



IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation

IIT Bhilai Permanent campus, Kutelabhatta, Khapri, District- Durg, Chhattisgarh - 491002
CIN: U80902CT2021NPL011186 | PAN: AAFCI9961E | TAN: JBPI01305D
Website: <https://www.ibitf.co.in/> | Email: tih@iitbhilai.ac.in

Inviting Call for Proposals Under

Tribal Area Sub Plan (CFP-TSP) Scheme

IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation

Category 'A' - Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) under the National Mission of Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), Executed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India (GoI)

Introduction

The IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF) is a Section-8 not-for-profit company, established under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. IBITF focuses on the development and deployment of projects in the Fintech domain, identifying impactful solutions that leverage emerging technologies such as blockchain, IoT, AI/ML, and e-payments. And application of these technologies across other sectors, including agritech, HealthTech, Energy, Communication, Industry 4.0, Judiciary, Supply chain, Logistics, etc.

IBITF has been recognised as a Category-A Hub based on its performance and outcomes since its inception. IBITF provides a vibrant ecosystem that connects startups, researchers, academia, industry, and government stakeholders. Through funding support, incubation facilities, expert mentorship, and market access, IBITF empowers innovators to transform ideas into scalable, impactful solutions that address real-world challenges and contribute to India's growth as a global innovation leader. The Foundation plays a pivotal role in translating deep-tech research into market-ready products and solutions, as well as in nurturing startups, innovation, and entrepreneurship, particularly those from Tier II/III cities and remote rural and tribal regions.



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About the Call for Proposal

The IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF) invites proposals under the Tribal Area Sub-Plan (TSP) scheme, designed to nurture tribal-centric/tribal-led innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology commercialization. The CFP is designed to support the rapid productization, deployment, and commercialization of technology-driven solutions, beneficial for the ST community at large, under the core thematic areas of IBITF, including Fintech applications, Agritech, HealthTech, Transport, Energy, and others. The scheme encourages collaboration among startups, industry, and academia, while providing financial assistance, expert mentorship, and access to a national network of stakeholders.

The Tribal Area Sub-Plan (TSP) Scheme is to significantly enhance the livelihoods, improve income generation opportunities, and provide value addition to the locally sourced products for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities by intervention of technology-based solutions. This initiative aims to address the specific challenges faced by these communities through the strategic deployment of cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain, and E-Payments, with a primary emphasis on applying these technologies to other sectors like FinTech, AgricTech, HealthTech, Transport, Energy, etc.

The scheme aims to bridge development gaps by promoting innovation, skill development, and technology-based interventions tailored to the specific needs of tribal communities, thereby enhancing the efficiency of their livelihood systems. It focuses on creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through local resource management, capacity building, and entrepreneurship promotion.

In the previous cohort of the scheme, IBITF supported 54 projects under the TSP scheme. Of these, 36 projects were implemented across the North-Eastern states, while 13 projects were supported in Chhattisgarh. The remaining projects were distributed across other regions of the country. Several startups incubated under the scheme gained national-level visibility and recognition through their participation in national and DST-led events and workshops, including TIPS 6.0 and Startup



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Mahakumbh, reflecting the program's effectiveness in nurturing high-potential ventures.

The Tribal Area Sub Plan (TSP) initiative represents a structured, technology-driven national effort to address the socio-economic challenges of Scheduled Tribe-dominated regions through deep-tech innovation, entrepreneurship, and capacity building through 54 projects across multiple states, cutting across FinTech, AgriTech, and HealthTech domains. These projects are not isolated pilots; they are anchored in extensive on-ground stakeholder consultations, multi-state workshops, and formal collaborations with universities, medical institutions, and government bodies. The initiative has already resulted in over 23 women entrepreneurs, more than 200 direct jobs, and training of over 10,000 individuals, reflecting a strong blend of scientific development with livelihood-oriented outcomes.

Under the TSP framework, the Hub has supported solutions ranging from AI-enabled healthcare delivery platforms, m-health systems, smart emergency response tools, and medical data analytics, to blockchain-based agricultural supply chains, multilingual fintech platforms, smart mobility systems, precision agriculture, and sustainable urban services. Several projects have progressed to higher Technology Readiness Levels, with operational pilots, deployed platforms, and proof-of-concept implementations in areas such as smart parking, public health service delivery, agricultural marketplaces, indigenous knowledge digitization, and tribal artisan empowerment. These deployments demonstrate the programme's shift from concept development to field-validated, scalable digital infrastructure tailored for remote and underserved regions.

Overall, the TSP scheme under IBITF has created a robust innovation-to-impact pipeline - from problem discovery in tribal geographies to funded research, startup formation, field pilots, and ecosystem partnerships. Its outcomes reflect not only technological advancement but also institutional capacity building, entrepreneurship development, regional job creation, and technology adoption in governance, healthcare, agriculture, and livelihoods. The initiative positions IIT Bhilai and IBITF as a national



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anchor for translating deep technologies into inclusive, deployable solutions that can be replicated across tribal and aspirational regions of India.

For more details, please visit our website: <https://www.ibitf.co.in/>

Eligibility

The Principal Investigator/Project Director/CEO/Head of the project/Institution/Startup/Organization related to the project/program/scheme belongs to the ST category.

Or

Above 50% of project/program/scheme beneficiaries belong to the ST community.

Applications are invited under following two categories:-

1. Academic Institutions:

- Government Academic Institutions (Central and State Government), etc., Private Academic Institutions (Universities/ Colleges/ Institutions and Government Aided Colleges recognized or regulated by UGC/AICTE/MCI/DCI/PCI etc.) – would be considered and are encouraged to apply online.
- (Applicable for faculty members in permanent positions holding Academicians, Scientists, Technologists, and other Practicing Researchers affiliated to recognized academic research institutions and registered scientific societies, State S&T Councils, etc.)



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2. Startups/Industry

- Startups recognized by DPIIT, including those led by academic institutions, faculty, students, and researchers, are eligible to apply. Registered companies (MSMEs or Enterprises) with prior experience in product development or R&D are also eligible.
- Startups employing or planning to leverage emerging technologies such as blockchain, IoT, AI/ML, and e-payments in sectors including AgriTech, HealthTech, Transport, Energy, etc., are invited to present their products or services. IBITF may provide relevant support to qualified startups and solutions.

Note: Preference will be given to:

- 1. Proposals supported by government agencies, startups, or industry partners through financial and infrastructural assistance.**
- 2. Proposals that add value to operational projects under the Tribal Area Sub Plan (TSP) Scheme of IBITF through product enhancement, deployment, or scale-up within 6–12 months, etc.**
- 3. Proposals demonstrating clear pathways for deployment and commercialization, including defined market readiness and revenue potential.**
- 4. Projects are expected to deliver a working Prototype or Minimum Viable Product (MVP) within 6–8 months, followed by go-to-market readiness and a comprehensive business plan within 12 months (only TRL>4 proposals can be considered).**
- 5. IP and Revenue Sharing: Governed through a mutually agreed-upon agreement between the Startup and IBITF, based on IP contributions, investment, and commercialization.**



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Details of the ongoing projects funded by IBITF under the Tribal Area Sub Plan Scheme are listed below:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15VNt9PKHuNiZ7ULY0WzpYIViNnFWkmfmpH5eS6n9I2Q/edit?usp=sharing>

If the collaborating startup/industry requires additional information or discussion with the project lead, IBITF can facilitate this.

Evaluation Criteria (All Categories)

The evaluation of proposals submitted will be based on a comprehensive review of key parameters aligned with IBITF's strategic objectives. Proposals must demonstrate strong technical innovation and novelty, showcasing the ability to address critical challenges through transformative technology-based solutions. Particular emphasis will be placed on market fit and commercial viability, ensuring that the proposed solution has a well-defined target audience, value proposition, and a feasible go-to-market strategy.

The strength of the project team, including the experience and technical expertise of the Principal Investigator (PI), Co-Investigators, startup, industry, and collaborating partners, will also play a critical role in the assessment process. In addition, IBITF places importance on the intellectual property (IP) potential of the proposal and its alignment with the required Technology Readiness Level (TRL), which should ideally be TRL-4 or higher for proposals closer to deployment.

Budget justification, including a realistic cost estimate and clarity on the proposed co-funding mechanism, will be thoroughly scrutinized to ensure optimal resource utilization and alignment with project goals. Following the internal evaluation, which will verify whether the proposal aligns with



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IBITF's mandated technology domains, IBITF will establish a Project Review Committee. This committee will conduct a three-stage evaluation process.

- **Stage 01** - Technical evaluation of the proposed solution.
- **Stage 02** - Commercial evaluation and viability of the project.
- **Stage 03** - Business evaluation of the participating organizations/entities.
- **Stage 04**- The final approval shall only be accorded to the proposals obtaining legal clearance.

It should be noted that the relative emphasis on these parameters may vary depending on the nature of the proposal. The parameters that will support the approval of a project proposal by the IBITF project review committee may include (but are not limited to) market viability, proposed co-funding mechanism, team strength, IP potential, and the strength of research credentials.

Co-Funding

The proposal must include a minimum co-investment of 10% of the total project cost. Proposals with higher co-investment commitments will be given preference.

Project Duration

All proposals should have an initial duration of 6 to 12 months, extendable up to 1 year based on performance review and recommendation by the IBITF Project Review Committee. Meeting milestones and Key Performance Indicators may provide leverage for future funding, as well as when a new cohort call is made.



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Funding and Disbursement

1. The extent of financial support from IBITF shall be contingent upon factors such as the availability of funds from the funding agency, the technical feasibility and novelty of the proposal, its commercial viability, alignment with industry/government requirements, and the level of engagement from other stakeholders associated with the proposal.
2. Performance based further funding support can be considered based on availability of funds.

The fund disbursement and project execution framework shall be communicated to the proposing entities upon successful completion of the evaluation process. The fund would be available against equity (iSAFE, CCSP, or other financial instruments could be considered), grant ,loan or combination of all.

The framework will provide an overview of the fund disbursement process, financial management norms, and the project execution structure, along with the roles and responsibilities of the collaborating partners.

Revenue Sharing Structure (Indicative)

The revenue-sharing framework for projects funded under this Call for Proposal will be formalized between IBITF and the collaborating partner(s) through a mutually agreed agreement, executed on a case-by-case basis. The terms and conditions specified in the agreement shall govern the arrangement.



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Application Process

Deadline for Proposal Submission: 30th January 2026.

All proposals must be submitted via the Accubate Platform Link (given below).

**Please note that all annexures provided below should be attached to the submitted proposal.*

A copy of the submitted applications shall be emailed to tih@iitbihilai.ac.in

Link for Accubate Platform to apply:- <https://tihiitbihilai.accubate.app/ext/form/19631/1/apply>

Contact

IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF)

Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai Email: tih@iitbihilai.ac.in

Website: www.ibtf.co.in

Phone: +91 7587738819



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Proposal Submission Format

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A Technology Innovation Hub under NM-ICPS, DST, Government of India

1. Choose Application Category:-

- Academic Institution
- Startup/Industry

2. Title of the Proposal

3. Thematic Area

Select the core area under which your project lies:

- AI/ML
- Blockchain
- IoT
- E-Payments System
- Agritech
- Healthtech
- Logistics
- Communication
- supply chain
- Industry 4.0
- Judiciary
- Energy
- Others (Please specify):



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4. Proposed Duration of the Project

6 Months

9 Months

12 Months

(Extendable based on performance)

5. Aims, Objectives, and Problem Statement (Max. 500 words)

- a. Background and Rationale
- b. Targeted Beneficiaries
- c. Specific problems to be addressed and expected outcomes
- d. Progress so far
- e. Target beneficiaries
- f. Proposed Outcome for the customer

6. Principal Investigator (PI) Details (for Academic institutions, faculty, students, and researchers only)

- a. Name:
- b. Designation:
- c. Department:
- d. Institution:
- e. Official Address:
- f. Email:
- g. Mobile Number:

7. Co-Principal Investigator(s) (for Academic institutions, faculty, students, and researchers only) [if any] (Repeat this section for each Co-PI)

- a. Name:
- b. Designation:



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- c. Department:
- d. Institution:
- e. Official Address:
- f. Email:
- g. Mobile Number:

8. Startup / Industry Partner Details (If applicable)

- a. Name of the Company:
- b. Type:
 - DPIIT Registered Startup
 - MSME/SME
 - Large Enterprise
 - Any other (please specify)
- c. Company Incorporation Details:
 - i. CIN
 - ii. TAN
 - iii. PAN
- d. Company Age:
 - i. Months -
 - ii. Years -
- e. Founder(s) / CEO/Head of organization:
- f. Address:
- g. Email:
- h. Phone:
- i. Website (if any):
- j. DPIIT Recognition Number (for startups):



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9. Government Collaboration Details (If applicable)

- a. Name of the Ministry / Department (Central/State):
- b. Type of Support:
 Financial
 Infrastructure
- c. Division / Wing:
- d. Nodal Officer Details
 - i. Name:
 - ii. Designation:
 - iii. Department:
 - iv. Official Address:
 - v. Email:
 - vi. Mobile Number:

10. Business Plan and Co-Funding Details

- a. Summary of business goals and partnership structure
- b. Funding contribution by startup/industry partner (preferred at least 10% of overall cost of project) and absolute terms

11. Novelty and Innovation (Max. 250 words)

- a. How is the proposed solution distinct from current methods?
- b. What innovative elements or IP does it involve?

12. Revenue and Commercialization Model (Max. 500 words)

- a. Product/Service description
 - b. Go-to-market strategy
 - c. Pricing, revenue generation, and scalability plan
-



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13. Patents, Publications, and Prototypes Developed (if any)

List all relevant IPs, published work, and prototypes. Mention status (granted/filed/under dev).

14. Deliverables

- Projected Revenue and Expenditure Plan
- Expected Publications / Technologies / IPRs
- Jobs to be created and future hiring roadmap

15. Gantt Chart with Quarterly Milestones and TRL Progression

- Indicate TRL at the start and expected TRL after each quarter
- Expected TRL at project end (minimum TRL-7)

16. Budget Estimate and Contribution Summary (INR)

Head	6 Months	Next 6 Months	Industry/Startup	IBITF Support Request
Equipment				
Travel				
Manpower				
Contingencies				
Total				

Note: All budget estimates should include justification.



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17. Expertise and Infrastructure

- a. Brief profile of PI and Co-PIs
- b. Co-Funding Details:
 - i. Partner Name:
 - ii. Contribution Amount:
 - iii. Form (cash/kind):
 - iv. Timeline of Contribution:
- c. Facilities available with the host institute/startup/industry for execution

18. Category -Specific Requirements- Startup or Industry Collaborating with IBITF-funded Project (Ongoing under TSP Scheme)

- a. Project Alignment Note (max 500 words) explaining fit with existing IBITF-funded projects.
- b. Enhancement Plan & Integration Roadmap (max 500 words) for building upon the existing project.
- c. Have you discussed with PI the IBITF funded project(ongoing) regarding the alignment with the proposal (Yes/No) ?

**Please note that all annexures provided below should be attached to the submitted proposal.*



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ANNEXURES

Annexure A

Startup/Industry Profile (If Applicable)

- Name of Entity:
- Year of Incorporation:
- Type of Entity and Last Year Turnover : (Startup/MSME/SME/Large - Turnover in Lac)
- DPIIT Recognition Number (if applicable):
- Date of Recognition under Dpii:
- Registered Address:
- Website (if any):
- Founders/Directors/Co-founders Names & Designations:
- Contact Number:
- Email ID:
- Brief Overview of Product/Technology Developed (max 250 words):
- Attach Certificate of Incorporation and DPIIT Certificate (if applicable):



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Annexure B

Principal Investigator (PI) / Co-PI Bio-Data

To be submitted by Academic institutions, faculty, students, and researchers)

- Name:
- Designation:
- Institution/Organization:
- Department:
- Contact Number:
- Email ID:
- Educational Qualifications (UG onwards):
- Professional Experience (last 10 years):
- Relevant Publications/Patents/Projects:
- Signature of PI/Co-PI
- Date:
- Place:



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Annexure C

Letter of Collaboration / MoU / Partner Commitment (If Applicable)

To be submitted on the official letterhead of the partner organization/ Government Department.

Sample Format:

This is to confirm our interest in collaborating with [Applicant Name] on the project titled “[Project Title]” under the CFP-TSP Scheme at IBITF. We agree to jointly undertake activities as per the submitted proposal and Contribute technically, financially, and/or through infrastructure towards the successful implementation of the project. The committed fund will be made available before the start of the project on assignment.

- Partner Organization Name:

- Role & Responsibilities:

- Contribution:

- Authorized Signatory Name & Designation:

- Signature with Date and Official Seal:



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Annexure D

Certificate and Endorsement

1. Certificate from Startup/Industry (If applicable) (on official letterhead)

I/We certify that the information provided in the proposal is true to the best of our knowledge. We agree to comply with the terms and conditions of IBITF's offer and actively pursue the proposed objectives.

Signature of CEO/Head of organization:

Date:

Place:

2. Endorsement from the Head of Institution (provided on official letterhead)

(Only applicable for Academic/R&D Organizations)

Certified that the institution supports the above proposal and will provide all necessary infrastructure and administrative support to the project.

Name & Signature of Head of Institution:

Designation:

Official Seal:

Date:

Place:



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3. Endorsement from the Head of the Department (Only for projects undertaken in collaboration with the Government) (on official letterhead)

I/We certify that the information provided in the proposal is true(operational and financial) to the best of our knowledge. We endorse this project and agree to provide necessary support to the project.

Signature of Head of Department:

Name & Designation:

Official Seal:

Date:

Place: