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OF INDIA

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# Startup Corporate Governance National Conclave

24 June 2023 | The Lalit, New Delhi





# Startup Corporate Governance National Conclave

## Introduction

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), think tank for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs is pleased to announce the Startup Corporate Governance Conclave, to be conducted on 24 June 2023 in Delhi.

On the 16th of January 2023, India celebrated the 7th anniversary of the 'Startup India' mission. Since the mission's inception in 2016, India's economy has grown to become the fifth-largest in the world with a GDP of \$3 trillion. The country boasts over 100 Unicorns, the third-largest number in the world, with a combined value of \$332.7 billion. The number of startups in India has surpassed 84,000 in 2023, and it is expected to reach 100,000 by year end.

The G20 presidency of India in 2023 presents significant opportunities for Indian startups to converge and collaborate through the G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA). Despite the funding winter, global enterprises continue to partner and invest in Indian startups, with \$24.7 billion invested in 2022.

Over 26 states have implemented startup policies, with over 50 government programs providing seed funding access. In the 2022 budget, over 283 crores were allocated to seed fund schemes. More than 4,500 recognized startups are involved in emerging sectors such as IoT, robotics, AI, and analytics.

While India has made significant strides in supporting startups, they face unique challenges in the areas of governance, compliance, and risk management that can hinder their growth and sustainability. Startups need robust corporate governance structures, policies, processes, and a strong, independent board to guide them through their unstructured growth journey and balance short-term and long-term growth.

Recent years have also seen instances of corporate governance lapses in the Indian startup landscape, as investors have woken up to the perils of negligence. These lapses can be attributed to the immense pressure on startups to grow at any cost, leading to issues such as dilution of unit economics, toxic work culture, and mass layoffs.



In this IICA conclave, we aim to demystify the nuances of corporate governance in startups and provide guidance on avoiding potential risks of failure. Join us for panel discussions, keynotes, expert interactions, and town hall sessions to delve into these essential questions. Engage with leading experts, network with industry peers, and gain valuable insights into the role of good corporate governance in building successful startups.

1.	Do founders have a basic understanding of corporate governance?
2.	What are the critical principles of corporate governance that startups should prioritize?
3.	How can startups create an appropriate corporate governance plan for their maturity stage?
4.	How can startups balance flexibility and adherence to corporate governance standards?
5.	What governance controls should be implemented to avoid financial irregularities and ensure long-term sustainability?
6.	What strong corporate governance practices should startups adopt when partnering with investors?
7.	How can startups ensure their governance practices meet institutional investor requirements?
8.	How can startups manage potential governance conflicts arising from complex capital structures?
9.	How can startups balance the interests of diverse participants in shifting roles, including founders, investors, and employees?
10.	How can startups effectively monitor and invest in controls to manage company culture and compliance issues?
11.	What role do regulators play in ensuring startups comply with governance norms and how can these norms be effectively enforced in the startup ecosystem?
12.	How can startups manage increasing governance costs and liquidity pressure as they stay private for long periods?
13.	How can startups maintain communication and transparency with investors during a crisis?
14.	How can startups establish an independent, public-company-style board that balances profit or growth while preserving the founders' vision?
15.	What governance, management, and ethics policies must startups formulate and implement to meet the highest governance standards when going public?
16.	How can startups navigate the transition from private to public?
17.	How can startups balance the need for growth with good business practices?

## The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) is a leading think-tank and center of excellence established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, to support the growth of the corporate sector through a multi-disciplinary approach. With a focus on capacity building initiatives, consulting, and advisory interventions, IICA fulfills the diverse needs of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), as well as a wide range of CPSEs, private sector companies, and MNCs on various issues related to Corporate Affairs and Governance, E-Governance, Corporate Finance, Management, Strategy, and Leadership.

### Independent Director's DATABANK

A flagship initiative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the IICA in compliance with Section 150 of the Companies Act, 2013. This initiative aims to establish a pool of skilled Independent Directors who promote good corporate governance. The databank offers e-learning courses on relevant topics and facilitates the search for independent directors, promoting best practices in corporate governance.

# Practical Information

24 June 2023

10:00 – 18:00

Where:

The Lalit, Barakhamba Avenue, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001

Draft Agenda:

Session	Details
09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 11:30	Program Inagural
	Welcome Address
	Conclave Keynotes
	Chief Guest Address
	Special Address
	Vote of Thanks
11:30 – 12:00	Networking and High Tea
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Power Panel 1: From Growth to Resilience:</b> Corporate Governance as a Catalyst for Success
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:45	<b>Power Panel 2: From Sailing to Navigating:</b> Focus on Frameworks, Compliance & Control Systems
14:45 – 15:30	<b>Power Panel 3: Elephants in the Boardroom:</b> The Crucial Role of Boards & Directors.
15:30 – 16:15	<b>Town hall: The Great Debate:</b> Do we really need Corporate Governance? Prospects & Perspectives
16:15 – 16:30	Networking and Coffee
16:30 – 17:00	Valedictory Keynote

## Conclave Secretariat: Contact Information

### CHAIRPERSON



**PRAVEEN KUMAR (IAS)**  
DG & CEO, IICA

### CONVENOR



**DR. NIRAJ GUPTA**  
HEAD, SCHOOL OF CORPORATE  
GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC POLICY

### PROGRAM MANAGERS



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