

5G Innovation Hackathon 2026

Ministry of Communications | Department of Telecommunications | SRI Division

Register & submit proposals: <https://eservices.dot.gov.in/5ghackathon/>

Call for Proposals: 20 March 2026 | Submission Deadline: 17 April 2026 | Awards up to Rs.15 Lakh

Who can participate?

Academia, Startups, R&D Organizations and Professionals can participate individually or in collaboration with others as a team.

Thematic Areas

a. 5G / 5G Advanced-based use cases.

c. IoT-enabled applications in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, industrial automation, finance, and other key areas of the economy.

e. Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN) and their integration with 5G / 5G Advanced systems.

g. Telecom security solutions relevant to next-generation communication systems.

b. Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for telecom technology development, as well as for network operation and maintenance.

d. 5G / 5G Advanced-based applications for disaster management, RedCap user equipment, and Fixed Wireless Access (FWA).

f. Innovative 5G use cases leveraging advanced network capabilities, including network slicing, Quality of Service (QoS), and other native 5G features.

How to participate

Register on the portal: <https://eservices.dot.gov.in/5ghackathon/>

Program Stages

Stage 1 | Proposal submission

Teams register on the portal via a 5G Use Case Lab (nodal).
Applicant selects team members. Proposals submitted under one of the 7 thematic areas. Maximum 6 members per team.

Open: 20 Mar 2026 | Deadline: 17 Apr 2026

Stage 2 | Institute-level evaluation

An internal screening committee chaired by the concerned HoD evaluates all proposals submitted through the institute.
Each institution may recommend up to 5 proposals to DoT.

Institute evaluation completed by: 21 Apr 2026

Stage 3 | Regional evaluation - 4 Zonal Committees

Regional committees comprising DoT LSA officers, academia and industry screen all forwarded proposals.
Maximum 50 proposals per zone. A total of 150-200 proposals shortlisted and forwarded to the TEC.

Regional winners finalised: 8 May 2026

Stage 4 | National TEC presentations

All 150-200 shortlisted teams present to the Technical Evaluation Committee at national level.
TEC selects the best 25-50 proposals. Criteria: Technical execution 40% | Scalability 40% | Impact 10% | Novelty 10%

Presentations: 26 May - 19 Jun 2026 | Teams announced: 20 Jun 2026

Stage 5 | Pragati phase - prototype development

Top 25-50 teams receive Rs.1,00,000 seed funding and expert mentorship from academia and industry.
12 weeks to build prototypes using 5G Use Case Labs. Bi-weekly progress reports required.
IPR filing support provided on demand and qualification basis.

22 Jun - 13 Sep 2026 (12 weeks) | Mentor assignment: 22 Jun 2026

Stage 6 | Final evaluation - TEEC physical demonstration

Technical Expert Evaluation Committee (5-7 experts from government, academia & industry) evaluates each team through physical demonstration and a detailed product presentation.

Physical demos: 14 Sep 2026 onwards | Winners announced: 1 Oct 2026

National showcase & awards - IMC 2026

Top teams showcase at India Mobile Congress 2026.
Winners will have a potential opportunity for funding under the TTDF scheme.
1st: Rs.5L | Runner-up: Rs.3L | 2nd Runner-up: Rs.1.5L | Special mentions: Rs.50K

Total prize pool: Rs.15 Lakh

For further information: hackathon.5g@tcil.net.in

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