Applications Guidelines

Fellowship Grant from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi

to

Accelerate Community Innovations in Battery Energy Storage in India

Opening Date: 5 Feb 2025

Application Deadline: 25 Feb 2025

Supported By:The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Delhi

Partners:

Innovation Norway

Atal Incubation Centers (AICs)

NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI)

Call for Applications
Fellowship Grant from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi to Accelerate Community Innovations in Battery Energy Storage in India

1. About

India's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 underscores the need for innovative solutions that directly empower local communities. Batteries hold immense potential to transform energy access and resilience at the community level, offering sustainable, scalable solutions for rural development, energy equity, and livelihood enhancement.

Applications are invited for the **'Fellowship Grant from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi to Accelerate Community Innovations in Battery Energy Storage in India'** programme, supported by The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi and Innovation Norway in collaboration with selected Atal Incubation Centres (AICs). Shortlisted proposals will receive mentorship and financial support to advance their innovations. The fellowship programme consists of two phases, each lasting 3 months. During this time, each candidate will be hosted at an AIC and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. They will gain awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), develop entrepreneurial skills, and explore concepts of the circular economy. A total of 12 fellowships will be awarded. The mode of mentoring will be online; therefore, no relocation is necessary.

2. Scope and Coverage of the Fellowship

The fellowship aims to foster innovation in battery energy storage, focusing on community-level applications that enhance energy accessibility, sustainability, and resilience. It seeks to support aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs in developing battery solutions tailored to rural and urban communities, emphasizing decentralized energy systems, renewable integration, and livelihood-enhancing applications such as solar-powered water pumps, cold storage units, and microgrids. It aims to address challenges in battery recycling, disposal, and resource efficiency, promoting sustainable and circular economy principles in battery applications. It seeks proposals that demonstrate originality, benefit to the local community, technical feasibility, and

potential for real-world implementation, with a focus on sustainability, environmental impact, and contribution to the circular economy.

3. Target Beneficiaries

- Aspiring innovators, entrepreneurs, and researchers in the field of energy storage.
- Students and working professionals.
- Communities in underrepresented and underserved regions.
- Women innovators and entrepreneurs.

4. Fellowship Details

4.1. Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must be an Indian citizen.
- Applicant must be 18-year-old or above.
- Open to all educational backgrounds.
- Applicant must have a valid PAN card.
- Applicant must be a resident or working in one of the following states/regions, or the idea must already be implemented or have the potential to be implemented in any of the following states/regions:
    - Uttar Pradesh
    - Rajasthan
    - Punjab
    - Haryana
    - Northeast India
- Women Innovators & Startups are preferred.
- Candidates with ideas at the MVP (Minimum Viable Product) stage will be given preference.

4.2. Screening of Applications

The received applications will undergo a verification check, followed by evaluation based on the following parameters through an interview:

- Relevance and applicability to the local community, with potential for implementation.
- Sustainability and environmental friendliness.
- Contribution to the circular economy.
- Potential for commercialization or scalability.

4.3. Phase I

- Selected candidates will be mentored by the AICs and TERI on SDG awareness, entrepreneurial skills, and life skills.
- The innovation must engage the local community and benefit it through its implementation.
- The duration of Phase I is three months.

4.4. Phase II (Acceleration)

- At the end of Phase I, candidates will be evaluated to adjudge that their innovation meets the following criteria:
    - Useful for the local community and implementable.
    - Sustainable and environmentally friendly.
    - Contributes to the circular economy.
    - Shows potential for commercialization or scaling.
- Candidates selected for Phase-II will receive an additional grant to develop prototypes, commercialize the innovation, or implement it in the community.
- The duration of Phase II is three months.

4.5. AIC Support

- **Dedicated Mentorship and Regional Support:** Candidates will be mentored and supported by the AICs in their respective state or region, as listed below:
    - Uttar Pradesh and Haryana – Amity Innovation Incubator (https://www.amity.edu/aii/)
    - Rajasthan – AIC Banasthali Vidyapith (https://www.aicbanasthali.org/)
    - Punjab – AIC at Indian School of Business (ISB) (https://aicisb.org/)
    - Northeast India – AIC SMUTBI (https://www.smutbi.com/)
- **Idea Refinement and Strategic Guidance:**The AIC will work closely with candidates to refine their ideas, develop actionable roadmaps, and address potential challenges during both phases of the fellowship.
- **Access to Resources and Expertise:** AIC will connect the selected candidates with relevant resources and address technical or operational barriers.
- **Preparation for Market Readiness and Practical Implementation:** The AIC will prepare candidates to implement their innovations practically and make them

market ready. Alongside this, candidates will enhance their awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), entrepreneurial skills, and life skills.

4.6. Fellowship Amount

- Candidates selected for Phase I will receive a grant of ₹1 Lakh. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 50% at the start and the remaining 50% upon successful completion of Phase I.
- Candidates advancing to Phase II will be awarded an additional grant of ₹1 Lakh. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 50% at the start and the remaining 50% upon successful completion of Phase II.

4.7. Travel Support for the Closing Event

Candidates from Phase I and Phase II who demonstrate exemplary progress and innovation will be invited to present their ideas and work at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi and network with technology experts and industry professionals. Additionally, they will have the chance to visit the TERI Gram campus in Gurugram and explore their state-of-the-art laboratories in battery technology.
Travel and lodging arrangements will be provided according to the following guidelines:

- Round-trip economy class airfare from the nearest airport or round-trip train fare up to Second AC from the nearest railway station to Delhi will be covered.
- Lodging, meals for two days, and local travel within Delhi will also be provided.

5. Guidelines for Utilization of Fellowship Amount

The fellowship amount is provided to support innovators in developing and implementing their ideas effectively. To ensure the funds are utilized appropriately and in alignment with the fellowship's objectives, the following guidelines outline permissible and non-permissible expenditures.

5.1. Permissible Expenses

The fellowship amount may be used to cover costs essential to the development and execution of the project. This includes expenses for prototype development, such as purchasing raw materials and components needed to build and test prototypes. Funds can also be utilized for stakeholder engagement activities, including organizing meetings with local stakeholders to gather inputs and feedback.
Furthermore, expenses related to specific IT equipment or software licenses required for project development are also permitted. Additionally, innovators may use the

funds for attending relevant training sessions, workshops, or certification programs directly connected to the fellowship project.

5.2. Non-Permissible Expenses

The fellowship amount must not be utilized for expenses that are not directly related to the project. For instance, funds cannot be used to cover travel expenses for attending conferences or networking events. Additionally, the fellowship strictly prohibits the use of funds for personal expenses, including recreational activities or unrelated travel. Office space rentals using the fellowship are not permitted.
Candidates are required to inform their respective AICs of any planned expenditures prior to making a purchase. Misuse of funds will result in the termination of the fellowship.

6. How to Apply?

Interested candidates may fill the application form available at [Link to be placed].
Further, they are required to submit an Undertaking for Originality of Submitted Ideas, an Indemnity Bond for Intellectual Property Rights, and a Confidentiality Agreement along with their application. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification from the programme.

7. Key Dates

- Opening date: 5 Feb 2025
- Application deadline: 25 Feb 2025
- Shortlisting of candidates though interview : 05-08 Mar 2025
- Announcement of selection results (Phase-I): 14 Mar 2025
- Phase-I: 17 Mar - 15 Jun 2025
  13 week Program
  - On boarding at AIC : Week 1
  - Disbursal of Grant (1) : Week 2
  - Project discussion : Week 2 - 5
  - Mentorship / Product development : Week 2 - 5
  - Disbursal of Grant (2) : Week 6
  - Product/ Idea Implementation : Week 6 - 10
  - Review : Week 11 - 13
- Evaluation and announcement of selection results (Phase II): 20 Jun 2025
- Phase-II for fellowship: 23 Jun - 19 Sep 2025
  13 week Program

    - Disbursal of Grant : Week 1 - 2
    - Mentorship / Product development : Week 1 - 6
    - Expert Consultations : Week 7 - 8
    - Product/ Idea Implementation : Week 7 - 10
    - Review : Week 11 - 13
- Closing event: Last week of Sept 2025