



## Centre approves Startup Guidelines dedicated to Technical Textiles

### Ministry of Textiles gives nod to 26 engineering institutions for introduction of Technical Textiles under National Technical Textiles Mission

### QCOs in 31 Geotextiles and Protective Textiles to be effective from 7th October 2023

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The Ministry of Textiles has approved the Startup Guidelines for Technical Textiles - Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) providing grant-in-aid upto INR 50 Lakhs for upto a period of 18 months, informed Shri Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary Textiles during a press conference held here today on the important developments in the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).

With a strong emphasis on developing the Startup Ecosystem in Technical Textiles, the guidelines focus on supporting individuals and companies to translate prototype to technologies & products including commercialization. The GREAT Guidelines provides thrust in Technical Textiles' application areas including Agro-textiles, Building-textiles, Geo-textiles, Home-textiles, Medical-textiles, Mobile-textiles, Packaging- textiles, Protective-textiles, Sports-textiles; Development of High-performance fibres and composites; Sustainable and Recyclable Textile materials; Smart Textiles using Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, 3D/4D Printing, and Rapid Prototyping; and Development of indigenous Machinery/Equipment/Instruments, among others.

To incentivize the incubators, Ministry to additionally provide 10% of total grant-in-aid to incubators. To strengthen authenticity and commitment towards the project, a minimum investment of 10% of the funding from the incubatee in two equal installments is mandated. The Startup Guidelines (GREAT) to provide much needed



impetus for the development of technical textiles startup ecosystem in India, especially in niche sub-segments such as Bio-degradable and Sustainable textiles, High-performance & Specialty fibres, Smart textiles, among others.

Ministry also gave the nod to 26 institutes for upgrading their laboratory infrastructure and training of trainers in the application areas of technical textiles. Ministry has approved the applications of 26 institutions for development and introduction of technical textile courses/ papers in the key departments/specializations as well as introducing new degree programme in technical textiles.

Total value of INR 151.02 Crores was approved wherein 15 applications valuing INR 105.55 Crores are from Public Institutes and 11 applications valuing INR 45.47 Crores are from Private Institutes.

Some of the premier institutes to be funded under the scheme include IIT Delhi, NIT Jalandhar, NIT Durgapur, NIT Karnataka, NIFT Mumbai, ICT Mumbai, Anna University, PSG College of Technology, Amity University, among others.

Notably, majority of the funding to be provided for upgradation of existing courses including Departments related to Textile Technology & Fibre Sciences to upgrade courses in all application areas of technical textiles including specialty fibres; Departments related to Design/Civil Engineering to upgrade courses in Geotextiles & Building textiles; Departments related to Fashion Technology/Design to upgrade courses in Smart Textiles, Protective Textiles, Sports Textiles, Home Textiles, Cloth Textiles; Department of Mechanical Engineering to upgrade courses in Mobile Textile, Industrial Textiles; and a New Degree Programme in Technical Textiles with predominant emphasis on all application areas of Technical Textiles.

In addition, Ministry to re-open the Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles' Education in India (Round II) under NTTM with relatively eased parameters and wider coverage including NBA score of 750 and above, NAAC rating of A+/3.26 or above or top 200 NIRF ranked institutes as eligible private institutes under the Education Guidelines 2.0. The guidelines have been in-principally approved and target the inclusion of new courses/papers in the curriculum of academic year 2025-26.

On the quality and regulation aspect of technical textiles, Ministry already notified 02 QCOs for 31 Technical Textiles products including 19 Geotextiles and 12 Protective Textiles, which will come in-effect from 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 onwards. Besides, QCOs for 28 products including 22 Agrotextiles and 06 Medical Textiles are also in the final stages of issuance and likely to be issued in September 2023.

Furthermore, additional 28 items are also considered for QCOs including Building textiles, Industrial textiles, Ropes & Cordages, among other. To cover the comprehensive impact of the QCOs on the economy, industry and society at large, Ministry is proactively conducting multiple stakeholder consultations with Industries.



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वस्त्र मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**TEXTILES**

# Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)

**Catapulting Novel Creations  
by Young Innovators &  
Startups**

**General Guidelines for GREAT**



**National Technical Textiles Mission  
Ministry of Textiles**

# General Guidelines for Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Research, Development, and Innovation Component of National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), the Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) has evolved. GREAT encourages young innovators, scientists/technologists, and startup ventures in the field of Technical Textiles to translate their ideas into commercial technologies/products and make India self-reliant. GREAT supports individual entrepreneurs or start-ups for functional prototypes or commercialization of their technologies for Technical Textiles.
- 1.2 Under GREAT, Ministry of Textiles (MoT) shall provide **grant-in-aid of normally upto INR 50 Lakhs for a period of 18 months.**

## 2. Objectives

- 2.1 GREAT believes in utilizing the inexhaustive talent pool and expertise of India in Technical Textiles sector to bring innovative products/technologies to the market:
  - i. Support young innovators/entrepreneurs in Technical Textiles to translate their prototypes to technologies/products.
  - ii. Support commercialization of technologies developed by innovators/startups in Technical Textiles.
  - iii. Bring forward a culture of rapid translation of ideas/prototypes to products through collaboration and association of different partners in the country and establishment of start-ups ecosystem in Technical Textiles.

## 3. Thrust areas for support

- 3.1 GREAT supports innovations under application areas in all segments of Technical Textiles such as Agro-textiles, Building-textiles, Cloth-textiles, Geo-textiles, Home-textiles, Industrial-textiles, Medical-textiles, Mobile-textiles, Oeko-textiles, Packaging-textiles, Protective-textiles, Sports-textiles, etc.
- 3.2 GREAT also encourages self-reliance in development of High-performance fibers like meta aramids, para aramids, carbon fibre, glass fibre, high tenacity/super high tenacity nylon, high tenacity/super high polyester, high tenacity/super high polypropylene, high tenacity/super high viscose, ceramic fibre, zylon, ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene, nylon 66.

- 3.3 Development of High-performance composite fabrics for cement reinforcement; Development of Clean-room facilities using technical textiles, Membrane and Coating development, Plasma and Water-less technology in technical textiles; Bio-Degradable Technical Textiles; Innovative Methodology for disposability of Technical Textiles materials, Sustainable and Recyclable Textile materials etc., development of Indigenous Machinery/Equipment/Instruments are also supported.
- 3.4 GREAT encourages proposals involving integration of Technical Textiles with applied sciences that may include Engineering Smart Textiles through use of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, 3D/4D Printing and Rapid Prototyping, Drones, HMI, Robotics, Sensors, etc., for Human Protection, Plant protection, Environment protection, and related disciplines to potentially facilitate transforming the technical textiles markets and application areas thereof in India.
- 3.5 **Note:**
- i. Under GREAT scheme, basic Ideas /exploratory research projects and projects lacking novelty shall not be supported.
  - ii. Also, GREAT is not a research fellowship programme. It cannot be used to support PhD or any other academic research.
  - iii. The proposed objectives and deliverables should not have received funding support from any other agency.
  - iv. GREAT support shall be provided only once to any individual/startup.

#### 4. Project Duration

- 4.1 The funding shall be provided for a **period of up to 18 months**. The project shall be implemented in a **Milestone-based manner with at least Two Milestones**.

#### 5. Financial support

##### 5.1 For startup/individuals:

- i. The funding support under GREAT shall be in the form of grant-in-aid.
- ii. The extent of funding shall be normally up to INR 50 Lakhs. The funding amount should be in round figure.
- iii. The fund will be released as sanctioned by the competent authority.
- iv. The indicative fund allocation for two milestones shall be released in 3 installments:



- **1<sup>st</sup> Installment:** After approval of the proposal by NTTM and signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/legal agreement between the start-up and the associated incubator: **40%**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Installment:** Completion of 1<sup>st</sup> Milestone (M1): **40%**
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Installment:** Completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Milestone (M2), including Completion of Project and submission of Project Completion Report: **20% on reimbursement basis**
- v. Guidance related to planning and utilization of funds has been provided in Section 16.

**NOTE: The financial support to GREAT grantees (Individual/Startup Company) shall be channeled through the Associated Incubators (AI) only. AI are the incubators which are associated with the Individual/ Startup Company.**

## **5.2 For Associated Incubators:**

- i. 10 % of the total amount sanctioned to the startup/individual shall be given to the associated incubator in proportion to the approved milestones-based funding pattern for the startup. (*Illustration: If the total amount sanctioned to the startup is INR 50 lakhs with 3 milestones in ratio 40:40:20, the total amount released by NTTM would be INR 55 lakhs, out of which INR 50 lakhs would be for the startup and 10% of 50 lakhs which is INR 5 lakhs would be for the incubator, the release of fund of startup will be 3 intallments of INR 20,20,10 lakhs and to the incubator in the same ratio as INR 2,2,1 lakhs.*)
- ii. If an incubator is associated with multiple startups/individuals, separate funding shall be given to the incubator for each startup/individual.

**Applicant(s) can choose incubators from Indian Institute of Technology(IITs), National Institute of Technology(NITs), Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISERs), Textile Research Associations (TRAs), Centre of Excellence (COE), and Institutions associated/affiliated with Ministry of Textiles like National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) etc. The Incubators recognized and supported by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Atal Incubation Centers shall also include in the scheme.**

## **6. Eligibility Criteria:**

### **6.1 For individual applicant:**

- i. The individual applicant should be an Indian citizen of minimum age of 21 years on the day of application (defined in section 11).
- ii. The primary applicant should be the Project Leader (as per Section 7) and shall be responsible for all communication and decision making related to the grant.

- iii. The applicant must be incubated in an Incubator. At the time of application, the applicant is expected to have identified an Incubator. MoU with the Incubator is required for the final approval. Alternatively, a Letter of Support/recommendation from the Incubator is required at the time of application submission if MoU has not been signed.
- iv. If the applicant is under formal employment/associated (or a student/researcher) with an academic or research organization, then the applicant must produce a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from competent authority of the organization clearly indicating that the applicant:
  - Is allowed to apply for the GREAT grant and there is no conflict with the current duties/obligations of the applicant and the scheme of GREAT grant.
  - Accept funding support (if successful) as an individual.
  - Manage the funds in individual capacity under Central Nodal Account (CNA) mechanism of Government of India.
  - Can create an Enterprise.
- v. Alternatively, the applicant needs to provide an Undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his/her association with the current employer and take up the project full time in the event of the grant approval. An approved resignation/ relieving/ retirement letter shall be required before the release of the grant.
- vi. The individual must have a registered company/start-up before release of the grant.
- vii. If the applicant is formally employed with a for-profit Startup Company,
  - The application should be submitted under Startup Company; or
  - Alternatively, the applicant needs to provide an undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his/her association with the current employer and take up the project full time in the event of the grant approval (An approved resignation/ relieving/ retirement letter will be required before the release of the grant).
- viii. Individual who is a promoter/shareholder of a Technical Textiles' Startup Company shall not be eligible to apply as an individual, irrespective of the percentage of shareholding in the Startup Company. In such a case, the application can be submitted through Startup Company, if the Startup Company meets the required eligibility criteria as detailed below.

## **6.2 For Startup Company:**

- i. The Startup should be incorporated as a private limited company or registered as a partnership firm or a limited liability partnership with a turnover less than INR 100 Crores in any of the previous financial years.



- ii. The Startup should be working towards innovation/ improvement of existing products, services and processes and should have the potential to generate employment/ create wealth. An entity formed by splitting up or reconstruction of an existing business shall not be considered a "Startup"
  - iii. The Company should be registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956/2013.
  - iv. The incorporation date of the Company should not be greater than 5 years at the time of applying for GREAT call for application submission.
  - v. A minimum of 51% of the capital should be owned by resident Indian citizen(s) / or Indian companies which are ultimately owned and controlled by resident Indian citizen(s) to be qualified for the GREAT application.
  - vi. Startup Company's application should be represented by a Project Leader (defined in section 7).
  - vii. The Startup Company should have adequate and functional R&D facility to execute the project, or they must be associated/incubated at an incubator for the project.
  - viii. If an applicant Startup Company, in which any promoter holding more than or equal to 20% of the shares, is a co-promoter or a partner of another ineligible Startup Company, then the applicant shall not be eligible.
- 6.3 The verification of the Individual/Startup Company shall be undertaken by the Associated Incubator.
- 6.4 National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), Ministry of Textiles may verify the documents at any time at its own discretion and if there is any discrepancy, the grant will be cancelled, and necessary deemed-fit action (s) shall be taken.
- 6.5 All the guidelines of Government of India are applicable, and any new guidelines will be applicable retrospectively.

## **7. Project Leader:**

- 7.1 Every proposal must have a Project Leader who shall take responsibility for the technical and managerial aspects of the project. The project leader shall be required for both individual applicants and startups.
- i. The Project Leader must be technically qualified to undertake the project. The Project Leader must have completed basic undergraduate training in any discipline.
  - ii. If the proposal is shortlisted for presentation in front of Selection Committee(s), the Project Leader shall be required to present the proposal to the committee. If the proposal is selected for funding, the Project Leader shall be required to sign the project agreement.

- iii. Project Leader must be a majority equity/shareholder in the applicant Startup Company and should have decision making power.

## **8. Intellectual Property:**

- 8.1 The intellectual property generated through the GREAT grant shall reside within innovator or startup or jointly shared by the startup and incubator as per their agreement.

## **9. Investment by the startup:**

- 9.1 The startup is required to invest at least 10% of the total sanctioned amount in two equal installments.
- 9.2 The first installment shall be made before release of the grant and the second installment after achievement of the 1<sup>st</sup> milestone.

## **10. Obligations of the associated incubator:**

- 10.1 The incubator shall promote the GREAT scheme, assist the applicants for submission of proposal.
- 10.2 The incubator should disburse funds to the beneficiary startups after receiving from MoT as per the project sanctioned letter.
- 10.3 The fund meant for the incubator shall be utilized for their administrative expenditure, due diligence, assistance, and monitoring progress of beneficiary startups.
- 10.4 The associated incubator shall be required to provide technical and business mentoring, trainings and intellectual property, legal support and any other assistance required by the startup.
- 10.5 A startup recommended by the incubator for assistance under this scheme shall not be charged any fees except for space and infrastructure including testing equipment(s).
- 10.6 The incubator shall execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the selected startups before the release of the first installment by NTTM. The incubators shall ensure that the necessary terms and conditions, including milestones, detailed obligations of both the Incubator and the Start-up, fund disbursement, and other relevant details are clearly mentioned in the MoU.

## 11. Application Process

- 11.1 National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), Ministry of Textiles shall invite applications under GREAT from time to time based on funds availability.
- 11.2 The Call for Proposals shall be advertised through one or more means that may include NTTM/MoT website, newspapers, journals, social media and magazines.
- 11.3 Applicants are advised to fill-up and submit their applications along with the recommendation letter from respective incubators on Ministry of Textiles website early without waiting for the last date to avoid last minute rush.
- 11.4 Requests for changes in a proposal once submitted shall not be entertained.
- 11.5 Providing incorrect information intentionally shall be viewed adversely and may lead to disqualification.
- 11.6 In case of proposal rejection, the applicant can apply again if significant improvement has been made to rejected original proposal.

## 12. Selection Process

- 12.1 GREAT selection process is a multi-tier process involving following steps:
  - i. **Step 1: Examination & Eligibility Check by NTTM, Ministry of Textiles:** Post complete verification of applications and recommendation by the Incubators. NTTM, Ministry of Textiles shall further screen the applications for eligibility requirements as laid out in the scheme document and appropriateness.
  - ii. **Step 2: Presentation and Review by EPC:** The Proposals recommended by NTTM, shall be reviewed by the Empowered Programme Committee (EPC), Ministry of Textiles.

## 13. Signing of Agreement, Fund Disbursement, Monitoring and Review Process

- 13.1 Fund disbursement shall follow the guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Finance as per the O.M. No. F. No. 1(18)/PFMS/FCD/2021 dated 9th March 2022 on Revised procedure for flow of funds under Central Sector Schemes.
- 13.2 After release of the first installment to the Incubators through CNA, the Incubators shall review and monitor the progress of the startup and submit quarterly report to the NTTM.
- 13.3 Installments shall be released to incubators upon submission of proofs of achievement of milestones as approved in the proposal by NTTM, Ministry of Textiles.

- 13.4 Subsequent disbursement shall be linked to the achievement of previously specified milestones as per agreement between the Startup and the Incubator.
- 13.5 Based on approved project milestones, the NTTM shall periodically monitor progress and review the project.
- 13.6 Feedback from the Industry/market experts or investors must be included in the final report. The Incubator should facilitate the interaction as required.

#### **14. The success of project will be judged based on following criteria:**

- 14.1 Prototype, product development, and field trials.
- 14.2 Market launch, investment from investors for further milestones.
- 14.3 Jobs creation and turnover of the startup.

#### **15. Indicative Evaluation Criteria**

15.1 GREAT Proposals should highlight the following points:

- i. Novelty.
- ii. Project plan
- iii. Market demand and commercialization strategies.
- iv. Challenges and the strategies to overcome them.
- v. Any other significant details.

#### **16. Budget Planning**

16.1 The Budget heads typically involve the following:

**i. Equipment:**

- Generally, equipments shall not be funded under this scheme, however, upon discretion of the review committee it may be allowed on case-to-case basis.

**ii. Manpower:**

- This head shall be considered for manpower/salary head/honorariums.
- Scientific advisors/ mentors or academic partners shall be remunerated through honorarium only. The honorarium amount shall be as per the policy of the Institute or the Incubator.

- No team members of the Start-up shall receive salary/stipend/fellowship from two sources simultaneously (GREAT, NTTM and any other source).

iii. **Consumables:**

- All chemicals, raw materials etc. could be purchased from this head.
- Office consumables shall be allowed only in contingency.

iv. **Outsourced services:** Outsourcing may include:

- Facilities not available with the incubator.
- Use of pilot scale facilities.
- Consultancy from industry/experts for specialized requirements.

v. **Contingency:**

- Contingency includes expenses towards minor variations in any of the above budget heads, meeting expenditure towards unplanned activities.
- It may include project related expenses incurred for setting up of Startup Company during GREAT tenure, stationery charges, incidental expenses, travel, conference registration, etc.
- It may also include fee for patent drafting, filing, publication, examination, and related services.

vi. **AI fee<sup>1</sup>:** AI fee can be used for:

- Charges for services availed by the grantee at the Incubator
- Rentals for incubation space or startup's R&D premises.

vii. The above guidelines shall be followed unless there is a specific exemption by, NTTM, Ministry of Textiles.

## 17. Documents required during submission/after approval

17.1 Applicants shall be expected to show documentary evidence for verification by the Mission Directorate:

i. **Along with the application:**

- Letter of recommendation or MoU with the incubator
- Evidence of access to unique sample(s)/facility(ies) needed to execute the project.

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<sup>1</sup>AI fee is separate from the financial support to the Incubator by NTTM, MoT as defined in section 5.2.

ii. **After approval of the proposal and before release of the first installment of the Grant:**

- MoU with incubator, if acceptance/recommendation letter was submitted at the time of application.
- Formal agreements/ MoUs with other key facility(ies) providers/ suppliers
- Any other due diligence documents requested on case-to-case basis by NTTM (e.g. technology in-licensing; IP rights clarification; NoC from Institute etc.)
- Undertaking by the applicant that the project with same objectives and deliverables has not received funding from any other agency.
- The individual must have a registered company/start-up before release of the grant.

## **18. Resolution of Disputes**

18.1 In the event of any dispute between parties, in the first instance, the same shall be resolved by mutual discussion.

18.2 In case the dispute does not get resolved mutually, Secretary Ministry of Textiles shall be empowered to nominate an arbitrator to decide the dispute. The award made by the arbitrator, shall be submitted to the Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, whose decision shall be binding on both parties.

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