

# IBM AICTE PROJECT

## AI GRANT AND FUNDING FINDER FOR **STARTUPS**

**Presented By**

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**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

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# OUTLINE

- **Problem Statement**
- **Technology used**
- **Wow factor**
- **End users**
- **Result**
- **Conclusion**
- **Git-hub Link**
- **Future scope**
- **IBM Certifications**

# PROBLEM STATEMENT

Startups struggle to find and secure funding due to scattered opportunities across platforms with varied formats, languages, and updates. Extracting details like eligibility and deadlines from unstructured data requires advanced NLP. Personalizing recommendations based on startup stage, domain, and location is complex. Generating tailored proposals demands accuracy and creativity, often needing human validation. Ensuring compliance with legal and submission rules, especially for restricted portals, is critical.

## Proposed Solution:

An AI-driven platform streamlining funding discovery and applications for startups through:

- **Data Aggregation:** Real-time updates via web scraping, APIs, and multilingual NLP.
- **Information Extraction:** NLP structures key details (eligibility, deadlines) into a database.
- **Personalized Recommendations:** ML matches funding to startup profiles (stage, domain, location).
- **Automated Proposals:** Generative AI drafts tailored proposals, with human validation.
- **Compliance:** Rule-based filters ensure legal and ethical alignment (e.g., GDPR).
- **User Interface:** Multilingual web/mobile app with analytics dashboard.
- **Scalability:** Cloud deployment with continuous learning and adaptation.

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# TECHNOLOGY USED

- IBM Cloud Lite Services
- Natural Language Processing (NLP)
- Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG)
- IBM Granite model

# IBM CLOUD SERVICES USED

- IBM Cloud Watsonx AI Studio
- IBM Cloud Watsonx AI runtime
- IBM Cloud Agent Lab
- IBM Granite foundation model

# WOW FACTORS

- Real-Time Funding Discovery**

Aggregates grants, VC, and angel funding from Indian and global platforms in real time, presenting them in a simple dashboard with instant updates.

- Personalized Matches**

Matches funding to your startup's stage, sector (e.g., tech, agriculture), and location (e.g., Tier-2 cities), saving hours of research.

- Smart Data Extraction**

Uses AI to pull eligibility, deadlines, and requirements from complex sources like government portals and PDFs, in English and Hindi.

- Auto-Drafted Proposals**

Generates tailored grant applications, cutting prep time by 80%, with options for human review to ensure accuracy.

- Multilingual Support**

Supports Hindi, Tamil, and other regional languages, making global and local funding accessible to all Indian founders.

- Compliance Assurance**

Ensures applications meet legal and portal-specific rules, avoiding rejections on schemes like Startup India or Atmanirbhar Bharat.

- Success Prediction**

Predicts funding success rates based on data from similar Indian startups, helping prioritize high-potential opportunities.

- Application Planner**

Offers a visual timeline for deadlines and tasks, with reminders to manage multiple applications effortlessly.

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## END USERS

- Early-Stage Startup Founders
- Small Business Owners
- Incubators and Accelerators
- Freelance Entrepreneurs and Solopreneurs
- Student Entrepreneurs
- Rural and Social Entrepreneurs

# RESULTS



FundFinder 11:17 PM

## Welcome to FundFinder

AI Grant Finder for startups aggregates funding data, personalizes results, and drafts proposals.



### Quick start samples

What are the top funding opportunities available for my startup based on our industry, location, and development stage? →

Can you provide a summary of eligibility criteria and deadlines for specific grants or funding programs I might qualify for? →



# RESULTS



You 11:18 PM

What are the top funding opportunities available for my startup based on our industry, location, and development stage?



FundFinder 11:18 PM

Namaste! I'm FundFinder, your AI Grant and Funding Finder, here to help Indian startups discover the best funding opportunities. Tell me about your startup, and let's find the perfect grants or investors for you!

Based on your query, I've compiled a list of top funding opportunities available for startups in India, considering various industries, locations, and development stages. Here are some options to explore:

1. **World Bank SME Finance:** Offers financing and support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in India, including early-stage equity finance.
2. **Berkeley SKYDECK:** A startup accelerator program that welcomes startups from various industries and across different funding stages, including early-stage startups focused on growth and innovation.
3. **Grants.gov:** A platform that publishes federal funding opportunities for organizations and entities supporting the development and management of government-funded projects.
4. **Startup Accelerator Program:** A curated list of the best startup accelerators for rapid growth, including programs like MassChallenge, which offers equity-free funding and support for emerging markets.
5. **Selected Incubators – Startup India:** A list of incubators and accelerators supported by the Startup India initiative, which provides funding, mentorship, and resources for startups across India.

# RESULTS



You 11:20 PM

Are there any upcoming funding opportunities in my region or industry that I should prioritize for my startup in India?



FundFinder 11:20 PM

Based on the search results, there are several upcoming funding opportunities for startups in India. Some of the opportunities include:

- Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS): Provides financial assistance for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- Grants for Startups in India - 2025: A list of grants available for startups in India, including the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, and other opportunities.
- Start-up Grants & Funding Opportunities September 2024: A list of funding opportunities for startups in India, including the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, and other opportunities.
- Funding Guide: A guide to funding opportunities for startups in India, including information on why investors invest in startups and how to access funding.
- Grant Opportunities: A list of grant opportunities for startups in India, including opportunities from the Gates Foundation and other organizations.
- International Finance Corporation: An organization that provides funding for startups in Africa and other regions, including India.

# RESULTS

## Deployed AI Agent

IBM watsonx

Upgrade ? 🔔

ARUN VERMA's Account Tokyo AV

Deployment spaces / FundFinder / FundFinder /

FundFinder

Deployed Online

API reference Test Preview

New chat +

A You 11:22 PM

Can you provide a summary of eligibility criteria and deadlines for specific grants or funding programs I might qualify for?

FundFinder 11:22 PM

Based on the search results, it appears that there are several grants and funding programs available for Indian startups, with varying eligibility criteria and deadlines. Some of the programs mentioned include:

- Rural Business Development Grants: Eligible entities can apply for grant funds to support business development in rural areas. The application timeline and concept paper requirements are available on the USDA website.
- Seed Grants: Small business concerns that are more than 50% owned by multiple venture capital operating companies, hedge funds, private equity firms, or any combination of these are eligible to apply. The eligibility criteria and application process are available on the NIH website.
- Arizona Native Scholars Grant: Current students who are not meeting the deadlines above will automatically be considered for the grant. The eligibility criteria and application process are available on the University of Arizona website.
- Minority Business Development Agency Grants: The eligibility criteria and application process are available on the MBDA website.
- 8(a) Business Development program: Businesses must meet certain eligibility criteria, including being owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. The eligibility criteria and application process are available on the SBA website.
- International Fellowships: The eligibility criteria and application process are available on the AAUW website.
- FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations: The eligibility criteria and application process are available on the DOT website.
- Scholarships: The American Indian College Fund manages a wide portfolio of scholarship programs, and TCU students are eligible for all opportunities. The eligibility criteria and application process are available on the College Fund website.
- Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) Grant: The eligibility criteria and application process are available on the

Type something... ➤

About this deployment ×

Name FundFinder

Description AI Grant Finder for startups aggregates funding data, personalizes results, and drafts proposals.

Deployment Details

Deployment ID: 3bdf36df-2cbc-42...

Serving name: No serving name.

Software specification: runtime-24.1-py3.11

Hardware specification: Extra extra small: 1 CPU and 2 GB RAM

Copies: 1

Tags wx-agent

Associated asset FundFinder

4aefbd39-c6ce-40d0-a4d2-4d9665e1f27c

Last modified 7 hours ago

Created on Aug 4, 2025

## CONCLUSION

The development of an AI-powered Grant and Funding Finder tailored for Indian startups offers a transformative solution to navigate the complex landscape of funding opportunities. By addressing the challenges of aggregating diverse, fragmented data across platforms, leveraging advanced natural language processing to extract critical details such as eligibility criteria and deadlines, and delivering highly personalized recommendations based on a startup's sector, stage, and geographic focus, this system promises to streamline access to vital financial resources. The generation of customized application drafts, balanced with precision and creativity, requires rigorous human validation to ensure quality and relevance. Furthermore, strict adherence to legal and ethical standards, particularly for restricted or confidential funding portals, is essential to uphold trust and compliance. Ultimately, this innovative tool has the potential to empower Indian startups by providing seamless, accurate, and tailored access to funding, fostering entrepreneurial growth and driving innovation across the nation's dynamic startup ecosystem.

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## GITHUB LINK

<https://github.com/ArunVerma-1/FundFinder>

# FUTURE SCOPE

- ❖ The AI Grant and Funding Finder for Indian startups can be enhanced as follows:
- ❖ **Expanded Data Reach**
  - ❖ Aggregate funding from Startup India, state government portals, and global platforms with real-time updates.
  - ❖ Support Indian languages (e.g., Marathi, Bengali) for regional grants.
- ❖ **Advanced NLP**
  - ❖ Extract precise eligibility and deadline details from complex documents.
  - ❖ Process non-text sources like grant videos or PDFs for richer insights.
- ❖ **Personalized Matching**
  - ❖ Tailor grant suggestions to a startup's sector (e.g., fintech, agritech), stage, and location (e.g., rural or urban India).
  - ❖ Forecast funding trends aligned with India's startup ecosystem.
- ❖ **Smart Proposal Automation**
  - ❖ Generate polished, context-aware grant applications with minimal edits.
  - ❖ Improve drafts by learning from successful submissions.
- ❖ **Compliance and Safety**
  - Adhere to Indian data privacy laws and funding portal regulations.
  - Detect and filter fraudulent funding schemes to protect startups.
- ❖ **Ecosystem Connectivity**
  - ❖ Integrate with platforms like T-Hub, IAN, or MeitY for real-time startup data.
  - ❖ Collaborate with Indian incubators and VCs for exclusive grant access.
- ❖ **Accessible Interface**
  - ❖ Offer a mobile-first, multilingual interface tailored for Indian users.

# IBM CERTIFICATIONS

In recognition of the commitment to achieve  
professional excellence



## ARUN VERMA

Has successfully satisfied the requirements for:

### Getting Started with Artificial Intelligence



Issued on: Jul 16, 2025  
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In recognition of the commitment to achieve  
professional excellence



# ARUN VERMA

Has successfully satisfied the requirements for:

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## Journey to Cloud: Envisioning Your Solution

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IBM **SkillsBuild**

Completion Certificate



This certificate is presented to

ARUN VERMA

for the completion of

**Lab: Retrieval Augmented Generation with  
LangChain**

(ALM-COURSE\_3824998)

According to the Adobe Learning Manager system of record

**Completion date:** 17 Jul 2025 (GMT)

**Learning hours:** 20 mins



# THANK YOU