



Secretariat Coordination Desk, India Dt:12.04.2026

Student Startup Grants

Rules, Regulations & Guidelines

1. Purpose

The NCIE Student Startup Grants Program aims to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, research, and technology-based startups by providing financial assistance, mentorship, incubation support, and market access to student innovators.

2. Objectives

- Promote innovation among students.
- Support the development of prototypes and proof of concepts.
- Encourage technology commercialization.
- Generate employment through student-led startups.
- Foster entrepreneurship aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be an Indian citizen or legally eligible to study in India.
- Be enrolled in a recognized Higher Educational Institution (HEI) or have graduated within the last two years.
- Be between 18 and 35 years of age.
- Apply individually or as a team (maximum 5 members).
- Submit an original and innovative startup idea.
- Ensure that the startup does not violate any Indian law.
- Not receive duplicate funding from NCIE for the same project.

4. Eligible Sectors

Applications are invited from all sectors, including:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Robotics & Automation
- Agriculture & AgriTech
- Healthcare & MedTech
- Biotechnology
- FinTech
- EdTech
- Clean Energy
- Climate & Sustainability
- Manufacturing
- Space Technology
- Cyber Security
- Smart Cities
- Tourism
- Rural Innovation
- Social Innovation
- Women Entrepreneurship
- Defence Technologies
- Digital Governance
- Any innovative technology-based solution.

5. Grant Categories

Category	Grant Amount
Idea Validation Grant	Up to ₹50,000
Prototype Development Grant	Up to ₹2,00,000
Student Startup Grant	Up to ₹5,00,000
Institutional Innovation Grant	As notified separately

6. Eligible Expenses

Grant funds may be used only for:

- Prototype development
- Product design
- Software development
- Hardware procurement
- Testing and validation
- Patent and Intellectual Property filing
- Certification and regulatory approvals
- Product development
- Market validation
- Pilot implementation
- Essential equipment and tools

Grant funds shall not be used for:

- Purchase of land or buildings
- Luxury expenses
- Personal travel
- Personal salaries without approval
- Repayment of loans
- Political or religious activities
- Illegal activities

7. Application Process

Applicants shall submit:

- Online Application Form
- Startup Proposal
- Business Model Canvas
- Problem Statement
- Solution Description
- Market Analysis
- Financial Plan
- Team Details
- Institution Recommendation (if applicable)
- Prototype details (if available)
- Declaration of Originality

8. Evaluation Process

Applications shall be evaluated on:

- Innovation (25%)
- Technical Feasibility (20%)
- Market Potential (20%)
- Social Impact (15%)
- Team Capability (10%)
- Financial Viability (10%)

9. Selection Process

The selection process includes:

1. Preliminary Screening
2. Technical Evaluation
3. Expert Committee Review
4. Startup Pitch Presentation
5. Final Approval by NCIE Competent Authority

10. Grant Disbursement

Approved grants shall normally be released in milestone-based instalments:

- 20% – Approval
- 20% – Prototype Completion
- 20% – Product Validation
- 20% – Pilot Implementation
- 20% – Final Completion & Utilization Report

11. Monitoring

Grant recipients shall:

- Submit quarterly progress reports.
- Participate in review meetings.
- Maintain financial records.
- Permit audits by NCIE or authorized agencies.
- Provide utilization certificates when required.

12. Intellectual Property (IP)

- Intellectual Property created under the project shall ordinarily remain with the startup, subject to applicable laws and any agreed grant conditions.
- Applicants are encouraged to file patents, copyrights, trademarks, or designs wherever appropriate.
- NCIE may acknowledge supported innovations for reporting and promotional purposes, subject to confidentiality requirements.

13. Code of Conduct

Recipients shall:

- Maintain honesty and transparency.
- Avoid plagiarism and fraud.
- Comply with all applicable laws and institutional policies.
- Respect confidentiality and data privacy.
- Maintain ethical research and business practices.

14. Grounds for Cancellation

NCIE may suspend or cancel the grant if:

- False information is submitted.
- Funds are misused.
- Progress is unsatisfactory.
- Grant conditions are violated.
- Fraud, corruption, or misconduct is established.

15. Recovery of Grant

NCIE reserves the right to recover grant funds in cases of fraud, deliberate misuse, material breach of grant conditions, or submission of false information, subject to applicable law and due process.

16. Reporting Requirements

Recipients shall submit:

- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Financial Utilization Statements
- Final Project Report
- Startup Impact Report

- Employment Generation Report (where applicable)

17. Recognition

Successful startups may receive:

- NCIE Startup Certificate
- National Innovation Recognition
- Investor Connect Opportunities
- Mentorship Support
- Incubation Support
- Demo Day Participation
- National Startup Showcase

18. General Conditions

- Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.
- NCIE may revise, suspend, or withdraw the scheme or its guidelines at any time.
- Decisions of the competent authority shall be final regarding selection and grant administration.
- Applicants are responsible for complying with all applicable statutory, tax, intellectual property, and regulatory requirements.

19. Disclaimer

The NCIE Student Startup Grants Program shall be implemented in accordance with applicable laws, approved policies, and available resources. Applicants are solely responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted. NCIE shall not be liable for business losses, commercial decisions, or disputes arising from funded projects.

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