



सूक्ष्म , लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF

MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

MSME IDEA HACKATHON 6.0

Frontier Technology in MSMEs

One Pillar: Six Themes



Instructions for Participation <https://innovative.msme.gov.in>

Foreword

In alignment with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a “**Viksit Bharat @2047**” and the belief that “*India's youth and innovators are the architects of a self-reliant and globally competitive nation,*” the Ministry of MSME has launched **MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0**. This edition marks a significant milestone in the journey of fostering inclusive innovation, as it opens its doors to a broad spectrum of participants, welcoming all Indian citizens above 18 years of age.

The MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0 is a celebration of India's diverse talent pool, which is designed to harness the collective ingenuity of our people to address pressing national challenges and unlock new opportunities for the future. With themes ranging from renewable energy, energy efficiency, automotive technology, Industry 4.0 and 5.0, robotics and automation, and other frontier technologies, this initiative reflects our commitment to building a future-ready MSME ecosystem.

By providing access to funding, mentorship, and incubation support, the Hackathon empowers innovators to transform ideas into impactful ventures that shape the future of our nation. For implementation of the scheme, the Host Institutions (HIs) approved for the scheme will be supported by the Office of DC-MSME. Selected ideas will be provided funding support upto a maximum of Rs. 15 lakhs per approved idea, through the approved Host Institutes spread across the country.

Process flow of Idea Evaluation

The ideas can be submitted through Ministry's dedicated Portal at <https://innovative.msme.gov.in> from 27th June to 14th July 2026. The applicants have to register themselves for applying in Hackathon 6.0. In the Application Form, the applicant has the option to choose the Host Institute (HI). Before choosing the HI, applicant may explore information about the HI regarding the viability of developing the idea and then make a decision. The ideas submitted by the applicants will undergo multiple stages of rigorous evaluation including at Host Institute & MoMSME level and final selection by PMAC.



Process flow of Idea Evaluation

Stage 1 - Evaluation by the Host Institutes

- ❑ Ideas submitted by the applicant will be received and evaluated by the respective HI initially.
- ❑ For evaluation at HI level, as per the instructions issued, each HI will identify and create a pool of experts from different domains/ areas of expertise, for e.g., entrepreneur, technical expert, financial expert, thematic expert, etc.
- ❑ From the pool of experts, a panel of minimum 3 and maximum 5 experts will be selected by the HI for each Theme.
- ❑ After evaluation, each HI will forward the shortlisted Ideas on the <https://innovative.msme.gov.in/>. During evaluation, HIs shall adhere to the guidelines/modalities as decided by Ministry of MSME.

Stage 2 - Evaluation by the Ministry of MSME

- ❑ After receiving shortlisted ideas from HI, the screening of documents submitted with the ideas will be carried out. Ideas with complete and valid documents only will be processed. If the idea uploaded is incomplete/or with incoherent information, the idea will be liable for rejection.
- ❑ Thereafter the screened ideas will be forwarded to the Domain Expert Selection Committees (DESCs).

Process flow of Idea Evaluation

Stage 3 – Selection of Ideas by Domain Expert Selection Committee (DESC)

The ideas received will be evaluated by respective DESCs.

- The thematic Domain Expert Selection Committees (DESCs) will comprise experts from Industry/Academia/Government. DESCs will recommend the ideas along with score.
- The evaluation will be carried out as per the criteria decided by the Ministry.

Stage 4 – Final Selection by Project Monitoring & Advisory Committee(PMAC)

- After the evaluation by DESCs, the recommended ideas would be forwarded to the PMAC for final approval. PMAC will be the final authority to approve the ideas.
- The approved ideas will be granted financial assistance as per scheme guidelines.
- PMAC has the right to reject any idea without assigning any reason.

Themes for Ideas

One Pillar: Six Themes

1. Renewable Energy:

To promote the generation, storage, management and productive use of renewable energy through MSME-led products and technologies. Participants may work on solar, wind, biomass, biogas, bioenergy, green hydrogen, hybrid energy systems, battery storage, second-life batteries, renewable-energy-powered machinery, decentralized energy systems or clean-energy components. Solutions may include solar dryers, cold-storage units, pumps, process-heating systems, compact storage devices, monitoring tools or indigenous components that improve energy access and create commercially viable clean-technology opportunities for MSMEs.

2. Energy Efficiency:

This sub-theme invites practical and affordable ideas that help MSME units reduce energy consumption, production costs and process losses. Participants may propose machine-level energy-monitoring devices, efficient motors and drives, compressed-air leakage detection, waste-heat recovery, efficient boilers and furnaces, improved refrigeration and cooling systems, process-optimization tools, thermal insulation, power-quality improvement or low-cost energy-solutions. Ideas should preferably demonstrate measurable energy savings and should be suitable for retrofitting or adoption by existing MSME units with limited capital and technical capacity.

3. Automotive Technology:

This sub-theme seeks innovative ideas and prototype-ready solutions addressing emerging requirements across automotive manufacturing, electric mobility and mobility-support ecosystems. Participants may develop indigenous automotive components, electric motors and controllers, battery-management and thermal-management systems, charging and battery-swapping technologies, vehicle electronics, embedded systems, sensors, connected-vehicle solutions, lightweight and advanced materials, safety technologies, alternative-fuel systems, diagnostic equipment, testing tools and precision-manufactured parts. Ideas may also address component remanufacturing, vehicle maintenance, end-of-life vehicle recovery and digital solutions for automotive suppliers.

Themes for Ideas

4. Industry 4.0 and 5.0:

This sub-theme invites ideas that can make MSME manufacturing more connected, intelligent, flexible and human-centric through technologies such as the Internet of Things, digital twins, artificial intelligence, machine vision, cyber-physical systems and smart production monitoring. Participants may develop affordable sensors, machinery-retrofitting solutions, predictive-maintenance tools, digital work instructions, production, worker-assistance systems, product traceability solutions or other technologies that allow MSMEs to modernize existing operations without requiring complete replacement of their machinery and infrastructure.

5. Robotics and Automation:

This sub-theme seeks affordable and adaptable automation solutions designed specifically for the scale and operating conditions of MSMEs. Participants may develop pick-and-place systems, machine-tending solutions, automated inspection tools, robotic welding or finishing systems, material-handling equipment, autonomous factory vehicles, computer-vision-based automation, modular controllers, adaptive grippers or retrofit kits for conventional machinery. Solutions should focus on ease of installation, safety, affordability, simple programming and suitability for small-batch, high-variety or labour-intensive production environments.

6. Other Frontier Technologies:

This sub-theme invites innovative ideas in emerging and high-growth technology sectors not fully covered under the preceding categories, including advanced materials, drones, space technology, defence and dual-use technologies, medical devices, electronics and other high growth sectors. Participants may propose indigenous components, advanced coatings and composites, drone payloads and control systems, satellite-enabled applications, portable defence or communication systems, affordable diagnostic and assistive devices, embedded electronics, precision-engineered products, testing technologies or other solutions with clear potential for domestic manufacturing, import substitution, commercialization and exports.

Mandate for Ideas

All ideas should contain, inter-alia, following basic types of Innovation Processes:

1

Marketing & Branding:

Innovation related to the customer experience

2

Ideation:

Innovation related to the product idea & concept

3

Technology:

Innovation related to the product functionality

4

Co-creation:

Innovation related to the customer involvement

5

Social Innovation:

Innovation related to the corporate culture

6

Entrepreneurship:

Innovation related to through entrepreneurial thinking

7

Open Innovation:

Innovation related to with stakeholders

8

Business Model Innovation:

Innovation related to the purpose and strategy

Instruction for applicants

- Applicants shall submit their Ideas by selecting an approved Host Institute (HI) based on their preference, such as availability of mentor(s), institutional capabilities, etc.
- Once an Idea is submitted, a change of HI or any other information shall not be permitted at any stage, including category change from MSME/Others to student, or vice versa. Applicants are therefore advised to consult the selected HI prior to submission.
- An Idea, or any substantially similar Idea(s), shall not be submitted more than once or to more than one HI. Any duplicate or multiple submissions will be disqualified.
- The Idea must be strictly intended for the development of a working prototype, model, proof-of-concept, or product.
- Student applicants shall ensure that, if selected, they will continue and complete the development of the Idea even after completion of their academic programme. Applicants who do not intend to carry forward the development work post completion of their academic programme are advised not to apply.
- Submission of false information, misconduct, or canvassing in any form shall lead to disqualification or blacklisting of the applicant.

Do's and Don'ts

Do's



Ideas should have novel & innovative value, and be useful to the society



Ideas should be scalable.



Ideas should reduce cost of living, product or process.



Ideas should improve quality of life and provide convenience to living standards.



Ideas should focus on clean & green energy initiative.



In case the Incubatee is a student, then a Student Identity Card valid for FY 2026-27 must be submitted.



For proof of age, a Government issued Identity Card (preferably Aadhar) must be submitted.

Don'ts



Do not submit any Ideas which infringes upon novelty and originality.



Do not submit Ideas which are against established scientific theories/norms.



Do not furnish information (Phone, email, brand name etc.) that can reveal the identity of the incubatee/MSME in the block diagram & concept note.



No incubates and mentors shall be part of any evaluation committee.

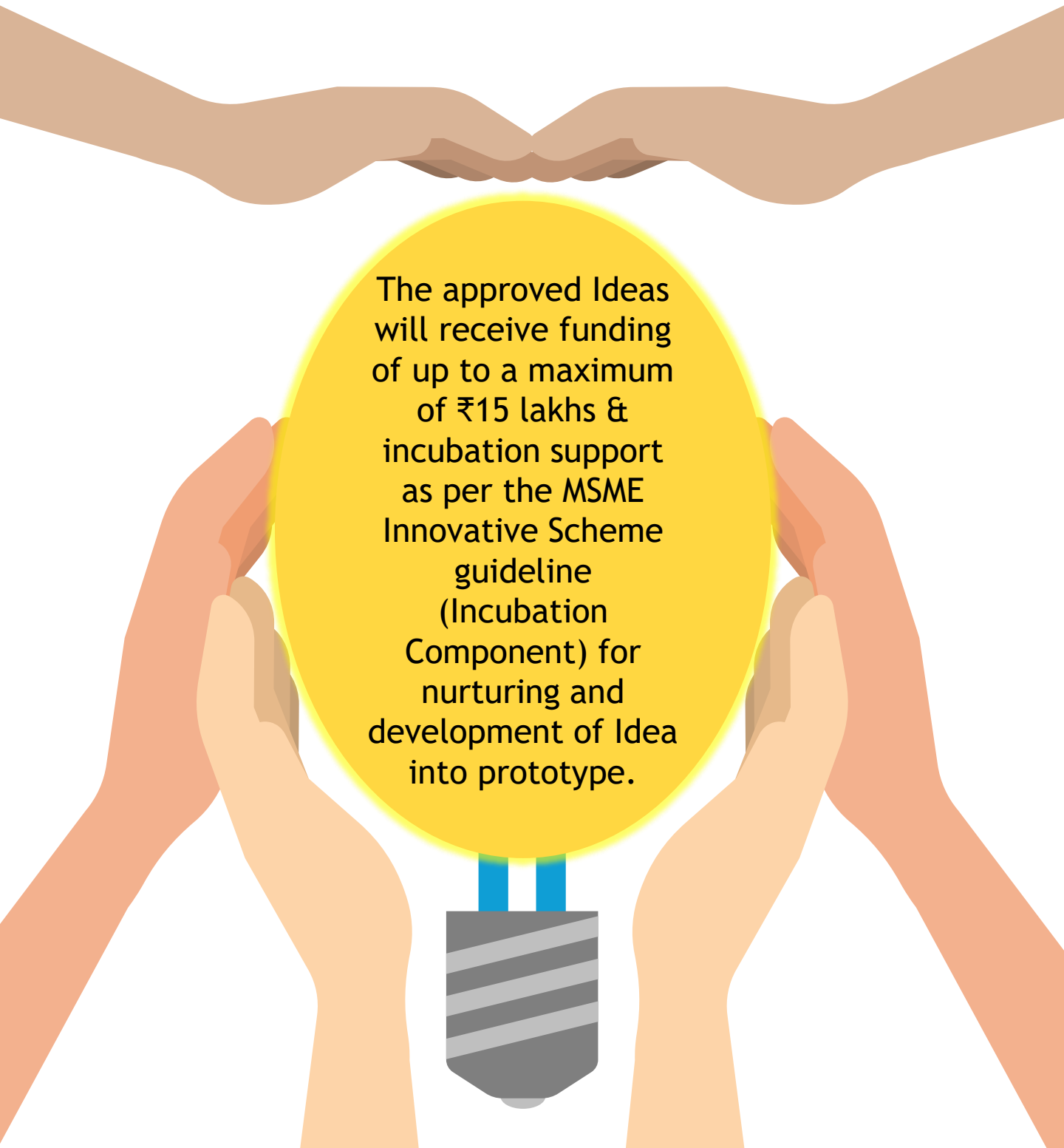


Do not include any references to research papers, newspaper articles or any individual/firm information in the Block Diagram or Concept Note.



Incubatee and Mentor should not be the same person.

Support for Idea Development



The approved Ideas will receive funding of up to a maximum of ₹15 lakhs & incubation support as per the MSME Innovative Scheme guideline (Incubation Component) for nurturing and development of Idea into prototype.