



Key Support Schemes for Incubators in India



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FOREWORD

The Global Innovation Index 2019¹ has ranked India as the most innovative country in Central and Southern Asia. Since 2015, India has moved up 29 places from rank 81 to 52, representing the largest jump achieved by any major economy. Especially in important indicators, such as productivity growth and service exports in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), it has maintained top ranks.

Innovation is one of the top priorities of the Indian Government and has been a focal point on the policy agenda for many years now. Innovation is key to long-term economic growth. This is especially true in India, as the country has established itself as a hub for high-tech companies. Since the high-tech sector is where India's competitive advantage lies, it is imperative to keep investing into it and, thus, set itself apart from other countries in the global economy.

One important way to foster innovation is to directly support innovation incubators. Several ministries of the Indian Government support incubators with both financial and non-financial tools. These schemes have been refined over the years and have already produced several success stories across the country.

Start-ups and entrepreneurs – while equipped with innovative and promising ideas – often lack the resources and networks to launch a business on their own. For the incubator to successfully help these start-ups in their journey, it needs its own resources and know-how to get started. The government schemes compiled in this handbook are targeted at this junction: they provide support to the intermediary, to eventually promote innovation in the Indian economy.

This booklet will help to give oversight on the different schemes for both incubators and incubatees, so that they can make an informed choice on which scheme is suitable for them and worth applying for.

I congratulate the GIZ for creating this valuable knowledge source, thus simplifying information access and fostering innovative activities across Indian start-ups. I look forward to a successful working relationship between the GIZ and the Government of India, with the mutual goal of building strong innovation ecosystems and transforming the Indian economy towards sustainable growth.

Sh. Ram Mohan Mishra
Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner Ministry of MSME

FOREWORD

With an approximate contribution of 30 per cent to the nation's GDP, the MSME sector is the backbone of the Indian economy. Being the second largest employment generating sector in India, more than 63 million MSMEs account for 45 per cent of industrial production and 30.5 per cent of the service sector, employing close to 110 million people. MSMEs will continue to play a pivotal role in the overall growth of the industrial economy and the country's vision to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25.

The Indian Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) provides multiple support initiatives and policy measures aimed at creating a favourable environment for MSME growth. The Economic Survey 2019 places an emphasis on reorienting policies that nourish MSMEs to create more jobs and become more productive.

The MoMSME considers innovation a priority area for development and has been pioneering various schemes and programmes providing incubation support. The ministry aims to promote business incubators and equip them to trigger a virtuous circle that transforms ideas into action.

This handbook brings together summaries of various schemes and programmes by the ministries and agencies of the Government of India that offer incentives and support for business incubators and accelerators. Sharing this information is one of the most effective ways of understanding the Government's initiatives to boost incubation and start-ups.

I want to thank the Indo-German Programme for Modernisation and Innovation Promotion in Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in India (MSME INNO) for their efforts involved in the preparation of this handbook and in strengthening the country's innovation ecosystem. I am hopeful that this will further empower the business incubators across the country to create an enabling environment for start-ups and budding entrepreneurs to become successful enterprises.

The Ministry of MSME is keen to continue working towards the development of MSMEs in the country, in order to create a dynamic ecosystem that leads to an increase in innovation and job opportunities.

Ms. Mandeep Kaur
Joint Development Commissioner Ministry of MSME

PREFACE

Innovation is a key driver of productivity and long-term growth and can help solve social challenges at the lowest possible cost (OECD). As per the World Economic Forum², those countries which can quickly move from idea generation to its successful commercialisation will have the greatest productivity. Indian firms adopting innovations have been able to achieve improvements in productivity, profitability and customer satisfaction, along competitive advantages.

Business incubators play a crucial role in the start-up value chain as they have first-hand knowledge of start-up challenges with respect to policy regulations, finance, labour, infrastructure, etc. They can help create an enabling environment for innovation promotion and entrepreneurship.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH are jointly implementing the 'Programme for Modernisation and Innovation Promotion in Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in India (MSME INNO)'. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the project aims to improve the local innovation ecosystem through fostering cooperation between different stakeholders and strengthening the innovation capacity and sustainability of MSMEs in India.

Under the ambit of MSME INNO, this handbook has been compiled to act as a reference point for accessing information on the most relevant public support programmes that provide assistance to business incubators and accelerators. For additional details of schemes, readers are requested to visit the website of the respective ministries and departments, details of which are provided.

I sincerely hope this publication will be helpful for business incubators across the country to augment their capacities, strengthen their service offerings to start-ups and sustain business operations by accessing suitable funding support schemes offered by the Government of India.

Chaman Lal Dhanda
Head of Project
Programme for Modernisation and Innovation Promotion in Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in India

ABBREVIATIONS

BI	Business Incubator
Biotech	Biotechnology
BIRAC	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
BMO	Business Membership Organisation
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CoE	Centre of Excellence
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DBT	Department of Biotechnology
DC	Development Commissioner
DCMSME	Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME
DeitY	Department of Electronics & Information Technology
DIC	District Industries Centre
DST	Department of Science & Technology
E&IT	Electronics and Information Technology
EIC	Established Incubation Centre
EIR	Entrepreneur-In-Residence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GoI	Government of India
GST	Goods & Services Tax
HI	Host Institute
IA	Implementing Agencies
ICT	Information & Communication Technology
iDEX	Innovations for Defence Excellence
INR	Indian National Rupees

ABBREVIATIONS

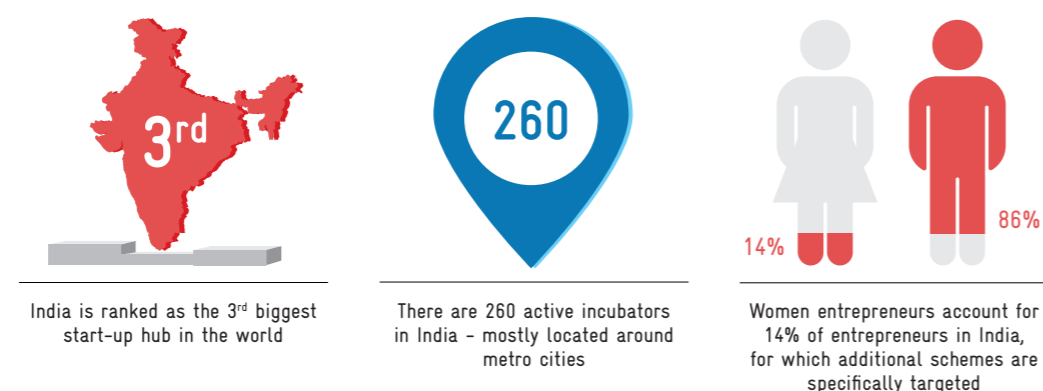
IoT	Internet of Things
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
MeitY	Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
MHRD	Ministry of Human Resource Development
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoMSME	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
MSME DI	MSME Development Institute
NASSCOM	National Association of Software and Services Companies
NCR	National Capital Region
NIDHI	National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations
NITI Aayog	National Institution for Transforming India
NMIU	National Monitoring and Implementation Unit
NSIC	National Small Industries Corporation
PC	PRAYAS Centre
R&D	Research and Development
RFP	Request for Proposal
RDI	Research and Development Units
Sec 8	Section 8
SIDBI	Small Industries Development Bank of India
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
STEP	Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks
TBI	Technology Business Incubator
TC	Technology Centre
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

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INTRODUCTION

Due to their significant contribution to employment generation and poverty alleviation in India, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are essential constituents of developmental policy. However, MSMEs currently face frequent and disruptive technological changes that hamper them from maintaining their competitiveness in both the domestic and global markets. In such a backdrop, the Government of India (GoI) concentrates on building **incubation centres** that equip individuals to **become job creators instead of job seekers**.



Incubators nurture ideas and translate them into successful enterprises. They typically support emerging entrepreneurs by mitigating various risks start-ups face by providing incubation services. Among these are incubation or co-working spaces, laboratories, new technological facilities, utilities, growth funds, mentoring and advisory support, networks and linkages.

Globally, the most successful incubators have developed a strong enterprise ecosystem; including a thriving start-up scene, an entrepreneurial culture and easy access to talent, mentors and investors. India is ranked as the third biggest start-up hub in the world.³ According to the Global Innovation Index, India ranks as the 52nd most innovative nation. In order to further support the Indian start-up ecosystem with favourable policies that boost economic growth, create employment opportunities, and support regional development, the GoI launched 'Start-up India' in January 2016, which lead innovation-driven enterprises to leapfrog.

The total number of active incubators in India amounts to 260. Location-wise, Indian incubation centres are mostly concentrated around metro cities. However, they are also becoming more common in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. The centres can be set up by non-governmental and governmental institutions. In case of India, most incubation centres are not-for-profit organisations (Sec 8 companies, NGOs, societies, trusts, etc.)⁴ that are expected to be self-sustainable within a defined timeframe. Mainly, incubators are funded through grants provided by central and state governments, accompanied by a rising number of CSR funding. Agencies provide support for i) capital expenditures as well as ii) operational expenses for the period of 3-5 years depending on the scheme.

This handbook serves as an introduction for all stakeholders in the start-up ecosystem – start-ups, incubator managers, etc. – who aim to apply for governmental schemes. It contains various programmes that are set up by the Ministry of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Defence and NITI Ayog, a policy think-tank of the Government of India (GoI).

The compiled schemes are partly sector-specific (covering schemes in the defence, aerospace, and agrarian sectors) and exhaustively cover the provisions on finetuning innovative ideas, finance and training. Additional schemes specifically targeted at women entrepreneurs – who account for around 14% of entrepreneurs in India⁵ – are likewise included.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH are jointly implementing the Programme for Modernisation and Innovation Promotion for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in India (MSME INNO). On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the project aims to improve the local innovation ecosystem through fostering the collaboration between different stakeholders and strengthening the innovation capacity and sustainability of MSMEs in India.



1.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MOMSME) SCHEMES

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) implements a series of both financial and non-financial schemes, that catalyse both the incubators and incubatees in their drive to adopt, adapt and evolve.

1.1 A SCHEME FOR PROMOTING INNOVATION, RURAL INDUSTRIES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ASPIRE)

A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE), implemented by the MoMSME, aims to set up a network of technology and incubation centres that accelerate entrepreneurship and promote start-ups in rural and agro-based industries.

THE OBJECTIVES⁶ OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- create new jobs and reduce unemployment,
- promote the entrepreneurship culture in India,
- foster grassroots economic development at district level,
- facilitate innovative businesses solutions for unmet social needs, and
- promote innovation to further strengthen the competitiveness of the MSME sector.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI):

- National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), coir board or any other GoI/ state government institution or agency
- Private partner institutions and entities that are linked to the above institutions under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode

Technology Business Incubator (TBI):

- Existing incubation centres currently operating under different governmental ministries, departments and institutions (including national or regional level institutions) who have the adequate expertise and infrastructure to support incubation activities in agro-based industries
- New incubation centres, eligible private institutions, R&D laboratories, government entities and technology parks, and technical institutions with a proven track record in the promotion of innovative/technology-based entrepreneurship in the agro-rural landscape

ASPIRE is divided into three main components⁷:

- 1 Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI):**
LBIs incubate eligible youth, provide skill development trainings, foster entrepreneurship, offer mentoring and handholding and promote new low-end-technology/ livelihood-based enterprises.
- 2 Technology Business Incubator (TBI):**
TBIs incubate innovative ideas/ technologies in agro and rural-based industries.
- 3 Fund of Funds:**
In cooperation with the MoMSME, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) funds the development of technology and business enterprises.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI):

- One-time grant of 100 per cent of cost of plant and machinery (other than the land and infrastructure) or an amount of up to INR 100 lakh, whichever is less, to be provided
- One-time grant of 50 per cent of cost of plant and machinery (other than the land and infrastructure) or INR 50 lakh, whichever is less, to be provided in case of incubation centre to be set up under PPP mode

Technology Business Incubator (TBI):

- Setting up of incubation centres:
 - i) One-time grant of 50 per cent of the cost of plant and machinery (excluding land and infrastructure) or an amount of INR 30 lakh, whichever is less, for supporting 20 existing incubators under GoI-funded institutions to set up such incubation centres in the area of agro-based industries
 - ii) One-time grant of 50 per cent of cost of plant and machinery or an amount of up to INR 100 lakh, whichever is less, for setting up new incubation centres by eligible agencies dedicated to incubation and enterprise creation in the area of agro-based industries

⁶ Aspire (Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Agro-Industry; https://my.msme.gov.in/MyMsmeMob/MsmeScheme/Pages/1_3_6.html)

⁷ Guidelines for ASPIRE – A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship; <https://msme.gov.in/sites/default/files/ASPIRE-Guidelines-Final-03Jun15.pdf>

- Incubation of ideas: INR 4 lakh per idea to nurture the idea from inception stage to proof of concept (each incubator can submit 10 ideas)
- Creating a business enterprise out of innovative ideas: One-time grant of INR 1 crore to the eligible incubator as seed capital revolving fund for setting up business enterprises. Incubators have to invest up to 50 per cent of the total project cost or INR 20 lakh per start-up as debt/equity/venture capital funding to the incubatee to commercialise the ideas. The returns will be ploughed back to the seed capital revolving fund, out of which the incubator will support innovative and successful ideas which are ready for commercialisation through developing a prototype, proof of concept or test marketing/validation
- The financial support for incubators under TBI is limited to 3 years, after which they are expected to be self-sustainable.

APPLICATION

Application in prescribed format, with necessary enclosures and endorsement from the head of the designated agencies/incubator/institution, may be:

- sent to the ASPIRE scheme steering committee, MoMSME, or
- uploaded on the ASPIRE website by filling up the form enclosed at www.aspire.msme.gov.in

To learn more about the scheme, the application process and required formats, kindly visit:
<https://aspire.msme.gov.in/ASPIRE/Home.aspx>

1.2 SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL AND MANAGERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF MSMES THROUGH INCUBATORS⁸

The scheme 'Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of MSMEs through Incubators' aims to activate untapped creativity and to promote the adoption of the latest technologies in manufacturing.

The scheme is targeted at knowledge-based innovative MSMEs (ventures) that seek the validation of their ideas at the proof of concept level. It also facilitates the engagement with enablers who will advise such MSMEs in expanding their business by supporting them in design, strategy and execution.

THE OBJECTIVES⁹ OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- increase the conversion of ideas into commercial products,
- shape entrepreneurial ideas before they become attractive for venture capital, and
- promote networking and linkages of the different constituents of the innovation chain, i.e. between educational and research institutes, industries and policy level.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Host Institutions (HI); including universities, colleges and institutes, R&D institutes, NGOs, Entrepreneurs Development Centres (EDCs), MSME-DIs/Technology Centers (TCs), District Industries Centres (DICs) or any institute/organisation of the Central/State Government.
- All MSMEs registered under the MSME Act 2006 (as amended from time to time) and MSMEs which are included as per executive orders issued by Office of DC (MSME) consistent with the MSME Act (as amended from time to time).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Awareness programmes sensitise MSMEs/students on the benefits of the scheme at INR 0.70 lakhs per programme (conducted by the National Monitoring and Implementing Unit (NMIU)/Implementing Agency (IA))
- Workshops conducted by NMIU/IA aim to increase the interaction amongst various stakeholders at INR 5 lakhs per day for national level and INR 3 lakh per day for regional level workshops
- Grant in Aid support to Host Institutes (HIs):
 - Support for plant and machinery: up to INR 1 crore grant for the procurement and installation of relevant plant and machinery (including hardware, software etc.) in Business Incubators (BI) in order to strengthen the technology-related R&D activities and common facilities for incubatees of BIs
 - Developing and nurturing ideas: up to INR 15 lakh per idea
- Seed capital support fund for setting up start-ups: Assistance of up to INR 1 crore for seed capital support to appropriate incubatees. Financial assistance may be given in the form of a soft loan, interest free loan, equity participation, grant or a combination of these
- Publicity, branding and mobilisation for documentary/short films, preparation of handbooks and any other related activities

APPLICATION PROCESS

A project monitoring and advisory committee (PMAC) set up in the office of the development commissioner, MoMSME, looks after the planning, screening and identification of interventions or projects. Similarly, a national monitoring and implementation unit (NMIU) is set up in the above mentioned office for facilitation, implementation and monitoring of the scheme involving implementing agencies (IAs) as per the directions of the PMAC. Proposals will be submitted to IAs by the HIs and after initial scrutiny be put up to PMAC through NMIU for consideration and approval.

To learn more about the scheme, application process and other formats, kindly refer to:
<https://my.msme.gov.in/inc/Giudeline.aspx>

⁸ Guidelines for "Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of MSMEs through Incubators"; <https://my.msme.gov.in/inc/Giudeline.aspx>

⁹ Guidelines Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of SMEs through Incubators; <https://msme.gov.in/sites/default/files/NMCP/Incubators101.pdf>

1.3 SCHEME FOR SETTING UP FOR NSIC TRAINING-CUM-INCUBATION CENTRE (NSIC-TIC) FOR SMALL ENTERPRISE ESTABLISHMENT UNDER PPP MODE¹⁰

The scheme 'National Small Industries Cooperation (NSIC) Training-cum-Incubation Centre (NSIC-TIC) for Small Enterprise Establishment under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode' provides first generation entrepreneurs the opportunity to i) acquire skills on basic technical trades and ii) gain business operations exposure. Under this scheme, NSIC-TICs are to be set up nation-wide, aiming to create self-employment opportunities under PPP mode.

The NSIC-TIC provides comprehensive skill development trainings and services in the areas of entrepreneurial skill development, selection of projects, preparation of project profiles and reports, identification and sourcing of plant, machinery and equipment, facilitating sanction of credit facilities and providing support services in order to boost the development of micro and small enterprises in the manufacturing and services sectors.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- provide skill development trainings to secure employment in any business enterprise, and
- help the unemployed to set up their own micro/small business enterprise.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Partner institutions can be educational and technical institutions, companies, NGOs, or former employees/officers of NSIC. They should have experience in training or entrepreneurship development
- The franchisee should arrange ready premises with a built-up area of 2,000 SQF and above. He/She is responsible for managing day-to-day activities. The franchisee shall conduct the incubation training programmes strictly as per the training modules and contents approved by the NSIC

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- No funding support is available under this scheme.
- The franchisee has to arrange funds required for furnishing the proposed premises, financing of equipment and machinery
- The training fees will be decided by the franchisee as per suitability, approved by the NSIC
- The franchisee shall pay the NSIC 15 per cent of its total income earned in the first month from the NSIC-TIC as royalty and a security amount of projected franchisee fee for three months of operation or INR 20,000 (whichever is more)

APPLICATION PROCESS

For guidelines and application format please refer to: <http://www.nsic.co.in/NTSC/PPPMODE.aspx>

1.4 BUILDING AWARENESS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES¹¹

The scheme 'Building Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)' seeks to i) enhance the competitiveness of the MSME sector and to ii) facilitate the process of taking innovative technology to the market place.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- enhance the awareness on IPRs,
- take suitable measures for the protection of ideas, technological innovations and knowledge-driven business strategies developed by MSMEs,
- provide appropriate facilities and support for the protection and commercialisation of Intellectual Property (IP) for the benefit of the MSME sector, and
- assist MSMEs in the effective utilization of IPR tools for technology upgradation, market and business promotion and competitiveness enhancement

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Financial assistance on grant of patent/registration under geographical indications of goods/trademarks:

- Registered MSME units or agencies, institutions, associations, institutes, non-profit bodies, NGOs, societies, trusts, or similar non-commercial bodies (reimbursement of actual costs or expense incurred towards registration)

Assistance for setting up IP Facilitation Centres (IPFCs):

- MSME development institutes, technology centres and any other associated field organisations directly or indirectly controlled by the MoMSME
- Quasi-government or governmental bodies, departments or autonomous organisations that are run on autonomous or commercial lines
- MSME industry associations, societies, cooperatives, firms, trusts and other profit and non-profit bodies, NGOs representing or working for MSMEs, research, technical and educational institutions and universities or colleges with a track record of assisting MSMEs

Awareness and sensitisation programmes on IPR: all implementing agencies with approval from PMAC

Pilot studies/other studies for selected subjects/clusters/groups of industries:

- Public and private sector organisations, MSME IPFCs, research institutes, individual experts or agencies having sound technical and financial capabilities to conduct studies with at least 3 years of previous experience on conducting studies,

- Consultancies, industry associations, societies, cooperatives, firms, trusts and other bodies including NGOs that are representing or working for MSMEs for at least 3 years
- Research, technical and educational institutions, universities with a track record of assisting MSMEs or any other expert agency
- Research, technical and educational institutions, universities with a track record of assisting MSMEs or any other expert agency

National or regional level interactive seminars, workshop, conclaves, conferences or exhibitions:

- Field organisation of the Office of the Development Commissioner (DC) MSME, public and private sector organisations, industry associations, societies, cooperatives, firms, trusts and other bodies that are representing or working for MSMEs, including NGOs
- Research, technical and educational institutions as well as universities with a track record of assisting MSMEs

Training programme for MSME officials and IPFCs can be organised by public and private sector organisations, expert agencies or any other agency with due approval from the PMAC

Interaction with international agencies can be organised or facilitated by public and private sector organisations, expert agencies or any other agency with due approval from the DC MSME

¹⁰ Scheme for Setting up of NSIC Training-cum-Incubation Centre (NSIC-TIC) for Small Enterprise Establishment under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Mode; https://www.nsic.co.in/pdfs/ppp_tic_scheme072017.pdf

¹¹ Guidelines Implementation of the Scheme Building Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; <http://www.dcmsme.gov.in/schemes/Revised%20IPR%20Guidelines.pdf>

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Major activities:

- Financial assistance on grant of patent or registration under geographical indications of goods or trademarks:
 - i) Domestic patent INR 1 lakh
 - ii) Foreign patent INR 5 lakh
 - iii) GI registration INR 2 lakh
 - iv) Trademark INR 0.10 lakh
- Assistance for setting up IP facilitation centre: INR 100 lakh

Minor activities:

- Awareness and sensitization programmes on IPR INR 0.70 lakh
- Pilot studies/other studies for selected subjects, clusters or groups of industries INR 5 lakh
- National level interactive seminars, workshops, conclaves, conferences or exhibitions INR 5 lakh
- Regional level interactive seminars, workshops, conclaves, conferences or exhibitions INR 3 lakh
- Training programme for MSME officials and IPFCs INR 20 lakh
- Interaction with international agencies INR 15 lakh

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants can apply through the MSME - MY.MSME.GOV. IN online portal. The proposals will be placed before the project monitoring and advisory committee (PMAC) constituted for appraisal. The PMAC will guide, review, monitor and provide an overall direction for the implementation of the scheme, handling the overall responsibility for policy formulation, scheme implementation and monitoring. It also considers the recommendations of NMIU on each proposal.

For guidelines and application format please refer to:
<http://www.dcmsme.gov.in/schemes/IPRDetail.html>

1.5 UDYAM SAKHI

'Udyam Sakhi' is an online portal targeted at women entrepreneurs that compiles relevant schemes on one platform; covering relevant information on policies and programmes, finance schemes, access to supporting organisations and business plans. Its objective is to assist women in starting, building and growing their businesses, thus encouraging women independence.

SUPPORT

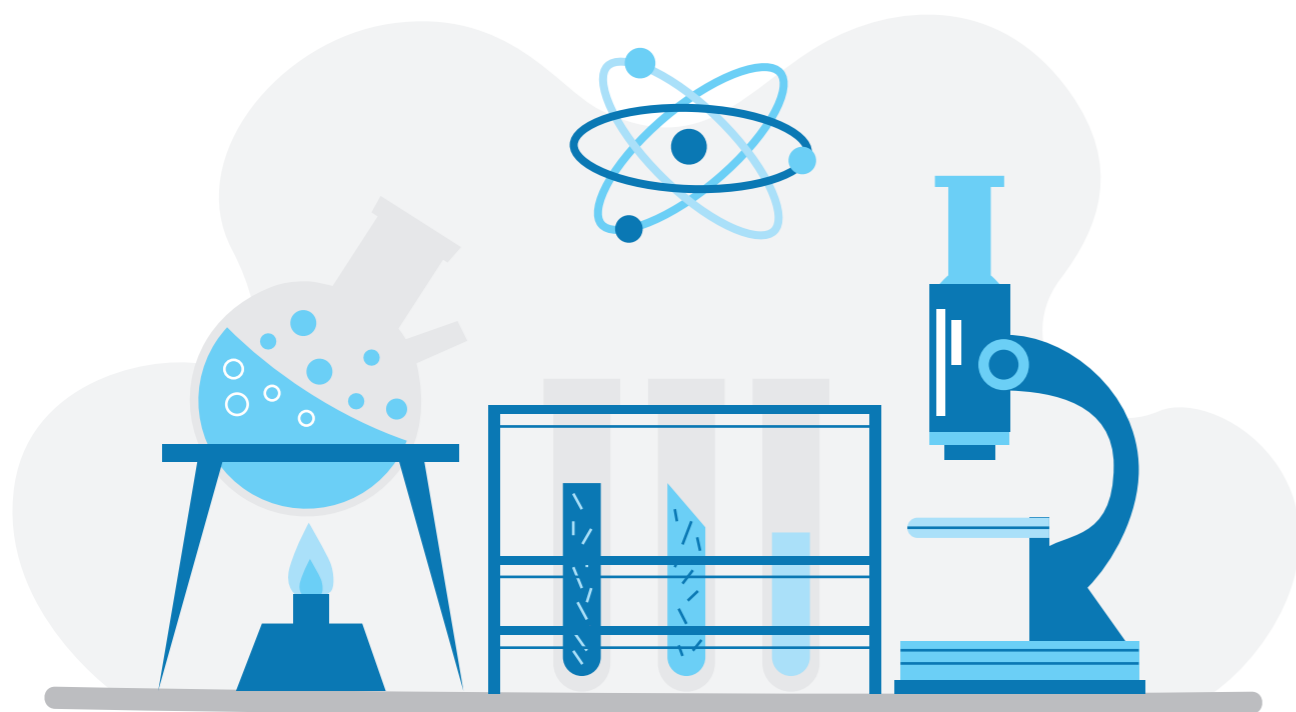
The platform¹² offers learning tools, trainings, seminars and workshops, information on government policies and programmes (including information on every state directorate of industries and policies of that state), finance schemes, marketing information, incubation facilities, assistance on IPR, networking events, mentoring support, etc.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- The portal can be used by all women entrepreneurs throughout the country

APPLICATION PROCESS

In order to avail the services offered through the portal, entrepreneurs can register here:
<http://www.udyamsakhi.org/index.php>



2. MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DST) NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS (NIDHI)

As nodal department for organising, coordinating and promoting S&T activities in the country¹³, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) promotes new areas of science and technology (S&T). In order to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment, as well as linkages between academic institutions and R&D organisations, the DST has set up the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB)¹⁴. The NSTEDB’s umbrella programme ‘National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)’ aims to nurture the innovation ecosystem in India through the eight incubation and acceleration schemes that are compiled in this chapter.

2.1 NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR (NIDHI-TBI)

The ‘National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Technology Business Incubator (NIDHI-TBI)’ aims to convert technology-based innovations into start-ups by supporting institutions in setting up TBIs. The scheme provides support for non-recurring and recurring expenses of TBIs. The current focus areas are manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, clean-tech, energy, water and Internet of Things (IoT).

THE OBJECTIVES¹⁵ OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- promote new technology, knowledge or innovation-based start-ups,
- provide a platform for speedy commercialisation of technologies developed by host institutes (HIs), academic, technical or R&D institutions or by an individual,
- build a vibrant start-up ecosystem, and
- provide cost-effective, value-added services to start-ups.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Any institution engaged in the promotion of innovation, technology development and commercialisation or involved in start-up promotion can act as HI. The HI is required to have adequate expertise and infrastructure to support incubation activities. It should be in existence for at least 3 years.¹⁶
- The financial support for establishing a NIDHI-TBI can be extended to a not-for profit legal entity registered as a society/trust/Sec 8 company. A pure R&D proposal for academic pursuits and industrial consultancy will not be eligible.

Recurring:

- Out of the total recurring expenditure incurred by the NIDHI-TBI against the approved amount, the following mode of funding by DST is followed:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
100 per cent	100 per cent	80 per cent	60 per cent	40 per cent

Any required additional funds are to be met by the HI.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Non-recurring/capital:

- Up to 100 per cent of financial support is provided for renovating or furnishing publicly funded institutes, e.g. Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) or National Institutes of Technology (NITs)
- For other institutions, the DST provides a certain percentage of the total cost (excluding land and building), while the remaining share is covered by the HI/NIDHI-TBI. A provision of annual maintenance of the equipment may be built in the annual recurring costs after the expiry of the warranty period of the equipment. The upper limit of support under different expense heads is suggested in the scheme.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The proposals are received through calls for proposals. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship meets at least twice a year. The proposal in the prescribed format is to be submitted to the department’s online portal along with the necessary enclosures:

<http://onlinedst.gov.in>

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/2018/NIDHITBI.pdf

¹³ Department of Science & Technology; <https://dst.gov.in/about-us/introduction>

¹⁴ National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development; <http://www.nstedb.com/>

¹⁵ National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations; http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-TBI.pdf

¹⁶ This does not apply to entities created by the central government or state governments

2.2 NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS SEED SUPPORT SYSTEM (NIDHI-SSS)¹⁷

The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Seed Support System (NIDHI-SSS) provides financial assistance to start-ups with promising ideas, innovations and technologies, enabling selected incubatees to fulfil their capital requirements either through angel/venture support or from commercial banks/financial institutions.

THE OBJECTIVES¹⁸ OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- ensure timely availability of seed support for incubatees, thereby enabling them to take their venture to the next level, and
- enable Science and Technology Entrepreneur Parks (STEP)/ Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) to widen their pipeline of start-ups and share their success, thus ensuring their long-term operational sustainability.

The seed support is only eligible for incubated start-ups and cannot be used by the incubator for facility creation.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Technology Business Incubators (TBIs):

- Fully operational STEP/TBIs with at least five start-ups requiring seed support. A start-up supported once will not be eligible for applying for subsequent rounds of seed support to any STEP/TBIs
- Other not-for-profit TBIs with legal status that are hosted at public institutions

Incubatee start-ups applying for seed support:

- Registered companies in India with a minimum of three months of residency at the STEP/TBIs

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Seed support granted to implementing STEP/TBIs, disbursed to the incubatee as debt or equity or a combination of both. The seed support is to cater early-stage financing for the commercialisation of indigenous ideas, innovations and technologies.

Start-ups are to be supported for services as follows:

- maximum financial assistance of up to INR 1.000 lakhs as grant-in-aid to STEP/TBIs for the seed support to be disbursed to its deserving incubatees,
- grant to be released in 2-5 rounds with a maximum of INR 500 lakhs per round; the support should be utilised in 2-3 years,
- the normal requirement of seed support is calculated as INR 25 lakh per start-up, extendable up to INR 100 lakh in exceptional cases,
- management fee for NIDHI-SSS is 5 per cent of the total seed support being disbursed in each round.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The seed support is managed by selected STEP/TBI recommended by the national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship. Each STEP/TBI implementing NIDHI-SSS constitutes a committee called the NIDHI-seed support management committee (NIDHI-SSMC), whose members evaluate the prospective incubatee under physical incubation requiring seed support. The CEO of STEP/TBI is responsible for proper disbursement and management of the seed support.

For guidelines and application format and submission please refer to:
http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/2018/NIDHISupportSystem.pdf

The TBI/STEP has to repay the entire seed money given as a loan to the incubatee within 5 years, with at least 30 per cent of soft loan amount during incubation period (in case the seed support is within the range of 20-25 lakh). The equity model should be encouraged and followed in seed support cases exceeding INR 25 lakhs.

Efforts to get the repayment of the entire seed support money given as loan by the incubatee within 5 years, with at least 30% of the amount of soft loan to be paid back within incubation period in case the seed support is in the range of Rs. 20-25 lakhs. It is encouraged to follow the equity model in seed support cases exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs.

2.3 NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS ENTREPRENEUR-IN-RESIDENCE (NIDHI-EIR)¹⁹

The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Entrepreneur-In-Residence (NIDHI-EIR) is targeted at innovative entrepreneurs at selected NSTEDB-approved TBIs and implemented by its nodal agency and programme implementation partner (PIP) 'Venture Centre', Pune, on behalf of NSTEDB, DST, and GoI.

The NIDHI-EIR provides a subsistence-grant to aspiring or budding entrepreneurs who want to pursue a promising technology business idea. Early-stage, product-focused young entrepreneurs working on innovative leading ideas are supported for a maximum period of 12 months. As a NIDHI-EIR, an entrepreneur receives office space, administrative support and a stipend to turn an innovative breakthrough into a viable business.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- encourage graduating students to take on entrepreneurship through fellowships,
- provide a prestigious forum for deserving and budding entrepreneurs to pursue their ventures without any additional risks involved in technology-based businesses,
- create, nurture and strengthen a pipeline of entrepreneurs for incubators,
- make entrepreneurship in technology business more attractive, and
- enable the creation of new start-ups by entrepreneurs and significant progress towards raising funding or investment.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The programme is executed at selected TBIs approved by the NSTEDB serving as centres operating the NSTEDB's EIR programme, referred to as programme executing partner (PEP).

The PEP should be:

- a NSTEDB-approved and recognised incubator (not-for-profit legal entity),
- in existence for at least 3 years with proven track record of incubation and a minimum of 20 resident incubates, and
- having the capacity to generate a pipeline of incubatees and accommodate growth in a number of start-ups that can result from the NIDHI-EIR programme.

NIDHI-EIR are classified as aspiring or budding young entrepreneurs selected by the TBI and eventual support beneficiaries. A typical NIDHI-EIR requiring support is a first-generation innovative entrepreneur, who has no prior source of income. Each NIDHI-TBI is required to have a website on its own and should update it on a regular basis (at least quarterly).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **TBI acting as PEP:** Annual grant of maximum INR 39.6 lakhs per year, out of which INR 36 lakhs shall be for NIDHI-EIR support and INR 3.6 lakhs, or 10 per cent of the released amount, whichever is lower, for local administration of the grant and execution overheads
- **NIDHI EIR:** Maximum grant of INR 30,000 per month with a minimum of INR 10,000 per month for a period of 12 months

APPLICATION PROCESS

The PIP will announce the annual call for application and facilitate the eligibility checks based on the merit and capability of the TBI to shortlist the applications and invite them to assemble in front of the project approval and monitoring committee. The hard and soft copies of the proposal in the prescribed format should be sent to:

Venture Centre 100
 NCL Innovation Park
 Dr. Homi Bhabha Road
 Pune – 411008

Procedure for application submission by the NIDHI-EIR: the NIDHI-TBI shall announce the programme locally and invite applications for the NIDHI-EIR.

For guidelines and application format please refer to:
http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-EIR.pdf

¹⁷ National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) – Seed Support System (NIDHI-SSS); http://nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-SSS.pdf

¹⁸ NIDHI Seed Support Scheme; <http://www.iitk.ac.in/siic/d/nidhi-seed-support-scheme>

¹⁹ National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) – Entrepreneur-in-Residence (NIDHI-EIR); http://www.nidhi-eir.in/pdfs/NIDHI-EIR_guideline.pdf

2.4 NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS PROMOTION AND ACCELERATION OF YOUNG AND ASPIRING TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURS (NIDHI-PRAYAS)²⁰

The pre-incubation 'National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Promotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring Technology Entrepreneurs (NIDHI-PRAYAS)' supports entrepreneurs from their initial idea to the prototype, aiming to bridge the prototype funding gap.

Through this initiative, many potential ideas flow into the incubation programmes, thus increasing the flow of quality incubatees to the incubators. The grant is being managed by the PRAYAS Centre (PC) that supports innovative ideas through physical infrastructure, technical guidance, business mentorship and funding.

In the upcoming years, the DST aims to promote up to 10 PRAYAS centres in Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) each year.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- enable the translation of an innovative idea into a prototype,
- provide a platform for experimentation and modified approaches in the journey from idea to market,
- attract youths who demonstrate problem-solving abilities to work on their start-ups,
- enhance the quality and quantity of innovative start-ups in the incubators, and
- build a vibrant innovation ecosystem.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Science and Technology Entrepreneur Parks (STEPS) or TBIs promoted by the GoI with a proven track record in promoting technology-based entrepreneurship and adequate expertise and infrastructure to support innovation scouting, screening, selection or funding support and monitoring of the progress
- Not-for-profit legal entities registered as a society, trust or Sec 8 company. The DST at present does not support for-profit incubators. A pure R&D proposal for academic pursuits and industrial consultancy will not be eligible
- STEPs/TBIs should be in existence for at least 3 years (not applicable to entities created by the central government or state governments)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A furnished and well-equipped space of about 3,000 SQF will be set up at the host TBI for the PC. The innovators approach one of the PCs for seeking support under the programme. After being selected, innovators get access to the infrastructure, prototype grant and mentorship. The DST invests INR 7 crore per PC in a period of 5 years, which includes INR 2.2 crore in the first year and INR 1.2 crore per year from 2nd to 5th year under the following heads:

- **Prototype grant for innovators:**
Support of INR 100 lakhs per year for 5 years as prototyping grant to each PC. Innovators will be supported with a maximum of INR 10 lakhs per innovator (10 innovators per year per PC)
- **Fab lab:**
A dedicated fab lab is required to be set up in a PC to facilitate mechanical and digital fabrication. One-time support under a capital grant of INR 100 lakhs will be provided for setting up a fab lab to the PC in the first year of establishment. Fab labs enable the finding of solutions for challenges and foster the conversion of ideas into reality
- **Operations and management:**
INR 20 lakhs per year for 5 years for annual operations, management of fab lab (including team, technical experts, furnishing costs, IP databases, consumables, utilities and administrative costs for management of PRAYAS programme by PC)

APPLICATION PROCESS

The proposals are received throughout the year. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) meets at least twice a year. Proposal in the prescribed format (available at PMU portal <https://www.nidhi-prayas.org>) along with the necessary forms should be forwarded by the head of the STEP/TBI along with the endorsement to PMU under intimation to DST with the following address:

NIDHI-PRAYAS PMU
Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)
3rd Floor CSRE Building, IIT Bombay,
Powai, Mumbai 400 076

The innovators approach one of the PCs for seeking support under the programme. Each PC seeks applications from innovators in a common template. The PC sets up a transparent screening mechanism for selecting the innovators based on the potential of the idea/innovation.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-PRAYAS.pdf

2.5 NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS GRAND CHALLENGES AND COMPETITIONS FOR SCOUTING INNOVATIONS (NIDHI-GCC)²¹

The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Grand Challenges and Competitions for Scouting Innovations (NIDHI-GCC) is a pre-incubation activity on scouting innovations for building a platform for TBIs to have access to quality ideas for extending their incubation services.

Two types of scouting programmes are supported under the scheme:

1 National programmes

National Programmes are organised to attract the best ideas from across the country. These national programmes are either sector-agnostic or theme-focused (e.g. Digital India, Make in India) programmes that complement the sector-specific accelerator scheme of NSTEDB. Ideally, the programme should i) have a national outreach and b) maintain a partnership with national media that has the potential to enable the scouting programme to invite between 2,000 and 10,000 ideas

2 Regional programmes

Regional programmes are organised at a regional scale to attract ideas from within a region. Regional programmes are sector-agnostic and should maintain a partnership with the regional media that has the potential to enable the scouting programme to invite between 1,000 and 2,000 ideas

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- find and nurture sustainable innovative solutions,
- pick up ideas from untapped sources and convert them into start-ups,
- generate awareness on entrepreneurship and reach out to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs through active media outreach,
- expand the pipeline of potential incubatees for all TBIs,
- provide structured mentoring, guidance, prototyping grants, and seed-funding for ideas applying to such programmes, and
- build a vibrant start-up ecosystem.

The scouting programmes are divided into the following stages:

- i) outreach and application,
- ii) evaluation and shortlisting,
- iii) mentoring and final selection, and
- iv) boot-camp.

The NIDHI-GCC is carried out on a technology platform through which the innovator has to apply. Post-completion of the programmes, all TBIs can access the platform to reach out to the innovators in order to explore incubating them.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application submission is open throughout the year. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship meets at least twice a year.

The proposal in the prescribed format, along with the necessary enclosures, is to be forwarded by the head of the TBI or another authorised signatory along with the endorsement. The proposal will be sent to:

The Member Secretary, National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board, Department of Science & Technology
Technology Bhawan
New Mehrauli Road
New Delhi 110016

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI%20GCC.pdf

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- TBIs with a minimum of 3 years of experience in running at least one entrepreneurship promotion programme on national or regional scale (including accelerator or entrepreneur development programme)
- Scouting programmes that have an external partner (i.e. a corporate, media-house, or NGO) are preferred

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **Operations budget:** Grant funding support for operational expenses and all other programme costs of up to INR 400 lakhs for the national and INR 150 lakhs for the regional programme. External programme partners are expected to contribute at least 50 per cent of the funding.
- **Seed fund:** Top applicants from the scouting programme may receive a maximum of INR 5 lakhs prototyping grant and a maximum of INR 50 lakhs seed-funding support each.

²¹ National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) – Grand Challenges and Competitions for Scouting Innovations; http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI%20GCC.pdf

2.6 NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (NIDHI-COE)²²

The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations Centres of Excellence (NIDHI-CoE) aims at creating a world-class facility for helping start-ups go global through strengthening existing capacities of Science and Technology Entrepreneur Parks (STEP)/Technology Business Incubators (TBIs).

It supports potential start-ups with different pursuits and practices in transferring technological innovations into marketable products/high-growth companies. The scheme is particularly targeted at new high risk and high growth ventures, seeking to create an enabling environment to enhance the prospects of their success.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- promote start-ups,
- provide cost-effective, value adding services to start-ups (e.g. mentoring, legal, financial, technical, or intellectual property-related),
- scale up existing/new activities targeted at seeding and supporting start-ups,
- provide a platform for speedy commercialisation of technologies developed by the host institution or by any academic, technical or R&D institution or by an individual, and
- build a vibrant start-up ecosystem.

The NIDHI-CoE should create a space to incubate at least 100 start-ups at any given point in time, and graduate i) 150 start-ups within 5 years in IT and related domains as well as ii) 100 start-ups in sectors as in biotech, manufacturing, energy or agri-business.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The proposals are received throughout the year. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship meets at least twice a year.

Proposal in the prescribed format along with the necessary enclosures are to be forwarded by the head of the HI along with the endorsement. The proposal should be sent to:

The Member Secretary, National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board
Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan
New Mehrauli Road
New Delhi-110016

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-COE-new.pdf

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Incubators that have been in existence for at least 5 years. The HI is supposed to provide adequate expertise and infrastructure for scaling up existing incubation activities and should be in existence for at least 8 years (not applicable to entities created by the central government or state governments),
- In non-academic institutions, applicants should be legal entities registered in India with the clear purpose and objective of promoting research, innovation and the entrepreneurial ecosystem. They should partner with at least one academic or technical institute of repute or existing TBIs/STEPS/institutions or government bodies engaged in the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship,
- Not-for-profit legal entities registered as a society/trust/Sec 8 company. The DST requires a NIDHI-CoE to collaborate with an industry, an academic institution, or with other institutions of repute focusing on innovation, research, commercialisation and start-up promotion,
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), where 30 per cent of the total project cost is funded by the collaborating partner. The funding should be given to the not-for-profit entity created for managing NIDHI-CoE,
- Provision of a minimum of 50,000 SQF (including existing incubation space) of furnished space for hosting the NIDHI-CoE. The minimum period of lease for which the HI should provide land and building is 30 years

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- The programme supports non-recurring, as well as recurring expenditure for a period of 5 years
- Public funded institutions are eligible for 100 per cent support including building cost
- For private institutions, the HI provides 50,000 SQF for the building and contributes 25 per cent of the equipment cost. Private institutions are eligible for the recurring support of INR 20 crore and a maximum of INR 10 crore for equipment
- Out of the total recurring expenditure incurred by the NIDHI-COE against the approved amount, following mode of funding by DST is being followed on actual recurring expenditures:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
100 per cent	100 per cent	80 per cent	60 per cent	40 per cent

²² National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) – Centers of Excellence (NIDHI-COE); http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/2018/NIDHICentrefExcellence.pdf

2.7 NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS-ACCELERATOR (NIDHI-ACCELERATOR)²³

The 'National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations-Accelerator (NIDHI-Accelerator)' encourages the growth of start-ups through focused acceleration.

Accelerators strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and deliver immense value to other incubation programmes. This helps aspiring entrepreneurs in the country, including the ventures already incubated in these TBIs, to be guided in a rigorous manner through deep mentoring and access to funding and market networks. All in all, the programme aims at accelerating around 200 ideas per year to create 30-40 high impact ventures annually.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- fast-track the growth of potential start-ups through rigorous mentoring and networking support in a short span through existing TBIs,
- attract subject matter experts, mentors, and angel investors to get associated with TBIs through accelerator programmes,
- build a vibrant start-up ecosystem, and
- act as a hub for several incubators in the region, so that high-potential start-ups can be fast-tracked for increased exposure and validation.

The scheme envisages two broad types of accelerator programmes:

1 Sectoral programmes (focus on start-ups in a certain sector or theme)

2 Non-sectoral programmes (do not envision particular sectors or theme)

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- TBIs with NSTEDB recognition and experience of running at least one entrepreneurship promotion programme at national and regional levels (including accelerator or entrepreneur development programme),
- Applicant TBI should specify the types of accelerators that they plan on running at the time of applying. Priority is given to accelerators that support innovative solutions for social impact,
- It is desirable that the accelerators actively involve multiple external stakeholders, including corporates, universities, global experts, industry associations, mentors and investors,
- The accelerator should bring on board a panel of mentors, service providers, and potential investors who will help the TBI in delivering value to the start-ups.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Funding of INR 150 lakhs per year is extended to up to two accelerators per year (with a 2-9-month duration and participation of 10-15 start-ups) for manpower, logistics, travel, mentoring, infrastructure, training, seed investment, prototyping grants and other costs. There is no sub-limit to the budget of each accelerator programme.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The proposals are received throughout the year. The national expert advisory committee (NEAC) on innovation, incubation and technology entrepreneurship meets at least twice in a year.

The proposal in the prescribed format, along with the necessary enclosures, is to be submitted at department's online portal: <http://on-linedst.gov.in>

For guidelines and application format please refer to: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/2018/NIDHIAccelerator.pdf

2.8 NEWGEN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (NEWGEN IEDC)²⁴

The NewGen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NewGen IEDC) aims to inculcate the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst young science and technology (S&T) students while encouraging and supporting the creation of start-ups through guided mentorship. This programme is being implemented in academic institutes where students are encouraged to take up innovative projects that show a potential for commercialisation.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- channelize the knowledge and energy of youth towards becoming active partners in economic development,
- catalyze and promote the development of knowledge-based and innovation-driven enterprises and promote employment opportunities amongst youth, especially students,
- inculcate a culture of innovation-driven entrepreneurship, and
- act as an institutional mechanism for providing various services including information on all aspects of enterprise building to budding S&T entrepreneurs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Only academic institutes are eligible to apply for this programme. Each institution should fulfil the following parameters:

- Duly recognised colleges and institutes that have been offering engineering, technology, or science courses at a degree level for at least 5 years
- Private institutions promoted by a trust or society registered under relevant acts besides being recognised by the AICTE or universities
- Qualified and dedicated faculties in various disciplines with a good R&D base and background in industry-related activities
- Availability of two faculties trained in entrepreneurship through the DST-sponsored faculty development programme
- Availability of a minimum dedicated space of 5,000 SQF for housing the NewGen IEDC and the start-ups promoted through it (including availability of utilities as in workshops, laboratories, computational facilities and a library)
- Experience in entrepreneurship development and promotion and industry-related activities such as consultancy, product development, testing and calibration

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial assistance for establishing a NewGen IEDC towards its nonrecurring (as in one time) establishment cost and recurring (as in project development costs, travel, trainings and contingencies) expenditure for up to 5 operational years:

Non-Recurring Grants:

- One-time non-recurring financial assistance of up to INR 25 lakhs towards establishment cost, furnishing, and purchase of equipment. The grants are not to be used for the purchase of land and building.

Recurring Grants:

- The recurring budget will be provided for each year of operation for a maximum of 5 years. Recurring costs include the honorarium to mentors, the NewGen IEDC coordinator, travel, expenses for the advisory board and review meetings, contingencies and other expenditures. Also, a prototype development fund of INR 250,000 is granted per project.
- Financial assistance is made available in project mode on a year-to-year basis, based on the successful implementation of the project and the review of the national expert advisor committee (NEAC).

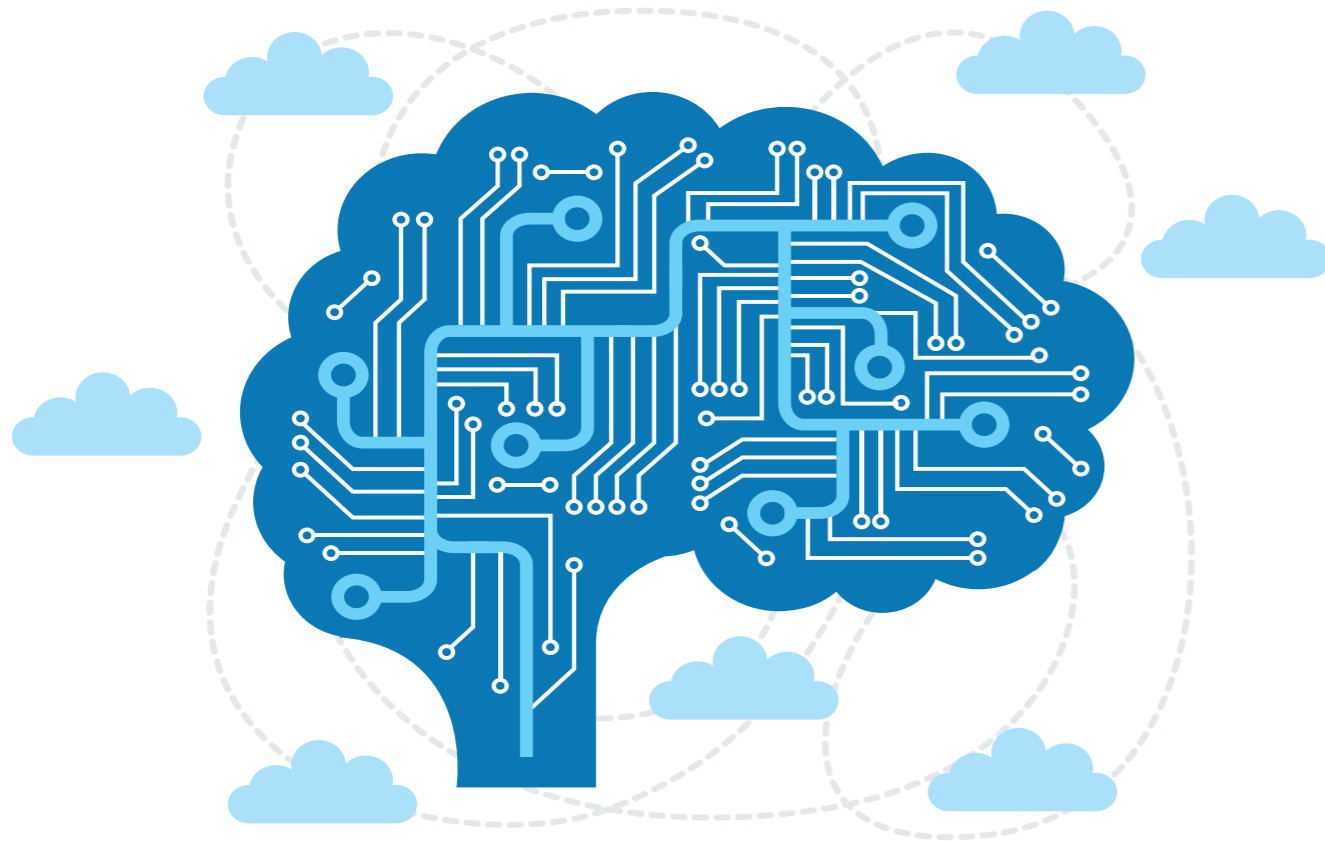
APPLICATION PROCESS

On announcement of the programme (www.newgeniedc-edii.in and www.nstedb.com), online proposals along with the necessary enclosures are being submitted.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: <http://www.newgeniedc-edii.in/#NewGenIEDC>

²³ National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) – Centers of Excellence (NIDHI-COE); http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-COE.pdf

²⁴ NewGen IEDC (New Generation Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre); <http://www.nstedb.com/institutional/NewGen%20IEDC17.pdf>



3.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MEITY)

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has been at the forefront of digital revolution in India, taking significant steps in e-governance and ensuring last-mile internet connectivity for inclusive development. Through promoting electronics hardware manufacturing and the Information Technology Enabled Service (IET) industry, MeitY is playing a pivotal role in supporting e-innovation. The following incubation schemes are aimed at creating a conducive ecosystem to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the IET sector in India.²⁵ These schemes range from equipping incubators with due resources to protecting successful innovative ideas, thus increasing the competitiveness of the industry.

3.1 TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURS (TIDE) SCHEME²⁶

The 'Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE)' scheme focuses on electronics and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). It aims at assisting higher education institutions in strengthening their Technology Incubation Centres (TICs), thus enabling young entrepreneurs to initiate technology start-ups for the commercial exploitation of technologies developed by them.

TIDE centres provide an operating space to the selected companies, offering nurturing support as required. Generally, TIDE centres are set up by the Host Institute (HI) as a society, section 25 company, or other legal entities.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- set up or strengthen TBCs in higher educational institutions,
- promote product-oriented R&D,
- encourage and accelerate the development of indigenous products and packages, and
- bridge the gap between R&D and commercialisation.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Institutions of higher learning conducting education programmes of M.Tech/PhD in engineering, ICT, electronics and management

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **Infrastructure support:** Grant-in-aid of up to INR 30 lakhs for infrastructure improvement
- **Financial support for incubated companies:**
 - i) INR 125 lakhs for providing financial support (INR 25 lakhs per company)
 - ii) The TIDE Centre provides operating space to the selected companies on rent for a period of up to 2 years (extendable by one year)
 - iii) Funding support of up to 80 per cent of the project cost of the incubating company over 2 or 3 years with a limit of INR 25 lakhs in the form of soft loan
 - iv) At the end of 2 or 3 years, the company has to return 50 per cent of the fund. The remaining 50 per cent are to be given as equity to the TIDE centre

APPLICATION PROCESS

The invitation for proposals is published on the DeitY website. A committee set up by MeitY scrutinises and evaluates the received proposals and extends recommendations for appropriate financial support. The committee or a designated subcommittee may also conduct a site visit to assess the institute.

For guidelines and application format please refer to: <https://meity.gov.in/content/technology-incubation-and-development-entrepreneurs>

²⁵ MeitY Vision & Mission; <https://meity.gov.in/about-meity/vision-mission>

²⁶ Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) Scheme; https://meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/TIDE-scheme_March_2017.pdf

3.2 SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL PATENT PROTECTION IN ELECTRONICS AND IT (SIP-EIT) II²⁷

The scheme aims at providing financial support for international patent filing in the areas of electronics and IT to start-ups and MSMEs in order to strengthen their competitiveness through innovation and its protection.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- provide protection to innovative ideas and further nurture their promotion, and
- offer monetary assistance to incentivize to claim patents for their ideas.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Registered MSMEs under the MSME Development Act 2006, GoI
- Companies registered i) under the Companies Act 2013, GoI, or ii) as a software technology park. They should fulfil the investment limits in plant, machinery and equipment as defined in the MSME Development Act 2006²⁸
- A registered technology incubation enterprise or a start-up located in an incubator should fulfil the investment limits in plant and machinery or equipment as defined in the MSME Development Act 2006²⁹

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Financial support of up to INR 15 lakhs per invention or 50 per cent of the expenses incurred in filing the patent (whichever is less) in the form of reimbursement of expenses
- Official fees including filing, examination, processing fees, attorney charges, expenses on translation search and cost if required
- The expenses involved in entering the Patent Cooperation Treaty (1970) application (including expenses involved in filing applications directly in foreign countries) – however, the expenses incurred subsequent to grant of patent will not be reimbursable

APPLICATION PROCESS

Online application available on the DeitY website or at the ICT-IPR portal :
<http://www.ict-ipr.in/sipeit/login>

3.3 SCHEME TO SUPPORT IPR AWARENESS WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS IN E & IT SECTORS³⁰

The 'Scheme to Support IPR Awareness Workshops/Seminars in E & IT Sectors' entails to sensitise and create awareness on Intellectual Property (IP). It provides financial support for organising seminars and workshops that increase IPR awareness among various stakeholders.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- create a secure ecosystem for innovations by raising awareness on how to file a patent, and
- support the concerned organisations in spreading IPR-related information.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Educational institutes providing technical education in the domains of electronics and information technology (IT)
- Industry bodies
- Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) societies or DeitY autonomous bodies are eligible for support for workshops/seminars involving international experts
- It is mandatory for the applicant to be registered under the Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System (CPSMS) portal; www.cpsms.nic.in

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial assistance in the form of a grant-in-aid is provided to eligible institutions for organising IPR awareness workshops or seminars.

The extent of financial support amounts to:

- INR 2 lakhs per awareness programmes organised by educational institutes
- INR 3 lakhs for awareness programmes organised by industry bodies or associations
- INR 5 lakhs for workshops organised by DeitY societies, DeitY autonomous bodies and involving international experts

APPLICATION PROCESS

Online application on the DeitY website:
<http://deity.gov.in/> or ICT-IPR portal <http://www.ict-ipr.in/sipeit/login>

Application for grant in aid should be submitted to DeitY at least 45 days in advance.

²⁷ Support for International Patent Protection in Electronics & Information Technology; <http://www.ict-ipr.in/sipeit/login>

^{28,29} The Government of India has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 in terms of which the definition of micro, small and medium enterprises is as under:

A micro enterprise is an enterprise where investment in plant and machinery does not exceed Rs. 25 lakhs;

A small enterprise is an enterprise where the investment in plant and machinery is more than Rs. 25 lakhs but does not exceed Rs. 5 crores;

A medium enterprise is an enterprise where the investment in plant and machinery is more than Rs.5 crore but does not exceed Rs.10 crore. Available at: <https://msme.gov.in/faq>

³⁰ Support for International Patent Protection in Electronics & Information Technology; <http://www.ict-ipr.in/sipeit/login>



4.

NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA (NITI AAYOG)³¹

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), GoI, in its role as technical advisor on central and state levels, serves as a policy 'think tank' for the Indian government. Established in 2015, its activities can be divided into i) design policy and programme framework, ii) foster cooperative federalism, iii) monitoring and evaluation, and iv) think tank and knowledge & innovation hub. Its verticals cover numerous sectors; ranging from agriculture over women and child development to skill development and employment.

4.1 ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM)³²

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is one of the flagship initiatives of NITI Aayog. As an umbrella organisation and innovation hub, it plays an instrumental role in aligning innovation policies between central, state and sectoral schemes that promote innovation and entrepreneurship. It intervenes on various levels, including higher secondary schools, science, engineering and higher academic institutions, as well as MSME industries, corporates and NGOs.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- serve as a platform for promotion of world-class innovation hubs, grand challenges, start-ups and other self-employment models, particularly in technology-driven areas, and
- promote entrepreneurship through self-employment and talent utilisation.

AIM is set together by the following components:

- 1 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL):**
The objective of this component is to foster curiosity and creativity in young minds through inculcating skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, and physical computing. ATLs offer workspaces that provide tools and equipment to help children get a grasp on the concepts of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Other facilities provided by ATLs include meeting rooms and video conferencing facilities.
- 2 Atal Incubation Centre (AIC):**
The objective of this component is to create world-class incubation centres that support and encourage innovative technology-based start-ups that have an impact on specific sectors, such as manufacturing, transport, energy, health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation. The incubation centres provide the start-ups with necessary guidance, tech support, infrastructure, access to investors, networking, and other services that may be required for scaling up.
- 3 Scale-up support to Established Incubation Centres (EIC):**
This component aims to augment capacities of established incubation centres by providing scale-up support. It aims to radically transform the start-up ecosystem in India by upgrading the EICs to world-class standards.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL):

- Schools (grades 6-10) managed by the government, local bodies or private trusts/societies. The schools should provide 1,500 SQF built-up space

Atal Incubation Centres (AIC):

- Higher educational institutions, R&D institutes, corporate sector, alternative investment funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), business accelerators and individuals. Proposed focus sectors are: **a)** agriculture **b)** bio technology **c)** building materials/ construction technology **d)** electricity, new and renewable energy and environmental sustainability **e)** education **f)** health and pharmaceuticals **g)** infrastructure **h)** information & communication technology (ICT) **i)** sensor technology **j)** manufacturing and engineering **k)** micro and nano electronics **l)** new materials including nano-materials **m)** water, sanitation and solid waste management **n)** housing **o)** transport

Scale-up support to Established Incubation Centres (EIC):

- EICs should be registered in India as a legal entity in public, private or public-private partnerships and must have been in operation for a minimum of 3 years

³¹ Niti Aayog; <https://niti.gov.in/>

³² Guidelines for Setting up of Tinkering Laboratories under Atal Innovation Mission – 'Atal Tinkering Laboratories'; <http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/ATL%20-%20Final%20Guidelines%20-%202017-18.pdf> and http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/AIC_Guidelines_2017.pdf

FINANCIAL SUPPORT**Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs):**

- One-time establishment cost of up to INR 10 lakh for instruments and prototyping equipment
- Each ATL receives INR 10 lakh over a maximum period of 5 years for operational expenses

Atal Incubation Centre (AIC):

- AICs in academic/R&D institutes receive a grant-in-aid of up to 100 per cent of the total eligible project costs (subject to a maximum of INR 10 crore)
- AICs proposed by other applicants receive a grant-in-aid of up to 50 per cent of the total eligible project costs subject to a maximum of up to INR 10 crore. Each tranche of the grant-in-aid shall be disbursed only after the applicant provides proof of matching 50 per cent contribution.
- The grant-in-aid shall be disbursed in a phased manner as per the budget plan submitted by the applicant and approved by the AIM directorate. The larger part of the grant-in-aid should be spent on the prescribed core operation activities. The total grant-in-aid which can be spent towards sector-specific laboratory and seed fund combined should not exceed INR 4.5 crores

Scale-up support to Established Incubation Centres (EICs):

- Grant-in-aid of up to INR 10 crores in two (or more) annual instalments over a duration of 2 years. An EIC is eligible to apply and avail a grant-in-aid under this scheme for a maximum of three times

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants can submit their applications online to the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. Formats and guidelines can be downloaded from : <https://niti.gov.in>

4.2 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PLATFORM (WEP)³³

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is another initiative by NITI Ayog that i) enables women entrepreneurs to spark their business, ii) provides required entrepreneurship support, and iii) supports in setting-up and scaling up businesses. Launched in March 2018, the platform enlists women-focused schemes, initiatives and programmes that seek to foster women entrepreneurship. The mix of offline and online tools also serves as a platform for exchange of good practices, mentoring, and mutual learning.

In particular, the initiative offers support in incubation and acceleration, entrepreneurship skilling, funding and financial assistance, marketing assistance, compliance, as well as social entrepreneurship support.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS³⁴

- Women entrepreneurs at ideation stage or established start-ups,
- Corporates, NGOs, research organisations, incubators, accelerators, etc. – any institutional entity that provides support for women entrepreneurs

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Free credit ratings, mentorship, funding support to women entrepreneurs
- Apprenticeships and corporate partnerships,
- Incubation and acceleration support

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants can register on: <https://wep.gov.in/>

³³ The Women Entrepreneurship Platform; <https://wep.gov.in/>

³⁴ The Women Entrepreneurship Platform; <https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/government-schemes/Wep.html>



5. STAND-UP INDIA³⁵

The 'Stand-up India' scheme is targeted at entrepreneurs from SC/ST communities as well as on women entrepreneurs. Launched in 2016, the scheme answers to common challenges faced by SC/ST and women entrepreneurs, as in setting up enterprises, obtaining loans and other support necessary for succeeding in establishing and maintaining a business.³⁶ Potential beneficiaries can derive from the manufacturing, services, or trading sector.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Members from SC/ST communities and women entrepreneurs. At least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stakes are to be held by a woman entrepreneur/member of the SC/ST communities
- First time ventures ('Greenfield projects')
- Applicants should not be in default to any bank or financial institution

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- The scheme facilitates bank loans between INR 10 lakh and INR 1 crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a new enterprise. Additional details can be found here: <https://www.standupmitra.in/Home/SUISchemes>
- Borrowers will be invited to attend periodic events where they can share best practices, solve problems and obtain guidance organised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and SIDBI.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All branches of scheduled commercial banks offer the scheme. It can be availed directly at the bank branch, through the Stand-up India portal (<https://www.standupmitra.in/Login/Register>), or through the lead district manager of the bank.

³⁵ Stand-up India scheme features; <https://www.standupmitra.in/Home/SUISchemes>

³⁶ Stand-up India scheme guidelines; <https://www.standupmitra.in/Home/SchemeGuidelines>



6. INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENSE EXCELLENCE (iDEX) INITIATIVE³⁷

The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Initiative of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), GoI, works with stakeholders from the innovation ecosystem (e.g. existing incubators) that support in discovering and exploring start-ups/MSMEs primarily in defence and aerospace sectors.³⁸ iDEX tracks upcoming start-ups/MSMEs and innovators, and invests in them opportunistically, funded through the defence innovation fund. The scheme involves the setting up of Defence Innovation Hubs (DIHs), where innovators can directly obtain information on requirements met by armed services and develop solutions accordingly.³⁹

The programmes run by iDEX in partnership with the stakeholders include accelerators, long-duration incubation, piloting and prototype investments. The DIHs run various programmes to encourage and support defence innovation at college and school levels, targeting students.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- bridge the need of the defence and aerospace sector in shorter timelines through indigenized and innovative technologies, and
- create an ecosystem for engaging with innovative start-ups

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The applicant incubator/programme should:

- target locations or clusters focused on specific military platforms, components, or requirements as decided in consultation with the iDEX Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) team
- be registered in India as a legal entity in public, private or PPP-mode
- have received establishment or grant support from a GoI ministry/department in the past
- have been in operation for a minimum of 3 years before applying for affiliation with DIO, and experience of having supported at least 25 start-ups
- have successfully graduated at least five start-ups in the past 3 years that are running as a 'going concern'. Incubators that have supported defence or aerospace related start-ups will be given extra consideration
- be affiliated with at least 25 start-up mentors, out of which at least five should have some connection with the defence or aerospace domain

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Funding support of up to INR 40 lakhs (excluding travel allowance (TA)/dearness allowance (DA) and accommodation of participants for the contact sessions) is provided depending on the activity. There will be no establishment funding provided to any DIO-affiliated incubators; only programmes will be funded.

APPLICATION PROCESS

For guidelines, application format and submission please refer to:
<http://makeinindia.defence.gov.in/pages/innovations-for-defence-excellence-idex->

³⁷ Ministry of Defence – Framework for iDEX Partners; https://makeinindia.defence.gov.in/admin/writereaddata/upload/files/Framework%20for%20iDEX%20Partners_1.pdf

³⁸ Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX); <https://www.makeinindia.defence.gov.in/pages/innovations-for-defence-excellence-idex->

³⁹ Ministry of Defence – Defence Innovation Hubs; <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188372>



7. BIOINCUBATORS NURTURING ENTREPRENEURS FOR SCALING TECHNOLOGIES (BIONEST)⁴⁰

‘Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies (BioNEST)’ is a scheme initiated by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology, Govt. The council serves as an industry-academia interface and aims to strengthen the research and innovation capabilities of India’s biotech industry, particularly start-ups and MSMEs.⁴¹

The scheme harnesses the entrepreneurial potential of start-ups during their initial days through providing infrastructure, mentoring and networking platforms that aim to scale up the biotech start-up ecosystem through propelling innovative ideas towards product commercialisation. As such, BioNEST is targeted at biotech start-ups (especially those from MedTech background (including medical electronics hardware), biopharma, agri-biotech and biomaterial sectors).

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE TO:

- increase the competitiveness of biotech industries, and
- ensure that a large number of innovative ideas gets converted into commercial products at a fast rate.

BioNEST is divided into four categories:

- 1 Supporting new BioNEST:** Supporting new BioNEST at academic and research institutes, research hospitals and organizations fostering innovation and entrepreneurship
- 2 Establishing new BioNEST:** Establishing new BioNEST with various state government biotech councils or S&T councils
- 3 Strengthening existing incubators:** Strengthening existing incubators attached to academic institutes and research institutes, standalone incubators and research hospitals to establish BioNEST
- 4 Support for scaling-up of already funded BioNEST**

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Supporting new BioNEST

- Existing academic/research organisations, research hospitals that do not have formal incubation centres but support entrepreneurial activities
- Host Institutes (HIs) with adequate expertise and infrastructure to support incubation activities
- Incubators supported directly under BioNEST managed by HIs or in PPP-mode

Establishing new BioNEST

- Central and state universities, R&D medical institutes, standalone bio-incubators and parks, management institutes and other organisations focused on bio-incubation

Strengthening existing incubators to establish BioNEST

- Existing incubators attached to academic institutes, research institutes, stand-alone incubators and research hospitals

Support for scaling up already funded BioNEST

- Only BIRAC funded BioNEST are considered for up-scaling

⁴⁰ BioNEST Bioincubators – Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies; https://birac.nic.in/webcontent/BioNEST_Sept_2016_8_11_17.pdf

⁴¹ BIRAC – About us; https://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=89

FINANCIAL SUPPORT⁴²

Supporting new BioNEST

- Grant-in-aid/capital investment support for 3 years (maximum 5 years); percentage and manner of funding can vary according to location, technology thrust area, infrastructure creation, proposed operational model and needs, and the recommendation of the technical or expert committee

Establishing new BioNEST

- Funding support of 50 per cent by BIRAC and 50 per cent by the respective state government council. The incubator may be managed and operated by the private sector. The BIRAC funding caters to refurbishing, renovation, capex and operational costs. The state government provides the requisite land and building space to host BioNEST in any of the existing institutes and contributes to the funds for construction-related activities

Strengthening existing incubators to establish BioNEST

- Funding support in the form of grant-in-aid or capital investment. The percentage and manner of funding under BioNEST can vary depending on the location, technology thrust area, infrastructure creation, proposed operational model and requirements, as well as the reasoned recommendation of a technical or expert committee

Support for scaling-up of already funded BioNEST

- Increased incubation space, refurbishing and renovation cost will be considered for creating lab space, lab module and benches, common equipment facility and specialised units
- Capex support for generic equipment based on the incubator's needs and the committee's recommendations

APPLICATION PROCESS

For guidelines and application format please refer to http://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=264#

⁴² In lieu of support, BIRAC may take a small equity in the start-ups incubated in the facility. The modalities and the quantum of equity may be worked out with the applicant. Duration of support will be for 3 years, up to a maximum duration of 5 years.

ANNEXURE: SCHEMES AT A GLANCE

KEY SCHEMES FOR INCUBATORS								
Scheme Name	Focus	Ministry/ Dept.	Objectives	Eligible Applicants	Sector	Nature of Support	Total Support	Application & Web Details
Aspire – A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship	Network of technology centres and incubation centres to accelerate entrepreneurship and start-ups in rural and agro-based industries	Ministry of MSME, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new jobs • Reducing unemployment • Promote entrepreneurship culture in India • Grassroots economic development at district level • Facilitate innovative business solutions for unmet social needs • Promote innovation to further strengthen the competitiveness of the MSME sector 	MSME institutions, agencies, academia, societies, trusts, industries, etc.	Livelihood and technology in agri-sector	Grant, soft loan, equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBI: Up to 100 per cent with a limit of INR 100 lakhs • LBI in PPP: Up to 50 per cent with a limit of INR 50 lakhs • TBI for existing 20 incubators under government ministries/depts.: Up to 50 per cent with a limit of INR 30 lakhs for TBI • TBI for new incubators: Up to 50 per cent with a limit of INR 100 lakhs • Start-ups receive funding at various stages 	For further information, please visit: https://aspire.msme.gov.in/ASPIRE/Home.aspx
Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of SMEs through Incubators	Support start-ups and incubatee companies	Ministry of MSME, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote knowledge-based innovative MSMEs (ventures) that seek the validation of their ideas at the proof of concept level and support engagement with enablers who will advise such MSMEs 	Academia, R&D units, institutions, development agencies, etc.	All sectors	Funding support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HI: Grant of up to INR 1 crore for plant and machinery • Grant of up to INR 15,00 lakh per idea • Seed capital assistance of up to INR 1 crore for setting up start-ups 	For further information, please visit: https://my.msme.gov.in/inc/Giudeline.aspx

Scheme Name	Focus	Ministry/ Dept.	Objectives	Eligible Applicants	Sector	Nature of Support	Total Support	Application & Web Details
NSIC TIC – Setting up NSIC Training-cum-Incubation Centre for Small Enterprise Establishment under PPP mode	Skilling first-generation entrepreneurs in basic technical trades and areas of business operations	NSIC under MoMSME, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide skill development training to secure employment in any business enterprise. To help unemployed set up their own micro/ small business 	Educational and technical institutions, companies, firms, NGOs, etc.	All sectors	Centres are set up as franchises under PPP-mode	No financial support; franchisees have to pay 15 per cent royalty to the NSIC	For further information, please visit: http://www.nsic.co.in/NTSC/PPPMode.aspx
Building Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for MSME	Enhancing awareness on IPR and its applicability	MoMSME, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the awareness of IPRs amongst MSMEs to encourage creative intellectual endeavour in the Indian economy To take suitable measures for the protection of ideas, technological innovation and knowledge-driven business strategies developed by MSMEs To provide appropriate facilities and support for the protection and commercialisation of Intellectual Property (IP) for the benefit of the MSME sector To assist SMEs in the effective utilisation of IPR tools for technology upgradation, market and business promotion and competitiveness enhancement 	MSMEs, institutions, associations, institutes, non-profit-bodies, NGOs, societies, organisations, etc.	All sectors	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to INR 100 lakh grant assistance for setting up IP facilitation centres Grant for patent/ registration ranging from INR 0.10-5 lakh Grant for activities like awareness programmes, pilot studies, workshops, etc. 	For further information, please visit: http://www.dcmsme.gov.in/schemes/IPR-Detail.html

Scheme Name	Focus	Ministry/ Dept.	Objectives	Eligible Applicants	Sector	Nature of Support	Total Support	Application & Web Details
Udyam Sakhi	Increasing women entrepreneurship through targeted support	MoMSME, GoI	To assist women in starting, building and growing their businesses, thus encouraging women independence	Women entrepreneurs (start-ups, MSMEs, etc.)	All sectors	Knowledge dissemination, incubation, trainings, mentoring, etc.	No financial support	For further information, please visit: http://www.udyamsakhi.org/
NewGen IEDC – NewGen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre	Inculcating the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst S&T students, encourage and support start-up creation	NSTEDB DST, GoI	To develop institutional mechanisms to foster the entrepreneurial culture in S&T academic institutions and to promote techno entrepreneurship among S&T students	Academic institutions	S&T	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NewGen IEDC: Up to INR 25 lakhs as nonrecurring grant Recurring grant for maximum 5 years 	For further information, please visit: http://www.newgeniedc.in/#NewGenIEDC
NIDHI TBI – NIDHI Technology Business Incubator	Converting innovations to start-ups by providing support to institutions for setting up TBIs for technology-based entrepreneurship	NSTEDB DST, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create jobs, wealth and businesses To promote start-ups To provide a platform for the speedy commercialisation of technologies To build a vibrant start-ups ecosystem To provide cost-effective, value added services to start-ups 	Academic, technical or R&D institutions	All sectors	Grant	CAPEX & OPEX support for 5 years	For further information, please visit: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Pro-grammes/2018/NIDHITBI.pdf
NIDHI SSS – NIDHI Seed Support System	Ensuring start-ups in long-term operationally sustainable	NSTEDB DST, GoI	To ensure timely availability of seed support to the deserving incubatee start-ups within an incubator, thereby enabling them to take their venture to the next level and facilitate towards their success	Fully operational STEP/TBI, other TBIs	All sectors	Grant	Up to INR 1,000 lakhs as grant-in-aid to STEP/TBI for seed support disbursement to its incubates	For further information, please visit: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Pro-grammes/2018/NIDHITBI.pdf

Scheme Name	Focus	Ministry/ Dept.	Objectives	Eligible Applicants	Sector	Nature of Support	Total Support	Application & Web Details
NIDHI EIR – Entrepreneur-In-Residence	Providing a subsistence grant to an aspiring or budding entrepreneur for pursuing a promising technology business idea	NSTEDB, DST, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting early-stage, product-focused young entrepreneurs working on innovative ideas would for a maximum period of 12 months To provide office space, administrative support and a stipend to establish/make the most of their ideas and turn innovative breakthroughs into viable businesses 	NSTEDB approved TBIs (to act as PEP for EIR grant administration and disbursement)	All sectors	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBI acting as PEP: Annual grant up to maximum of INR 39.6 lakhs per year NIDHI-EIR: INR 10,000-30,000 per month for a period of 12 months 	For further information, please visit: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Pro-grammes/NIDHI-EIR.pdf
NIDHI PRAYAS – NIDHI Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring Innovators and Start-ups	Pre-incubation initiative focusing on addressing the prototype funding gap	NSTEDB, DST, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable the translation of innovative ideas into prototypes To provide a platform for faster experimentation and modify approaches from idea to market To generate innovative solutions relevant to local and global problems To attract youth who demonstrate problem-solving zeal and abilities to work on new technology/knowledge / innovation based start- ups To enhance the quality and quantity of innovative start-ups in incubators 	Innovators, TBI/STEP, etc.	All sectors	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up fab labs: up to INR 100 lakhs INR 100 lakhs per year for 5 years as prototype grant for disbursement to 10 innovators per year (@ INR 10 lakhs per innovator) INR 20 lakhs per year for 5 years of operations 	For further information, please visit: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Pro-grammes/NIDHI-PRAYAS.pdf

Scheme Name	Focus	Ministry/ Dept.	Objectives	Eligible Applicants	Sector	Nature of Support	Total Support	Application & Web Details
NIDHI GCC – NIDHI Grand Challenges and Competitions	Supporting large-scale scouting programmes	NSTEDB, DST, GoI	To ensure the timely availability of seed support to the deserving incubatee start-ups within the incubators, thereby enabling them to take their venture to the next level and facilitate towards their success in the market place	Fully operational STEP/TBI	All sectors	Grant	Up to 1,000 lakhs as grant-in-aid for seed support disbursement to incubatees	For further information, please visit: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Pro-grammes/2018/NIDHISeedSupport-System.pdf
NIDHI EIR-NIDHI Entrepreneurs-In-Residence	Providing a subsistence grant to aspiring or budding entrepreneurs for pursuing a promising technology/business idea	NSTEDB DST, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To find and nurture innovative sustainable solutions for challenges faced by the society To pick up ideas from un-tapped sources and convert them into start- ups To generate awareness on entrepreneurship and reach out to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs through media outreach To expand the pipeline of potential incubatees 	NSTEDB- approved TBIs (to act as PEP for EIR grant administration and disbursement)	All sectors	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to INR 400 lakhs for national and INR 150 lakhs for regional programme Up to INR 5 lakhs as prototyping grant and INR 50 lakhs as seed capital per winner 	For further information, please visit: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Pro-grammes/NIDHI%20GCC.pdf
NIDHI CoE – NIDHI Centre of Excellence	Supporting high-risk and high-growth technology-based new enterprises	NSTEDB DST, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote innovation-based impact making start-ups To provide cost-effective, value added services to start-ups 	TBI with or without external partner, non-academic institutions, etc.	All sectors	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 per cent support to public funded institution Recurring support of INR 20 crores and a maximum of INR 10 crores for equipment 	For further information, please visit: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Programmes/NIDHI-COE-new.pdf

Scheme Name	Focus	Ministry/ Dept.	Objectives	Eligible Applicants	Sector	Nature of Support	Total Support	Application & Web Details
NIDHI – Accelerator	Assisting aspiring entrepreneurs, including ventures already incubated at TBIs through accelerator programmes	NSTEDB, DST, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scale up existing/new activities targeted at seeding and supporting start-ups To provide a platform for speedy commercialisation 	Existing TBI with NSTEDB recognition	All sectors	Grant	INR 150 lakhs per year for up to two accelerators per year	For further information, please visit: http://www.nstedb.com/New_Pro-grammes/2018/NIDHIAccelerator.pdf or https://onlinedst.gov.in/
TIDE – Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs Scheme	Assisting higher education institutions to strengthen their TICs and thus enable young entrepreneurs to initiate technology start-ups	MeitY, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up and strengthen the TICs in higher education institutions Promote product-oriented R&D 	Academic institutes	Electronics, ICT and management	Grant	Up to INR 155 lakhs for each TIDE centre	For further information, please visit: https://meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/TIDE-scheme_March_2017.pdf

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SIP EIT II – Support for International Patent Protection in E&IT (SIP-EIT) – II for start-ups and MSMEs	Financial support for international patent filing	MeitY, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and accelerate the development of indigenous products and packages Bridge the gap between R&D and commercialisation 	Start-ups, MSMEs, technology incubation enterprises	Electronics and IT	Grant	Up to 50 per cent with a limit of INR 15 lakhs for international patents	For further information, please visit: http://www.ict-ipr.in/sipeti/login
Scheme to Support IPR Awareness Workshops/Seminars in E & IT Sector	Providing financial support for organising seminars and workshops on IPR awareness among various stakeholders	NSTEDB DST, GoI	To sensitise and create awareness on intellectual property (IP) and to disseminate the scheme among stakeholders (especially in the E & IT sectors)	Educational institutes, industry bodies, DeitY societies/ bodies	Electronics and IT	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational institutes: INR 2 lakhs Associations: INR 3 lakhs DeitY bodies: INR 5 lakhs per awareness programme or workshop 	For further information, please visit: http://deity.gov.in/http://www.ict-ipr.in/sipeti/login
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)	Aligning innovation policies between central, state and sectoral schemes for innovation and entrepreneurship	NITI Aayog, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a platform of world-class innovation hubs and other self-employment models with a focus on technology-driven areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATLs: schools AICs: higher educational institutions, R&D institutes, corporates, accelerators, etc. 	All sectors (AICs should focus on manufacturing, transport, energy, health, education,	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATLs: INR 10 lakh for instruments and equipment, INR 10 lakh for operational expenses AICs: max. INR 10 crore 	For further information, please visit: https://niti.gov.in

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Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)	Listing women focused entrepreneurship schemes, initiatives and programmes on one platform	NITI Aayog, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote entrepreneurship through self-employment To enable women entrepreneurs to spark their business To provide entrepreneurship support To support in setting up and scaling up businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EICs Women entrepreneurs at ideation stage and established start-ups, Corporates, NGOs, research organisations, incubator, accelerators, etc. 	agriculture, or water and sanitation)	Knowledge exchange and dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EICs: max. INR 10 crore in two instalments Free credit ratings, mentorship, funding support to women entrepreneurs, apprenticeship and corporate partnerships, A partner network offers incubation and acceleration support to WEP- registered women founded/ co-founded start-ups 	For further information, please visit: https://niti.gov.in/women-entrepreneurship-platform-wep
Stand-up India	Facilitating access to loans for SC/ST entrepreneurs and women entrepreneurs	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, GoI	To support women entrepreneurs and members of the SC/ST communities in obtaining loans, setting up enterprises and in receiving other support necessary for managing a successful business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women entrepreneurs from the SC/ST community 	Manufacturing, services and trading sectors	Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank loans between INR 10 lakh and INR 1 crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a new enterprise Borrowers will be invited to attend periodic events organised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and SIDBI. 	For further information, please visit: https://www.standupmitra.in
iDEX – Innovations for Defence Excellence	Co-innovation/co-creation, piloting and indigenization	MoD, GoI	Creating an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology in the defence and aerospace sector through engaging industries including MSMEs, start-ups, R&D	Innovators, start-ups, MSMEs, incubators, accelerators, etc.	Technology relevant for defence services	Grant	Up to INR 40 lakhs for innovation activities/programmes	For further information, please visit: https://www.makinindiadefence.gov.in/pages/innovations-for-defence-excellence-idx-

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BioNEST – Bio-incubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies	Supporting biotech start-ups through world-class incubation centres to propel innovative ideas towards commercialisation	BIRAC, DBT, GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> units and academia, and provide them grants and other support To provide incubation spaces to start-ups and entrepreneurs. To provides access to a pool of special equipment in the common equipment facilities To connect industry and academia and enable interactions for efficient exchange of knowledge as well as facilitate technical and business mentorship To provide enabling services and required IPR, management, legal and contract resources and a networking platform 	Academia, institutions, R&D organisations, state biotech and S&T council, etc.	Biotech	Grant	Capital and/or operational funding support (of up to 50 per cent), no specific funding limit	For further information, please visit: https://www.birac.nic.in/bionest.php

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