

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

No. SDTE-SD-MISC-0013-2022 2497 / SDTE, Bhubaneswar, Dated 11/03/24

Sub:- Guidelines for Nano Unicorn scheme.

Consequent upon introduction of Nano Unicorn scheme on promotion of entrepreneurship at grassroots level issued vide SD&TE Department Notification No. 1558 dt.21.02.2024, Government have been pleased to approve the detailed "Guidelines for Nano Unicorn scheme".

The same is published hereby for information of all concerned and necessary action for smooth implementation of the said scheme.

ORDER: Ordered that the Notification be published in the Extra-ordinary issue of Odisha gazette and copy of the same be supplied to All Departments of Government/ All Heads of Departments/ Assembly Secretariat/ Accountant General (A&E), Bhubaneswar.

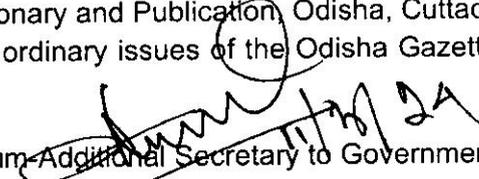
By order of the Governor,


(Usha Padhee) 11/3/2024

Principal Secretary to Government

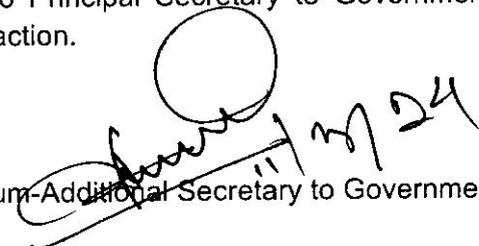
Memo No. 2498 /SDTE, Bhubaneswar, Dated the 11/03/24

Copy forwarded to Director of Printing & Stationary and Publication, Odisha, Cuttack with request to publish the Notification in the Extra ordinary issues of the Odisha Gazette and supply 30 (Thirty) copies to this Department.


OSD-cum-Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 2499 /SDTE, Bhubaneswar, Dated the 11/03/24

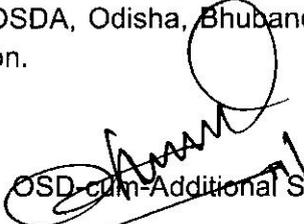
Copy forwarded to Principal Secretary to Governor, Odisha/ P.S to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha/ Private Secretary to Hon'ble Minister, SD&TE/ OSD to Chief Secretary, Odisha/ Private Secretary to DC-cum-ACS to Government /Additional Secretary to Government, SD&TE Department-cum-OSD to Chairperson, OSDA/ Principal Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to Government, SD&TE Department for information and necessary action.


OSD-cum-Additional Secretary to Government



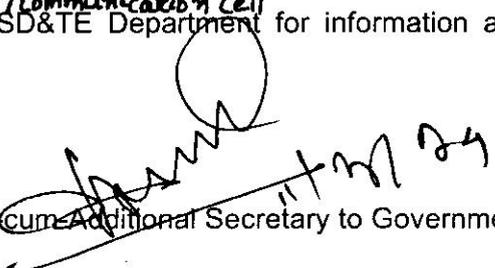
Memo No. 2500 /SDTE, Bhubaneswar, Dated the 11/03/24

Copy forwarded to Principal Accountant General (A&E), Odisha, Bhubaneswar/
CEO, WSC, Bhubaneswar/DE-cum-CEO, OSDA, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/ DTE&T, Odisha,
Cuttack for information and necessary action.


OSD-cum-Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 2501 /SDTE, Bhubaneswar, Dated the 11/03/24

Copy forwarded to all Collector-cum-DMs/ all District Skill Development-cum-
Employment Officers/ all Officers/ Sections/ of SD&TE Department for information and
necessary action.


OSD-cum-Additional Secretary to Government



Guidelines for The Nano Unicorn Scheme

**Skill Development & Technical Education Department
Government of Odisha**

Executive Summary

The 'Nano Unicorn' Scheme aims at empowering skilled youth by fostering entrepreneurship to address issues like rural youth migration and unemployment. The scheme will support 1200 Nano Unicorns between FY 2023-24 to 2025-26 by providing refundable seed funding upto ₹ 1 lakh each.

The scheme envisages mentoring and handholding support to the Nano Unicorns apart from the refundable seed funding to ensure sustainability.

The scheme will cover all the 30 Districts of the States with focus on 10 aspirational districts. Steering Committee under the chairpersonship of Principal Secretary, Skill Development & Technical Education will be apex body for policy formulation and strategic direction while the Executive Committee headed by the Director, Skill Development cum Employment will oversee the implementation of the scheme.

Acronym and Abbreviation

1. ACS - Additional Chief Secretary
2. AG - Accountant General
3. CEO - Chief Executive Officer
4. COO - Chief Operating Officer
5. DBT - Direct Benefit Transfer
6. DSDM - District Skill Development Mission
7. DSDEO - District Skill Development & Employment Office
8. DSEC - District Skill Executive Committee
9. DTE&T - Directorate of Technical Education & Training
10. EDP - Entrepreneurship Development Program
11. FY - Financial Year
12. ITI - Industrial Training Institute
13. MBA - Master of Business Administration
14. NUA Odisha - Nutana Unnata Abhilasha (NUA) Odisha
15. OPDR Act - Orissa Public Demands Recovery Act
16. PLTP - Placement Linked Training Program
17. PwDs - Persons with Disabilities
18. SCs - Scheduled Castes
19. SSS - State Sector Scheme
20. STs - Scheduled Tribes
21. STT - Short Term Training
22. SD&TE - Skill Development & Technical Education
23. WSC - World Skill Centre

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2. Implementation Strategy

2.1. Implementing Agency:

- a. The Scheme will be implemented by Directorate of Skill Development-cum-Employment, Bhubaneswar (DSDE) with the support of District Skill Development-cum-Employment Officers (DSDEO).

2.2. Implementing Partner:

- a. An implementation partner (an agency having relevant experience in implementing similar government programmes) to be engaged by DSDE, Bhubaneswar for management of the programme including facilitating selection of candidates, developing course curriculum and offering Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), developing necessary Standard Operating Procedures, providing mentoring support and assisting the Steering Committee, Executive Committee and the District Level Executive Committee in overall monitoring of the scheme. Preference shall be given to those agencies, who has already been involved in implementing Nano Unicorn Scheme.
- b. 400 Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs will be selected every year from amongst the 30 Districts and from the special projects recommended by Line Departments. Tentative Distribution of Targets will be done basis the following:

Districts	No. of Nano Unicorn Entrepreneur per District	Nano Unicorn Entrepreneur per year
10 Aspirational Districts <i>(Balangir, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, and Rayagada)</i>	20	200
20 Remaining Districts	10	200
Total	30	400

- c. Final distribution will depend on the quality of applications received, special projects recommended by line departments, etc.

2.3. Criteria for Selection of Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs

- a. Skilled-In-Odisha youth in the age group 18-35 years.
- b. Candidates having an entrepreneurial mindset and intended to set up a business with a plan excluding fast food business, manufacturing/trade of single use plastic.
- c. Priority shall be given to female Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs (a minimum of 33% women). For inclusivity, priority shall also be given to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), Transgenders, STs, SCs and other marginalised groups as per provisions and no. of applications received.

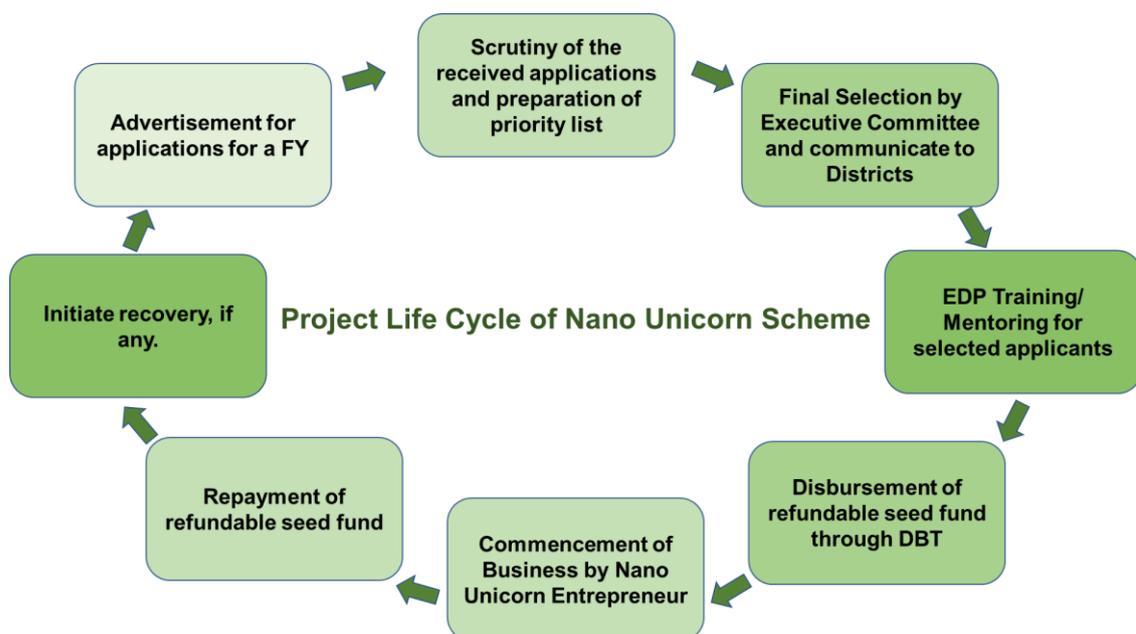
- d. Special consideration may be given to candidates approaching the age limit if they exhibit strong entrepreneurial qualities.
- e. Applicants must not be employed currently and shall submit an undertaking to that effect.
- f. The selected candidates commit to employing at least one or more persons in their enterprise.
- g. Applicants shall be encouraged to invest their own capital to enhance their business prospects.

Individuals who have previously accessed loans through any similar state/central Government schemes shall not be eligible under the Nano Unicorn Scheme.

Similarly, candidates who are currently defaulters under any similar scheme or from nationalized/private banks or financial institutions will not be eligible for consideration.

2.4. Project Life cycle

Nano Unicorn Project Life cycle starts with the identification/ selection of Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs and ends with the repayment of refundable seed fund. Stages of implementation of the scheme are outlined below:



a. Advertisement for applications:

DSDE, Bhubaneswar will issue advertisement for inviting applications from eligible youths. Promotional campaigns to be undertaken for wide-scale publicity of the scheme through print and social media, and through its institutions offering skill development programmes like ITIs, Polytechnics, World Skill Centre, and various empanelled short term training providers.

g. Repayment and Recovery of refundable seed fund

Repayment and Recovery of the refundable seed fund shall be done as elaborated in Chapter 4 of the guidelines.

2.5. Adherence to existing laws

The Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs shall have to comply with the State/ Central Government laws and rules like Taxation Laws, Environmental Laws, Consumer Protection Laws, Application & Enforcement of the OPDR Act-1962., etc.



3. Administrative Mechanism

The Nano Unicorn Scheme will be implemented through a 3-tier structure as illustrated below:



3.1. Nano Unicorn Steering Committee (SC):

a. Composition:

The composition of the Steering Committee will be as given below:

1.	ACS/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary, Skill Development & Technical Education, Department	Chairperson
2.	Financial Adviser, Skill Development & Technical Education, Department	Member
3.	Additional Secretary, SD&TE in charge of Nano Unicorn	Member
4.	Additional Secretary-cum-Chief Operating Officer (COO), World Skill Centre	Member
5.	Representative of the Implementation Partner	Member
6.	Director, Skill Development-cum-Employment	Member Convener

*Representatives from other Line Departments and other subject experts to be invited as special invitees as and when required by the Chairperson.

b. Roles & Responsibilities:

The Nano Unicorn-Steering Committee will

- i. Provide broad policy direction, overarching strategies, and decide the financial norms for various activities for effective implementation of the Scheme.

- ii. Deliberate and approve the proposals recommended by Executive Committee, if any.
- iii. Modification in Scheme Guidelines in the implementation process to provide a well-defined course of action.
- iv. Selection of an implementation partner for supporting the implementation of scheme.
- v. Facilitate coordination with relevant stakeholders for monitoring the progress of and introduce mid-course corrections if necessary to enhance effectiveness.

3.2. Nano Unicorn Executive Committee (EC)

a. Composition

The composition of the Executive Committee will be as given below:

1.	Director, Skill Development-cum-Employment	Chairperson
2.	Additional Secretary, SDTE in charge of Nano Unicorn	Member
3.	Additional Director, Directorate of Technical Education and Training (DTE&T)	Member
4.	Additional Secretary-cum-Chief Operating Officer (COO), World Skill Centre or representative	Member
5.	Accounts Officer, Directorate of Skill Development & Employment	Member
6.	Chief Technology Officer, OSDA	Member
7.	Representative from the Implementation Partner	Member
8.	Officer in charge of Nano Unicorn Scheme in Directorate of Skill Development-cum-Employment	Member Convenor

b. Roles and Responsibilities:

The Nano Unicorn-Executive Committee will

- i. Finalize the list of Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs from the priority list recommended by Nano Unicorn DSEC.
- ii. Ensure that the Directorate of Skill Development and Employment shall release of the refundable seed fund to the selected Nano Unicorns' bank accounts the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- iii. Review the progress of systematic record-keeping to maintain transparency in the disbursement process.
- iv. Ensure the repayment at the State level through the Directorate of Skill Development & Employment.

3.3. Nano Unicorn DSEC

a. Composition:

The existing District Skill Executive Committee (DSEC) constituted under NUA Odisha Scheme will also act as the Nano Unicorn DSEC. The committee may

however invite the representative of the Implementing Partner as a special invitee in its meetings.

b. Roles and Responsibilities:

The Nano Unicorn-District Skill Executive Committee will

- i. Scrutinize the applications as per the predetermined selection criteria and personal discussions or interviews with applicants.
- ii. Conduct an interview to objectively assess and prepare a priority list by ranking the applicants.
- iii. Prepare the district-wise priority list of along with the key details like address, bank account details, intended business type etc. and to submit to the Nano Unicorn Executive Committee for approval and preparation of final list.
- iv. Provide handholding assistance to the Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs with the help of implementation partner.



4. Financial Management

4.1. Budget for the Scheme

The Nano Unicorn Scheme with an outlay of ₹13.56 crore for three years FY 2023-24 to 2025-26 will be implemented as a State Sector Scheme (SSS) with 100% funding from the State Budget. The budget is given below:

Details	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total (₹ Crore)
Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs to be covered (In Nos.)	400	400	400	1,200
Refundable Seed Funding	4.00	4.00	4.00	12.00
EDP Training / Mentoring	0.40	0.40	0.40	1.20
Administrative Expenditure (3 %)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.36
Total	4.52	4.52	4.52	13.56

4.2. EDP Training / Mentoring

The budget under this component will be made available to the Implementation Partner for organizing the EDP Training of the selected Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs. Diverse aspects such as business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, risk assessment, and other critical components necessary for fostering sustainable and successful entrepreneurship, etc. shall be covered under the EDP.

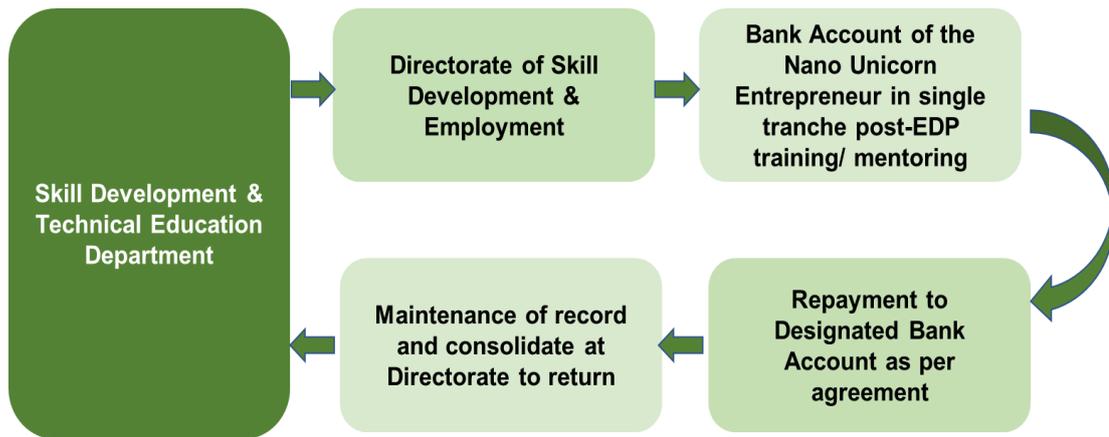
4.3. Administrative Expenditure

Upto 3% of the budget limited to actuals to be utilised towards administrative expenditure.

4.4. Fund flow mechanism

- The SD&TE Department will release the funds to Directorate of Skill Development-cum-Employment.
- Directorate of Skill Development-cum-Employment will subsequently release the refundable seed fund of ₹ 1 lakh to the Bank Account of the Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs in single tranche, based on the final list of Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs post completion of EDP training.
- After operationalisation of the business activity, the Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs shall initiate the repayment to the Designated Bank Account in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed upon.
- At the end, the Directorate of Skill Development & Employment in consultation with the SD&TE Department shall refund the principal and accrued interest amount, as per the established procedures.

Fund flow mechanism



4.5. Repayment schedule and interest calculation

- a. The Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs must start their businesses using the refundable seed fund of ₹1,00,000, released in the first year, with no interest during that time.
- b. Repayment shall begin from the second year in twenty instalments *i.e.*, from 13th month onwards and shall be completed by the 32nd month.
- c. Interest shall be charged from the second and third year at 4% and 8% p.a., respectively and shall be repaid in maximum of two instalments during 33rd to 36th month.
- d. No interest will be charged if repaid in the first year, and pre-payments will incur interest only for the remaining period on the average monthly outstanding amount pertaining to the second and third years.
- e. An Indicative Repayment Schedule is given at **Annexure-I** and **II** for reference.

4.6. Audit

Audit of the scheme would be conducted by the Accountant General (A.G), Odisha, as per the existing statutes.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1. Monitoring of the Scheme

A robust monitoring mechanism shall be put in place under the Scheme to ensure effective implementation of the various components under the Nano Unicorn scheme.

- a. The District Skill Executive Committee (DSEC) shall monitor the implementation of the Nano Unicorn Scheme at the District level.
- b. DSDEOs shall conduct periodic field visit or interact with the Nano Unicorn Entrepreneurs to ensure effective implementation of the scheme.
- c. The Implementation Partner shall also monitor the implementation of the scheme and submit periodic progress reports.

5.2. Integration with Technology

During the implementation of the scheme, a dedicated software/ web-portal may be developed for ease of tracking and monitoring by engaging a professional agency, if necessary. The software/ web-portal would serve the purpose of monitoring and managing the various aspects of the scheme digitally.

5.3. Impact assessment and evaluation

Concurrent evaluation of the scheme will be conducted by engaging a professional agency apart from regular reviews by the Steering Committee and Executive Committee.

Post completion of the scheme, a third-party evaluation will be initiated to assess the effectiveness, capture the learnings, identify the challenges, and document success stories.



Indicative Repayment Schedule for a Nano Unicorn Entrepreneur

Amount of refundable Seed Fund to be disbursed:	₹ 1,00,000
Date of Release through DBT	10 th February 2024
Agreed to repay in duration	3 years / 36 Instalments

Repayment Schedule:

Repayment Schedule	DD-MM-YYYY	Release amount (In ₹)	Repayment Schedule (In ₹)	Outstanding Balance (In ₹)
Month 1	10-02-2024	1,00,000		1,00,000
Month 2				1,00,000
Month 3				1,00,000
Month 4				1,00,000
Month 5				1,00,000
Month 6				1,00,000
Month 7				1,00,000
Month 8				1,00,000
Month 9				1,00,000
Month 10				1,00,000
Month 11				1,00,000
Month 12				1,00,000
Total Year 1		1,00,000	-	
Month 13			5,000	95,000
Month 14			5,000	90,000
Month 15			5,000	85,000
Month 16			5,000	80,000
Month 17			5,000	75,000
Month 18			5,000	70,000
Month 19			5,000	65,000
Month 20			5,000	60,000
Month 21			5,000	55,000
Month 22			5,000	50,000
Month 23			5,000	45,000
Month 24			5,000	40,000
Total Year 2			60,000	
Month 25			5,000	35,000
Month 26			5,000	30,000
Month 27			5,000	25,000
Month 28			5,000	20,000
Month 29			5,000	15,000
Month 30			5,000	10,000
Month 31			5,000	5,000
Month 32			5,000	-
Month 33			2,050	(Interest) 4,100
Month 34			2,050	-
Month 35				
Month 36				
Total Year 3			44,100	-
Cum. Total			1,04,100	

Interest Calculation:

Year and interest p.a.	Outstanding balance for no. of months of respective FY (A)	Total Months (B)	Monthly average of outstanding balance (C= A/B)	Interest Amount (C x interest rate p.a.) (In ₹)	To be repaid in maximum of two instalments (In ₹)
2nd Year @ 4%	8,10,000	12	67,500	2,700	2,050
3rd Year @ 8%	1,40,000	8	17,500	1,400	2,050
Total		20		4,100	4,100

Indicative Repayment Schedule for a Nano Unicorn Entrepreneur

Amount of refundable Seed Fund to be disbursed:	₹ 1,00,000
Date of Release through DBT	10 th June 2024
Agreed to repay in duration	3 years / 36 Instalments. But requested on 22 nd month for the prepayment by end of the 2 nd year.

Repayment Schedule:

Repayment Schedule	DD-MM-YYYY	Release amount (In ₹)	Repayment Schedule (In ₹)	Outstanding Balance (In ₹)
Month 1	10-06-2024	1,00,000		1,00,000
Month 2				1,00,000
Month 3				1,00,000
Month 4				1,00,000
Month 5				1,00,000
Month 6				1,00,000
Month 7				1,00,000
Month 8				1,00,000
Month 9				1,00,000
Month 10				1,00,000
Month 11				1,00,000
Month 12				1,00,000
Total Year 1		1,00,000		
Month 13			5,000	95,000
Month 14			5,000	90,000
Month 15			5,000	85,000
Month 16			5,000	80,000
Month 17			5,000	75,000
Month 18			5,000	70,000
Month 19			5,000	65,000
Month 20			5,000	60,000
Month 21			5,000	55,000
Month 22			20,000	35,000
Month 23			20,000	15,000
Month 24			15,000	-
Total Year 2			1,00,000	<i>(Interest) 2,417</i>
Month 25			2,417	-
Total Year 3			2,417	
Cum. Total			1,02,417	

Interest Calculation:

Year and interest p.a.	Sum of Outstanding balance for no. of months of respective FY (A)	Total Months (B)	Monthly average of outstanding balance (C= A/B)	Interest Amount (C x interest rate p.a.) (In ₹)	To be repaid in maximum of two instalments (In ₹)
2nd Year @ 4%	7,25,000	12	60,417	2,417	2,417
Total		12		2,417	2,417

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