

Guidelines for 'Bharat Innovates 2026, Global Innovation Showcase' in France

Ministry of Education

Government of India

Guidelines for Bharat Innovates 2026

1. Background and Purpose

Bharat Innovates 2026, Global Innovation Showcase in France is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, with strategic guidance and inputs from the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India", designed to represent India's R&D backed technology innovation prowess being nurtured at its HEIs / CFTIs, on the global stage. Aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of "Jai Anusandhan", the showcase would serve to position India as a global leader in technology innovation and entrepreneurship, supported by a resourceful university entrepreneurship ecosystem and technical institutions.

To be organized at France, the initiative seeks to curate and present approximately 100 promising and path-breaking technology innovations at various stages of development to a global audience comprising industry personnel, investors, policymakers, potential collaborators, and technology partners.

2. Salient Features

Under this initiative, R&D based technology innovations that solve complex societal problems will be showcased.

The program emphasizes:

- Original research-backed breakthroughs to solve complex problems
- Interdisciplinary collaboration involving academia, industry, and start-ups
- Technology innovations in the TRL 3 - 9 continuum
- Proprietary know-how and intellectual property development
- Translation and venture creation

For the innovations that are selected through a competitive process, this opportunity will progressively translate into the following:

- **Strategic Refinement** for sharpening the innovation’s approach and positioning
 - **Global Market Access** for products and services under development
 - **Technology Partnerships** with best-in-class collaborators
 - **Investment Facilitation** through a network of global institutional investors
 - **Knowledge Exchange** with global innovators and thought leaders
 - **Translation and Commercialization Support** to advance on the TRL journey through a curated set of resources
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3. Scope

3.1 Included Areas

Technology Themes: The following 13 technology themes, coordinated by the named institutes are within the purview of this program:

SN	Theme	Lead Institution(s)
1	Advanced Materials, Rare-earth & Critical Minerals	IIT Hyderabad
2	Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change	IIT Delhi
3	Agri & Food Technologies	IIT Ropar
4	Semiconductors	IIT Bombay
5	Advanced Computing (Supercomputing, AI, Quantum Computing)	IIT Bombay
6	Healthcare & MedTech	IISc Bangalore

SN	Theme	Lead Institution(s)
7	Space and Defence	IIT Kanpur
8	Next-Gen Communications	IIT Madras
9	Disaster Management & Resilient Infrastructure	IIT Tirupati with IIT Guwahati
10	Blue Economy	IIT Madras
11	Smart Cities & Mobility	IIT Gandhinagar
12	Manufacturing & Industry 4.0	IIT Roorkee with IIT Jammu
13	Biotechnology	Department of Biotechnology (DBT) & Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

Innovation Requirements:

- Targeting complex societal challenges through R&D based solutions
- Technology Readiness Level (TRL) between 3 - 9
- Original research backed breakthroughs
- Proprietary know-how / intellectual property
- Demonstrable POCs, Prototypes or MVPs

3.2 Excluded Areas

The following shall **NOT** be within the purview of this program:

- Recreations of existing innovations without significant value addition
 - Service-based solutions without underlying technology innovation
 - Innovations below TRL 3 or purely conceptual ideas
 - Solutions lacking proprietary intellectual property components
 - Non-scalable or purely local solutions without global applicability
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4. Application Process & Eligibility Criteria

4.1 Eligible Organizations and Individuals

Eligibility: The applicant seeking participation should fulfill all of the following:

- A. Be part of a student-faculty team in a research lab or at a pre-incubator at an HEI / CFTI¹
or
Be part of a team of innovators incubated at a Technology Innovation Center, Incubation Center, or Research Park in India associated with an HEI / CFTI²
or
Be willing to secure formal association with an HEI / CFTI's³ innovation infrastructure.
- B. If the innovation has graduated to be a venture, the entity should be registered in India and must be a legal entity as per Indian law. Indian founders should hold more than 51% equity
- C. All applicants must ensure that their innovation falls within one of the 13 specified technology themes, demonstrates a TRL 3 – 9 level of development, and leverages proprietary know-how or intellectual property.
- D. Not be blacklisted by any Central/State Government/Public Sector Undertaking, Government of India
- E. Not have violated any intellectual property rights or be involved in any legal proceedings that may affect the innovation's showcasing
- F. Be ready to adhere to the data protection, confidentiality, and conflict of interest policies as may be prescribed by MoE.

4.2 Application Requirements

- **Team Composition:** Applications may be submitted by individual innovators or teams
- **Duration Commitment:** Applicants must commit to participating in the complete selection and preparation process spanning ~9 months
- **Travel Commitment:** Selected applicants must be available for travel to multiple locations within India for bootcamps and to France for the final showcase
- **Submission Mode:** Applications must be submitted exclusively through the designated Bharat Innovates portal at www.bharatinnovates.in between August 30, 2025 and September 30, 2025
- **Choice of Technology Theme:** Each innovation can be submitted under only one technology theme. Evaluators may move it to a different theme if needed.

¹ HEI / CFT refers to "MoE sponsored Higher Education Institute and Centrally funded Technology Institute

² ibid

³ ibid

4.3 Exclusion Criteria

Automatic Disqualification: Applications may not be accepted if:

- Applicant has been convicted of any criminal offense
 - Innovation involves technologies restricted under export control regulations
 - Previous participation resulted in a breach of terms in any Government program
 - Outstanding dues or legal disputes with any Government agency
 - Innovation lacks originality or involves plagiarism
 - False or misleading information provided in any section of the application.
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5. Selection Process and Preparatory Boot Camps

5.1 Multi-Stage Selection Framework

The selection process shall comprise the following stages:

Stage 1: Public announcement of National Call for Projects (August 2025)

- Website and web application form will be activated
- Social media inserts, e-mailers and mass media will be leveraged

Stage 2: Mid-call Consultation (September 2025)

- With a fee of Rs 500, (potential) applicants will be able to recommend modifications in terms and conditions of the advertised CfP within the first 10 days of the call.
- Within 20 days of the announcement of the call, all recommendations will be assessed and suitably dealt with and the CfP terms and conditions will be frozen
- Existing applicants will be able to modify their submissions if applicable

Stage 3: Application Evaluation (October 2025)

- Initial screening for eligibility compliance
- Technical evaluation by domain experts for creating first shortlist

Stage 4: First technology theme specific Bootcamp (November 2025) in online mode at respective institutions:

- Intensive evaluation (fact check) and feedback session
- Assessment of team commitment and capability

- Development of plan for Innovation refinement over upcoming 9 months
- Confirmation of shortlist of up to 400 innovations across 13 technology themes

Stage 5: National Basecamp (Dec 2025) for all technology themes at one location

- Presentation to curated audience at designated venue
- Industry and investor interaction, and feedback
- Second shortlist of up to 150 innovations across 13 technology themes

Stage 6: Second technology theme specific Bootcamp (Jan-Feb 2026) at respective institutions:

- Theme-specific technical deep-dive sessions
- Commercialization and global market-facing inputs
- Pitching related guidance and Prototype refinement support

Stage 7: Final Selection (February 2026)

- Comprehensive evaluation by technical oversight committee with theme specific inputs from respective POCs
- Final selection of up to 120 innovations
- Commencement of intensive preparation phase

Stage 8: Pre-Departure Preparation (March-May 2026)

- Ongoing mentorship sessions
- Prototype polishing and presentation training
- Visa processing and travel arrangements

Discretionary Authority: The Ministry of Education shall reserve the absolute discretion on the determination of selection and all processes, and such determination shall be final and binding.

6. Potential Support Mechanism and Benefits

6.1 Indicative Financial Support Framework

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: *All financial support mentioned below is indicative and subject to availability of funds, budgetary approvals, and final determination by competent authorities. The Government does not guarantee any financial assistance and reserves the right to modify, reduce, or withdraw any support without prior notice.*

Travel and Accommodation (Subject to Final Selection and Budget Approval):

- Travel support for team members (up to Two) for domestic bootcamps and training programs
- International travel to France including economy airfare, per diem allowances, accommodation, and local transportation *for two team members*.
- Visa processing support and documentation assistance *for two team members*
- Support for IP registration and filing

Development Support Framework

- Technical mentorship and expert consultation access may be arranged through available networks
- Access to prototyping facilities and testing laboratories may be facilitated subject to availability and capacity

Financial Support Conditions:

- All financial support is *provisional* and subject to budget approvals
- Support amounts may be revised based on actual requirements and fund availability
- Financial assistance, when provided, shall be governed by applicable financial rules and audit requirements
- No legal claim can be made for any financial support mentioned in these guidelines

6.2 Potential Non-Financial Benefits

- Opportunity to showcase innovation to international audience may be provided
- Mentorship and technical guidance may be arranged through available networks
- Certificate of participation may be issued to qualifying participants
- Networking and collaboration opportunities may be facilitated as deemed feasible

6.3 Important Limitations and Disclaimers

- No Guaranteed Benefits: Participation does not ensure any benefits; all support is discretionary and subject to approval from the competent authority decision.
 - Benefits may be changed, withdrawn, or made subject to new conditions without notice or compensation.
 - Any support depends on compliance and performance; non-compliance may lead to discontinuation.
 - Participants have no legal claim to any support.
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7. Timeline and Key Milestones

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1	Application Submission	August 30 – September 30, 2025	Complete online application with all supporting documents
2	First Shortlist Announcement	October 30, 2025	Check portal status with application number
3	First Bootcamp	November 15, 2025	Online mode, participate in intensive sessions. Check portal for confirmation of shortlist
4	National Basecamp	December 20, 2025	National Basecamp at IIT Gandhinagar, for expert review
5	Second Shortlist	January, 2025	Check portal for selection status
6	Second Bootcamp	Jan - Feb, 2026	Attend theme-specific technical sessions and pitching training
7	Final Selection	February 15, 2026	Await final selection results
8	Final Preparation Phase	March - May 2026	Ongoing mentorship and prototype refinement. Visa processing
9	Bharat Innovates, France	17-19 June, 2026	Represent India at global showcase in France
10	Post-Event Support	August 15, 2026 onwards	Commercialization and market entry support

8. Terms and Conditions

8.1 Intellectual Property Rights

- Innovators shall retain full ownership of their intellectual property
- MoE reserves the right to use innovation details for promotional purposes related to the showcase program
- Government shall not claim any ownership or commercial rights over the innovations
- All IP documentation must be properly filed and maintained by innovators
- Participants must ensure their innovations do not infringe upon any existing intellectual property rights
- Any licensing agreements entered into during or after the program shall be at the sole discretion of the innovator

At the time of application, exclusive commercialization rights over the innovation must remain with the innovator(s) or their affiliated institution

8.2 Comprehensive Participant norms

All participants must comply with the following requirements:

- **National Representation:** Represent India responsibly, maintain highest conduct standards, and comply with cultural sensitivity guidelines during international interactions
 - **Legal Compliance:** Adhere to all Indian laws, export control regulations, and obtain necessary regulatory approvals for innovations
 - **Financial Accountability:** Utilize any financial support strictly for intended purposes, maintain documentation, and return unutilized funds
 - **Data Security:** Protect sensitive innovation data, maintain confidentiality about other participants, and report data breaches immediately
 - **Security Clearance:** Submit to background verification and security clearance by competent authorities; technologies may be excluded if deemed sensitive
 - **Monitoring Compliance:** Declare any changes in legal/financial status, submit periodic progress reports, and participate in continuous eligibility monitoring
 - **Conflict Declaration:** Disclose any financial interests, family relationships with officials, or business relationships that may create conflicts
 - **Termination Acceptance:** Acknowledge Government's right to terminate participation at any stage without compensation or assigning reasons
 - **Post-Program Obligations:** Provide annual progress reports for 2 years, acknowledge Government support in future achievements, and participate in impact assessments
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9. Important Disclaimers and Legal Provisions

9.1 No Guarantee of Outcomes

Application does not assure selection or consideration. Selection or participation does not assure advancement, funding, investment, or partnerships. Additional stages or selection criteria may be required as deemed fit by the Organizing Committee. The Government of India is not liable for commercial outcomes. Travel to France depends on final selection and visa approval.

9.2 Limited Government Liability

The Government bears no responsibility for:

- Pre-selection expenses
- Visa or travel issues
- Business or IP disputes
- Losses post-showcase
- Any damages arising from participation

9.3 Compliance and Penalties

False or misleading information may lead to:

- Disqualification and recovery of funds
- Legal action and blacklisting
- Program breaches may result in termination, expense recovery, and legal proceedings.

9.4 Force Majeure

The Government may amend timelines, venues, or formats due to unforeseen events. Terms may be modified with notice.

9.5 Legal Safeguards

Participants:

- Must indemnify the Government against all claims
- Acknowledge no Government endorsement
- Are not Government employees or agents
- Waive claims for indirect or consequential damages

9.6 Amendments

The Ministry may revise terms, processes, or benefits at any time. Notices will be issued via the official website. Continued participation implies acceptance.

9.7 Grievance Redressal

Grievances must be submitted within 15 days via the designated portal. Decisions of the internal committee are final. Selection-related grievances will not be entertained.

10. Application Submission Requirements

10.1 Mandatory Documents

All applications must include:

- Completed online application form with all sections
- Innovation demonstration video (maximum 3 minutes)
- Two short notes (less than 150 words each) on technological novelty of the innovation vis-à-vis solutions / products existing in the market and potential impact of the solution in objective terms.
- One short note (less than 300 words) highlighting commercialization potential / challenges considering competitors in foreign markets.
- Intellectual property documentation (patents, copyrights, etc.)
- Team CVs in a single PDF document
- Letters of support from institution/incubator (if applicable)
- Company registration certificate (for registered startups)
- Prototype images/videos demonstrating current development stage

10.2 Application Portal

- **Website:** www.bharatinnovates.in
 - **Submission Period:** August 30, 2025 (10:00 AM IST) to September 30, 2025 (11:59 PM IST)
 - **Technical Support:** Available through designated email during office hours
 - **Application Fee:** A non-refundable Rs. 3,000 fee is required to complete application.
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11. Contact Information and Support

11.1 Program Coordination

Overall Coordinator - IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai

Email: bharatinnovates@iitb.ac.in

Website: <https://bharatinnovates.in/>

11.2 Technical Support

For technical issues with application portal:

- **Support Hours:** 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM (Monday to Friday)
 - **Response Time:** Within 48 hours for query resolution
 - **FAQ Section:** Continuously updated on program website
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12. Acknowledgment

Acknowledgment: All participants selected for any stage of the program may acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in all future publications, presentations, and marketing materials related to their innovation.

Standard Acknowledgment Text: *"This innovation was supported and showcased under Bharat Innovates 2026, Global Innovation Showcase, in France, a program of the Ministry of Education, Government of India."*

Note: This document contains the complete guidelines for participation in *Bharat Innovates, Global Innovation Showcase 2026*. Applicants are advised to read all sections carefully before applying. The Ministry of Education reserves the right to update these guidelines as necessary, and all updates will be communicated through the official program website.

13. Additional Compliance and Regulatory Requirements

13. Compliance and Requirements

13.1 Statutory Compliance

Participants must ensure:

- GST, FEMA, and Companies Act compliance
- Labor law and environmental clearance adherence (if applicable)

13.2 Technology and Security

- Mandatory security assessment for innovations

- Clearance for dual-use or sensitive technologies
- Information sharing must comply with security guidelines

13.3 Financial and AML Compliance

- Verify sources of funding
- Comply with PMLA and FCRA, if applicable

13.4 International Travel Compliance

- Follow visa processes and diplomatic protocols
- Report visa issues and adhere to cultural guidelines

IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE: *These guidelines constitute a comprehensive framework for participation in Bharat Innovates, Global Innovation Showcase 2026. Non-compliance with any provision may result in immediate disqualification.*