 130 |
| 4 | ASSAM | 403 |
| 5 | BIHAR | 2582 |
| 6 | CHANDIGARH | 92 |
| 7 | CHHATTISGARH | 1158 |
| 8 | DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU | 37 |
| 9 | DELHI | 465 |
| 10 | GOA | 148 |
| 11 | GUJARAT | 2958 |
| 12 | HARYANA | 1338 |
| 13 | HIMACHAL PRADESH | 335 |
| 14 | JAMMU AND KASHMIR | 217 |
| 15 | JHARKHAND | 984 |
| 16 | KARNATAKA | 4079 |
| 17 | KERALA | 2242 |
| 18 | LADAKH | 89 |
| 19 | LAKSHADWEEP | 0 |
| 20 | MADHYA PRADESH | 3698 |
| 21 | MAHARASHTRA | 4248 |
| 22 | MANIPUR | 86 |
| 23 | MEGHALAYA | 139 |
| 24 | MIZORAM | 114 |
| 25 | NAGALAND | 169 |
| 26 | ODISHA | 2061 |
| 27 | PUDUCHERRY | 29 |
| 28 | PUNJAB | 1394 |
| 29 | RAJASTHAN | 2316 |
| 30 | SIKKIM | 30 |
| 31 | TAMIL NADU | 3219 |
| 32 | TELANGANA | 1316 |
| 33 | TRIPURA | 73 |
| 34 | UTTAR PRADESH | 4245 |
| 35 | UTTARAKHAND | 264 |
| 36 | WEST BENGAL | 2358 |
| Grand Total | | 48948 |
| Source: State-wise data on www.pib.com available till Dec 2022 | | |

The data illustrates how the Stand-Up India Scheme has reached various states and union territories over the three years from April 2021 to March 2024, focusing on supporting women entrepreneurs alongside other eligible beneficiaries. During this time, a total of 48,948 loans were disbursed nationwide.
Some states stand out for their high participation. **Andhra Pradesh (4,711 loans)**, **Karnataka (4,079 loans)**, **Maharashtra (4,248 loans)**, **Uttar Pradesh (4,245 loans)**, and **Tamil Nadu (3,219 loans)** were among the top-performing regions, reflecting strong uptake and possibly better awareness and implementation mechanisms in these areas. States like **Madhya Pradesh (3,698 loans)**, **Gujarat (2,958 loans)**, and **Bihar (2,582 loans)** also recorded significant disbursal figures, showing active engagement with the scheme.
In contrast, some regions recorded very few loans, such as **Lakshadweep (0), Dadra** and **Nagar Haveli** and **Daman and Diu (37)**, and **Andaman and Nicobar Islands (61)**. These lower figures may be due to smaller populations, limited banking outreach, or lesser awareness of the scheme.
Overall, the data emphasises that the scheme has not only achieved extensive geographical coverage but has also concentrated notably in states with larger populations and stronger entrepreneurial ecosystems. The inclusion of women entrepreneurs in this count indicates that the scheme continues to serve as a key instrument for promoting inclusive growth and encouraging first-generation entrepreneurs across the country.

**Financial Year-wise Analysis of Loans Sanctioned, Disbursed, and Undisbursed with Disbursement Percentage**

| Sr. No. | Financial Year | No. of Loans Sanctioned | No. of Loans Disbursed | Undisbursed | % of Loans Disbursed out of Sanctioned |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2016-17 | 37875 | 33504 | 4371 | 88.45940594 |
| 2 | 2017-18 | 33041 | 26039 | 7002 | 78.80814745 |
| 3 | 2018-19 | 22224 | 15898 | 6326 | 71.53527718 |
| 4 | 2019-20 | 20256 | 13483 | 6773 | 66.56299368 |
| 5 | 2020-21 | 15616 | 10441 | 5175 | 66.86091189 |
| 6 | 2021-22 | 19749 | 12259 | 7490 | 62.07402906 |
| 7 | 2022-23 | 39907 | 19872 | 20035 | 49.79577518 |
| 8 | 2023-24 | 39643 | 17374 | 22269 | 43.82614837 |
| 9 | 2024-25 (Till June 2024) | 7152 | 2743 | 4409 | 38.35290828 |

Source: SIDBI

The table presents the year-wise trend of loans sanctioned and disbursed from 2016-17 to June 2024, along with the undisbursed figures and the percentage of loans disbursed relative to sanctions. In 2016-17, the scheme recorded the highest disbursement efficiency, with 88.46% of sanctioned loans being released to beneficiaries, leaving only 4,371 loans undisbursed. However, over the years, this percentage steadily declined, falling to 78.81% in 2017-18 and further to 66.56% by 2019-20. A notable drop occurred from 2021-22 onwards, with the disbursement rate dipping below two-thirds of sanctioned loans. The trend became more concerning in 2022-23 and 2023-24, when less than half of the sanctioned loans were disbursed, and undisbursed loans crossed 20,000 each year. By 2024-25 (up to June 2024), the disbursement rate had declined to just 38.35%, indicating significant challenges in converting sanctioned

loans into actual financial support. This pattern suggests possible bottlenecks in implementation, increased post-sanction rejections, or difficulties faced by beneficiaries in meeting the conditions required for loan release.
The results highlight that the Stand-Up India Scheme has achieved steady expansion since its launch, particularly in terms of outreach to marginalised sections. A significant increase is observed in both the number of accounts sanctioned and the loan amounts disbursed. Women entrepreneurs have consistently remained the largest group of beneficiaries, which reflects the scheme's alignment with the national agenda of women's empowerment. At the same time, the growth rates recorded for SC and ST entrepreneurs have been comparatively higher, suggesting that the scheme is gradually balancing its impact across different target groups. This pattern demonstrates how the scheme has achieved its core objective of fostering inclusive entrepreneurship.
The state-wise data provides deeper insights into regional patterns of uptake. Larger and industrially advanced states such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh emerged as top contributors in terms of absolute numbers of sanctioned loans and total amounts disbursed. Their higher base of economic activity and stronger banking infrastructure facilitated broader outreach. On the other hand, smaller states and Union Territories such as Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, though limited in absolute figures, recorded remarkable percentage increases. This finding is significant as it demonstrates that the scheme has also been able to penetrate less-developed regions and bring underserved populations into the entrepreneurial fold. The regional variations, therefore, underline both the strengths and the unevenness in the implementation process, suggesting the need for more targeted interventions in backwards states.

**Conclusion:**
Overall, the discussion highlights a mixed picture. On one hand, the scheme has been instrumental in mobilising large numbers of first-generation entrepreneurs and extending credit to groups previously sidelined. On the other hand, the declining efficiency of disbursement suggests that structural reforms are needed in banking processes and in the support ecosystem to sustain the scheme's momentum. The findings thus point to the dual reality of progress and persistent challenges, making it clear that policy refinements will be critical in the years ahead, as the Stand-Up India Scheme has played a significant role in expanding opportunities for entrepreneurs, particularly women and those from SC and ST communities. While women continue to dominate in terms of participation, the representation of SC and ST groups has also improved over time. A closer look at state-level trends highlights both numerical growth and percentage-based progress, showing that the scheme's impact varies across regions. However, one area of concern is the consistent decline in loan disbursement efficiency, which points to the need for better post-sanction processes and reduced bureaucratic hurdles. Addressing these gaps will ensure that aspiring entrepreneurs receive timely financial support. Overall, the scheme has proven to be an important driver of inclusive development, but sustained momentum will depend on how effectively emerging challenges are managed.

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