Which 409A Valuation Method Fits My Startup?

A quick, tick-box self-assessment covering funding history, capital structure, exit visibility, and Indian cross-border compliance — with a quick-reference guide mapping your pattern to OPM, Backsolve, PWERM, or Hybrid.

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1. Funding History

[ ] No institutional funding round yet (pre-seed / friends & family only)
[ ] Closed a Seed or Series A round within the last 6–12 months
[ ] Closed a priced round more than 12 months ago, with no round since
[ ] Raised exclusively through SAFEs or convertible notes (no priced round yet)
[ ] Closed a Series B or later round

2. Capital Structure

[ ] Simple structure — founders and an option pool only, no preferred stock
[ ] One class of preferred stock with a standard 1x non-participating liquidation preference
[ ] Multiple preferred series (e.g. Seed, Series A, Series B) with different rights
[ ] Participating preferred, senior liquidation stacks, or complex anti-dilution terms
[ ] Outstanding SAFEs or convertible notes not yet converted

3. Exit Visibility

[ ] No identifiable exit path — timing and route to liquidity are genuinely uncertain
[ ] General expectation of a future exit, but no concrete process underway
[ ] Actively exploring a sale or in preliminary acquisition discussions
[ ] Investment bankers appointed, or a listing timeline is emerging
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