

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)

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
- Gender equity is encouraged.
- 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.

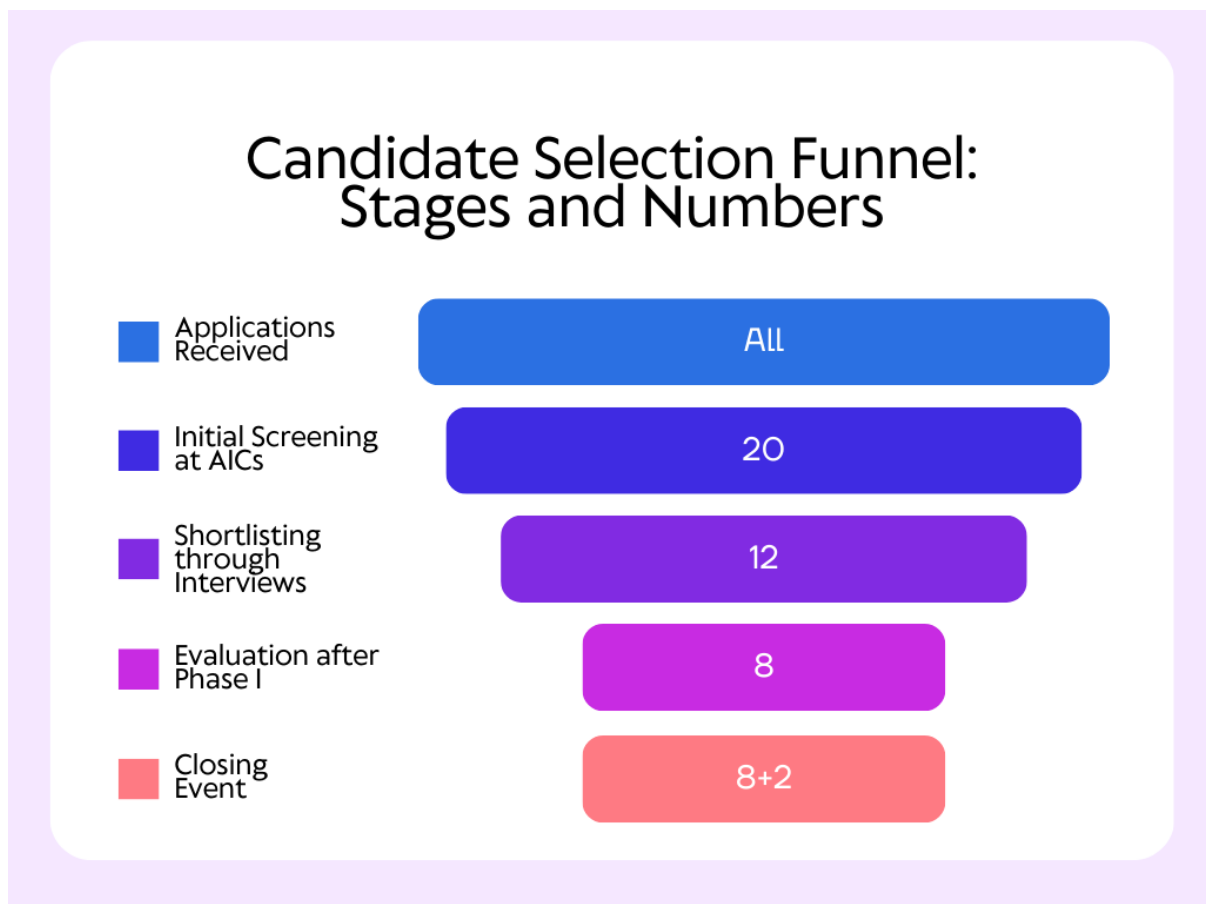


4.3. Phase I

- 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 Vidhyapith (<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
- Extension of deadline (if required): 05 Mar 2025
- Shortlisting of candidates through 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



8. Important Contacts

Reach out to following for immediate assistance:

Dr Ajeet Kumar Singh	ajeet.singh@teri.res.in	Phone: 011 2468 2100 Extn: 2204
Mukesh Kumar	mukesh.kumar@teri.res.in	Phone: 011 2468 2100 Extn: 2243

Reach out to following for AIC assistance:

Amity Innovation Incubator	Uttar Pradesh and Haryana	Mr Sanyam Dhingra	Sdhingra@aii.amity.edu	7015910414
AIC Banasthali Vidyapith	Rajasthan	Ms. Ayushi Bishnoi	ayushibishnoi@banasthali.in	9518847163
AIC ISB	Punjab	Ms. Sneha Bannerjee	sneha_banerjee@aicisb.org	9748302323
AIC SMUTBI	North East	Ms Lakshyaa Gurung	lakshyaa@smutbi.com	7679676141



Annexure

Undertaking for Originality of Submitted Ideas

To be submitted by the applicant under the 'Fellowship Grant from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi to Accelerate Community Innovations in Battery Energy Storage in India' Programme

I, the undersigned, **[Full Name]**, hereby declare and undertake the following:

1. I affirm that the idea(s), concept(s), solution(s), and supporting content submitted by me for consideration under the '*Fellowship Grant from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi to Accelerate Community Innovations in Battery Energy Storage in India*' programme are my **original work**.
2. I confirm that I have not plagiarized, copied, or reproduced, in whole or in part, any idea, concept, or material from any other individual, entity, or source without appropriate permission, credit, or citation.
3. I understand that plagiarism or submission of non-original work may lead to **immediate disqualification** from the selection process, and I will be held fully accountable for any consequences arising from such misconduct.
4. I undertake to indemnify and hold harmless the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi, Innovation Norway, Atal Incubation Centres, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), their representatives, and stakeholders in the event of any claims, disputes, or legal actions related to the originality of my submitted work.
5. I acknowledge that the decision of the Innovation Norway or its appointed evaluators regarding the originality and eligibility of my submission shall be **final and binding**.

Applicant Details:

- **Full Name:** _____
- **Email:** _____
- **Phone Number:** _____
- **Submission Date:** _____
- **Signature:** _____



Indemnity Bond for Intellectual Property Rights

To be submitted by the applicant under the 'Fellowship Grant from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi to Accelerate Community Innovations in Battery Energy Storage in India' Programme

This Indemnity Bond is executed on this day of _____ [Date] by:

Name of the Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Email ID: _____

Contact Number: _____

In favour of:

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi, Innovation Norway, Atal Incubation Centers (AICs), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and their partners, affiliates, representatives, and stakeholders (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Indemnified Parties").

Declaration and Undertaking

I, [Full Name], hereby declare and undertake the following as a condition for participating in the 'Fellowship Grant from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi to Accelerate Community Innovations in Battery Energy Storage in India' Programme:

1. Originality of Work:

I affirm that the idea(s), concept(s), proposal(s), and associated content submitted by me under this programme are my original work and do not infringe upon the intellectual property rights (IPR) of any third party.

2. No Claim or Dispute:

I hereby irrevocably waive and forgo any claim, dispute, or accusation of intellectual property theft, misappropriation, or unauthorized use of my submitted ideas, concepts, or proposals against the Indemnified Parties.

3. Indemnification:

I agree to fully indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Indemnified Parties from and against any claims, demands, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, or legal expenses that may arise due to:

- Accusations of intellectual property theft or misappropriation.
- Any dispute or claim initiated by me or any third-party regarding ownership of the submitted ideas, concepts, or proposals.

4. No Obligation to Implement Ideas:

I acknowledge and accept that the Indemnified Parties are under no obligation to implement, adopt, or develop the submitted ideas or concepts, and I shall not make any claims for compensation, financial or otherwise, in this regard.



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

5. Legal Standing:

I understand that this Indemnity Bond is legally binding, and any breach of the above terms shall make me solely liable for the consequences, without any liability accruing to the Indemnified Parties.

6. Jurisdiction:

I agree that any dispute or legal proceedings, if any, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts and arbitration tribunals in **New Delhi, India** only.

Applicant Details and Signature

- **Name of Applicant:** _____
- **Signature:** _____
- **Date:** _____
- **Place:** _____

