# Union Minister calls for Indian startups to focus on high-impact technologies



Union Minister Piyush Goyal has ignited a significant discussion within the Indian startup ecosystem with his recent comments urging entrepreneurs to shift their focus from consumer-centric ventures to high-impact technologies. Speaking at the Startup Mahakumbh 2025, Goyal highlighted a trend among startups towards creating food delivery apps and other convenience-based businesses, which he contrasted with the more ambitious technological pursuits of Chinese startups.

During his address, Goyal stated, “Are we going to be happy being delivery boys and girls? Is that the destiny of India? This is not a startup; this is entrepreneurship.” He went on to illustrate the comparative advantages enjoyed by competing nations, questioning whether India should content itself with superficial business models when countries like China are investing heavily in artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, and semiconductors. His remarks were aimed at encouraging Indian startups to aspire to greater heights, particularly in fields like robotics, machine learning, and quantum computing.

Following these assertions, Aman Gupta, co-founder of boAt and a judge on Shark Tank India, expressed strong support for Goyal’s perspective. Taking to social media platform X, Gupta stated, “It’s not every day that the government asks founders to dream bigger. But at Startup Mahakumbh, that’s exactly what happened.” He elaborated further on Goyal's vision, asserting that "if we want to build a world-class product, you must know your competition," emphasising the need for Indian entrepreneurs to benchmark against global leaders such as the United States and China.

Gupta reinforced Goyal’s message by highlighting the necessity for India to not only maintain its position as the third largest startup ecosystem globally but also to aspire to be at the forefront of technology. He stated, “But if we want to be No.1 — we need to also go deep into AI, deep-tech, climate, mobility, infra.” He advocated for a collaborative approach between founders and policymakers to foster an environment that encourages scientific risk-taking and long-term strategic planning.

Goyal's comments were particularly notable as they came amidst a backdrop of critical reception from various founders within the startup community, who voiced concerns regarding the minimisation of achievements in the consumer sector. Despite this backlash from some segments, Gupta’s endorsement serves to highlight a divergence in perspectives on the future trajectory of Indian startups.

The discourse surrounding Goyal's remarks points to a broader dialogue about the role of innovation and technological advancement in the Indian economy, particularly as the country positions itself to achieve developed-nation status by 2047. With emerging technologies poised to shape the future, Goyal’s challenge to the startup community could be seen as a pivotal moment for Indian entrepreneurship, steering it towards more ambitious and impactful endeavours.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGupfIhjgFI> - This video provides insight into Union Minister Piyush Goyal's address at Startup Mahakumbh 2025, where he critiqued the Indian startup ecosystem for focusing too much on consumer-centric ventures and encouraged a shift towards high-tech fields like AI and semiconductors.
2. <https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/piyush-goyal-india-startups-grocery-delivery-comparison-china-ai-zepto-ceo-mohandas-pai-2703750-2025-04-04> - This article discusses Piyush Goyal's comments comparing Indian startups' focus on food delivery with China's advancements in fields like electric vehicles, battery tech, and AI, highlighting the need for Indian startups to innovate more ambitiously.
3. <https://www.businesstoday.in/india/story/amid-piyush-goyals-startup-callout-startup-founder-from-mp-slams-red-tape-and-power-cuts-choking-innovation-470855-2025-04-05> - This article continues the discussion on Goyal's remarks by highlighting the challenges faced by startups in India, such as bureaucratic hurdles and infrastructure issues, which are seen as barriers to innovation and growth.
4. <https://www.indiatimes.com/business/startups/piyush-goyal-startups-india-570433.html> - Unfortunately, this URL is not available in the provided results, but a similar article from other sources would discuss Goyal's vision for Indian startups and his emphasis on technological advancement.
5. <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/trends/story/piyush-goyal-startup-mahakumbh-india-needs-to-move-beyond-convenience-tech-470790-2025-04-04> - Unfortunately, this URL is not available in the provided results, but it would likely address Goyal's call for Indian startups to move beyond convenience-focused technologies to more impactful areas.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - While this is the source mentioned in the query, it does not provide specific external evidence supporting the claims in the article. However, it serves as the primary source for the information discussed.
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