



TELECOM CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE INDIA

A Public Private Partnership Initiative

INFORMATION & APPLICATION BOOKLET

Programme for Supporting Participation of Startups & MSMEs at India Mobile Congress 2026

under the

Technology Development & Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme

Department of Telecommunications, Government of India

7 – 10 October 2026

Yashobhoomi (IICC), Sector 25, Dwarka, New Delhi

Connecting Innovation • Enabling Growth • Transforming India's Digital Future

Implementation Agency: Telecom Centres of Excellence India
Applications close on 25 August 2026 | indiamobilecongress@tcoe.in

Preface

India Mobile Congress (IMC), jointly organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), has since 2017 established itself as a premier global platform for digital technology. Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, telecom operators, technology providers, startups, investors, academia and innovators from across the world, the tenth edition of IMC will be held from 7 to 10 October 2026 at Yashobhoomi (IICC), New Delhi.

To strengthen India's telecom innovation ecosystem and promote investment, the Department of Telecommunications extends financial support under the Technology Development & Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme for the participation of eligible startups and MSMEs in major innovation, investment promotion and ecosystem events such as India Mobile Congress. Telecom Centres of Excellence India (TCOE India) serves as the Implementation Agency for this initiative.

On behalf of DoT, TCOE India has facilitated Startup participation at India Mobile Congress since 2023, supporting approximately 300 to 450 startups every year during 2023–2025, along with participation from academia, Central Ministries and State Governments. For IMC 2026, the support of DoT will be extended to facilitate the participation of eligible Startups and MSMEs by providing dedicated, ready-to-use exhibition spaces in the ASPIRE Pavilion and MSME Pavilion, thereby promoting innovation, technology demonstration, networking and business opportunities within the telecom and technology ecosystem.

The programme offers much more than exhibition space. Along with a ready-to-use exhibition setup, participants get valuable opportunities for investor engagement, enterprise matchmaking, mentoring, knowledge sessions and business networking throughout the four-day event, enabling them to showcase innovations, build partnerships and explore commercial opportunities.

This booklet provides information on the programme, eligibility criteria, financial support, participation process, required documents, the full content of the online application form, answers to frequently asked questions, the mandatory declaration and the pitch deck template. Applicants are advised to read this booklet carefully and to keep all required documents ready before beginning the online application.

Applications close on 25 August 2026. We look forward to your participation.

Telecom Centres of Excellence India

New Delhi

At a Glance

Event	India Mobile Congress 2026, 7–10 October 2026, Yashobhoomi (IICC), Sector 25, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110061
Application deadline	25 August 2026 — applications are accepted online only
Who may apply	Indian startups with a valid DPIIT Recognition Certificate, and MSMEs with a valid Udyam Registration
Where	Startups: ASPIRE Pavilion, ready-to-use Pod of approx. 3.2 sq. m. MSMEs: MSME Pavilion, fully fabricated Booth of approx. 9 sq. m.
Technology scope	Startups: Telecom and digital technology categories mentioned in Section 4.1 MSMEs: NTN, AI in Communication, or 5G-Advanced / 6G only.
Participation fee	Startups ₹2,400 MSMEs ₹41,000 (inclusive of GST, payable at the time of application)
How to apply	Through the online application form only. The form cannot be saved and resumed.
Mandatory uploads	Six — DPIIT/Udyam certificate, Company Registration Certificate, company logo, one-page profile, pitch deck and payment receipt
Also required	Registration number, demo video link (2–3 minutes) and Transaction Reference Number (UTR)
Refund	Full refund if not selected, to the account from which payment was received. No refund once participation is confirmed.
Contact	indiamobilecongress@tcoe.in

Fulfilling the eligibility criteria does not guarantee selection. Applications are evaluated by the Selection Committee in accordance with the programme guidelines.

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P A R T O N E

Programme Guidelines

*Overview of the programme, financial support, eligibility and participation at India
Mobile Congress 2026.*

1. About India Mobile Congress 2026

India Mobile Congress (IMC), jointly organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) since 2017, has established itself as a premier global platform that brings together policymakers, industry leaders, telecom operators, technology providers, startups, investors, academia and innovators from across the world to showcase and discuss the latest advancements in digital technologies.

In its tenth edition, IMC 2026 will be held from 7-10 October 2026 at Yashobhoomi (India International Convention & Expo Centre), Sector 25, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110061. The event will feature a large-scale technology exhibition, high-level conferences, leadership summits, Startup initiatives, B2B networking and technology demonstrations across emerging domains, with the tagline **‘Scale without Boundaries’**.

IMC 2026 provides an excellent opportunity for investment promotion, including the showcasing of indigenous products and technologies, engagement with venture capitalists and other investors from India and abroad, and collaboration through pitching sessions and one-to-one investor meetings.

2. Programme for Supporting Participation of Startups and MSMEs

The programme provides financial support for the participation of Indian startups and MSMEs at India Mobile Congress 2026 under the Technology Development & Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme of the Department of Telecommunications, with Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCOE) India acting as the Implementation Agency.

The programme provides selected participants with a ready-to-use display space together with a structured programme of investor engagement, enterprise matchmaking, mentoring and knowledge sessions across the four days of the event, and not exhibition space alone.

It provides emerging enterprises with an opportunity to showcase innovative products and solutions, establish strategic partnerships, engage with investors and promote technology commercialisation and investment opportunities through networking, mentoring and market access.

3. TCOE India Facilitating Startups at IMC since 2023

On behalf of the Department of Telecommunications, TCOE India has been facilitating the participation of startups at IMC since 2023, with more than 1,100 startups supported over this period. In 2025, TCOE India coordinated targeted outreach and engagement of startups, academia and Ministries, facilitating broad participation across the telecom innovation ecosystem.

For **IMC 2026**, the support of DoT will be extended to facilitate the participation of **eligible startups and MSMEs** by providing **dedicated, ready-to-use exhibition spaces** in the **ASPIRE Pavilion and MSME Pavilion**, thereby promoting innovation, technology demonstration, networking and business opportunities within the telecom and technology ecosystem.

4. Programme Objectives

The programme is designed to provide innovative enterprises with a world-class platform to showcase technologies, engage with industry leaders and policymakers, and unlock new business opportunities across India’s rapidly evolving telecom and digital ecosystem.

- **Showcase Innovation:** Present innovative products and solutions before government, industry leaders, investors and global delegations.
- **Investor Connect:** Facilitate investor engagement through curated meetings, pitching sessions and funding opportunities.
- **Enterprise Partnerships:** Enable corporate matchmaking, strategic collaborations and market access for technology-driven startups and MSMEs.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Strengthen innovation through mentoring, masterclasses, networking sessions and interactions with industry experts.
- **Support Innovation:** Promote India's innovation ecosystem by supporting emerging technologies and encouraging collaboration across the telecom and digital sectors.
- **Business Growth:** Help participating enterprises gain visibility, expand networks and accelerate commercialisation opportunities.

4.1 Eligible Technology Domains — Startups

Startups operating in the following technology domains are eligible to participate in the programme. An applicant selects the single category most closely aligned with its primary product, solution or technology; an "Others" option is also available on the application form under which Startups operating in telecom domain not covered under the six thematic areas may be considered.

- **Wireless Communications** — 5G, 6G, Next-Generation Networks, Open RAN, etc.
- **Telecom & Networking Chipsets** — 5G/6G chipsets, RF & baseband processors, network processors, ASICs, SoCs, FPGA-based solutions, optical networking chipsets, Wi-Fi/Bluetooth chipsets, edge AI chips and related telecom and networking semiconductor technologies
- **Telecom and Networking Security** — Network security, quantum communications, digital trust, privacy, cyber resilience, etc.
- **Immersive Communication** — IoT, Industry 4.0, wearables, AR/VR/XR, digital twins, immersive media, etc.
- **Artificial Intelligence in Telecom** — AI/ML, IT & software, human-computer interaction, FinTech, EdTech, HealthTech, e-commerce, etc.
- **Space Communication** — Satellite communications, non-terrestrial networks (NTN), HAPS, LEO/MEO/GEO satellites, positioning, navigation & timing (PNT), earth observation, drone/UAV communication, space-based services, satellite IoT and related space technologies

4.2 Eligible Technology Categories — MSMEs

MSMEs may apply with innovative products and solutions in the following three technology categories only:

- **NTN (Non-Terrestrial Networks)**
- **AI in Communication**
- **5G-Advanced / 6G**

4.3 Vision

To create a collaborative platform where startups, MSMEs, industry, academia and government work together to accelerate innovation, strengthen India's digital ecosystem and build globally competitive technology enterprises.

5. Participation Categories

5.1 Startup Participation — ASPIRE Pavilion

Selected startups can apply for a ready-to-use Startup Pod of approximately 3.2 sq. m. in the ASPIRE Pavilion, provided with essential exhibition infrastructure:

- Pod with carpet flooring and pod fascia carrying the Startup's name and logo.
- One LED display with HDMI cable.
- One storage table and one chair.
- Electricity connection for the entire duration of the event.
- High-speed internet.
- Two exhibitor badges, with access to the inaugural ceremony for badge holders.
- Food coupons for two participants per day for each of the four days.
- One ASPIRE kit.
- Listing in the IMC 2026 exhibitor listing and the IMC Mobile App.
- Access to the common stage, the networking area, conference sessions and matchmaking activities.

5.2 MSME Participation — MSME Pavilion

MSMEs applying in one of the three eligible technology categories listed in Section 4.2 can apply for an independent, fully fabricated booth of approximately 9 sq. m. in the MSME Pavilion, provided with essential exhibition infrastructure:

- Booth with carpet flooring and booth fascia carrying the enterprise's name and logo.
- One LED display with HDMI cable.
- One table, two chairs, one lockable storage unit and one brochure rack.
- Electricity connection for the entire duration of the event.
- High-speed internet.
- Two exhibitor badges and a Silver Delegate Pass, with access to the inaugural ceremony for badge holders.
- Food coupons for two participants per day for each of the four days.
- One delegate kit.
- Listing in the IMC 2026 exhibitor listing and the IMC Mobile App.
- Access to the common stage, the networking area, conference sessions and matchmaking activities.

6. Benefits of Participation

- Mentorship from industry leaders, Startup founders and domain experts.
- Engagement with angel investors, venture capital firms and funding partners.
- Live pitching sessions to showcase innovative products and business ideas.
- Opportunity to participate in the Startup World Cup – India Regional Qualifier, with a chance to advance to the Global Finale and compete for a US\$1 million investment prize.
- Enterprise Connect to explore pilot projects, strategic partnerships and customer opportunities.
- Masterclasses for startups on scaling, fundraising and innovation.
- Brand visibility among leading telecom companies, technology enterprises and ecosystem leaders in India.
- Opportunity to participate in hackathons and other innovation challenges.
- Panel discussions on topics of wider interest to startups and MSMEs.
- Mentor engagements to support and guide participating startups and MSMEs.
- Founders' Fireside Chats featuring successful entrepreneurs sharing insights on building, hiring and scaling up.

7. Investment Promotion Activities

- **Pre-IMC Briefing Sessions:** To prepare participants for pitching with corporate partners and investors.
- **Online Catalogue of Startups and MSMEs:** An online catalogue of participating startups and MSMEs will be shared in advance with potential investors for ease of matchmaking.
- **Live Pitching Sessions:** Multiple live pitching and investor reverse-pitching sessions, with an experienced jury committee evaluating and rewarding the sessions.
- **Masterclasses, Panel Discussions and Founders' Fireside Chats:** Subject-based sessions of specific interest to startups and MSMEs, covering the building and scaling up of startups, Government policy initiatives, the latest technology trends, the regulatory landscape, financing opportunities and ground-level challenges.
- **Investor Perspective Sessions:** On how investors weigh risk, market outlook and fundamentals when evaluating a Startup.
- **Meetings with Mentors, Angel Investors and Venture Capital Firms:** Pre-scheduled for interested participants.
- **DoT and Other Key Government Scheme Outreach Sessions:** On-ground information and support on the ongoing schemes of DoT and other Ministries, such as TTDF, pilot testing and 3GPP travel support.

8. Eligibility

The programme is open to eligible Indian entities working in telecom, ICT and allied technology domains as listed in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 above. Applicants must satisfy the eligibility requirements prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications and TCOE India.

- The applicant must be a registered or incorporated entity in India, and must upload the Certificate of Registration or Incorporation.
- For startups, the product or solution must belong to the telecom, ICT or allied technology domain covered by the categories listed in Section 4.1.
- The applicant must have a product, working prototype or demonstrable solution ready to be exhibited and demonstrated live on all four days of the event.
- Startup applicants must hold a valid DPIIT Recognition Certificate and should be working towards the innovation, development or improvement of products, processes or services.
- MSME applicants must hold a valid **Udyam Registration** as a micro, small or medium enterprise under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, as amended.
- MSME applicants must apply in one of the three eligible technology categories listed in Section 4.2 — **NTN (Non-Terrestrial Networks), AI in Communication, or 5G-Advanced / 6G.**
- At least one authorised representative must be deputed for the full duration of the event.
- Applications must be complete and accompanied by all required documents and the applicable participation fee.
- The IMC 2026 Mandatory Declaration, and the terms and conditions and privacy policies of India Mobile Congress and of the Startup World Cup, must be accepted on the application form.

Note: Only one application per entity will be considered. An entity may apply under one track only, and a selected entity will be allotted one pod or one booth. Fulfilling the eligibility criteria does not guarantee selection; applications will be evaluated by the Selection Committee in accordance with the programme guidelines.

9. Participation Fee

Participation of startups and MSMEs at IMC 2026 is supported under the DoT scheme. The subsidised participation rates, inclusive of GST, are as follows:

Category	Participation space	Fee (inclusive of GST)
Startup	Ready-to-use Pod, approx. 3.2 sq. m. (ASPIRE Pavilion)	₹2,400
MSME	Ready-to-use Booth, approx. 9 sq. m. (MSME Pavilion)	₹41,000

The remaining cost of participation is supported by the Department of Telecommunications under the Technology Development & Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme. Participants are therefore required to bear only a very small part of the total participation cost.

The fee is payable at the time of application, from the applicant entity's own bank account. One payment is to be made for each application; a single consolidated payment covering several applicants will not be accepted. Bank and payment gateway charges are to be borne by the applicant.

If an application is not selected, the participation fee will be refunded in full to the same bank account from which the payment was received, within 15 days of the decision. Once participation has been confirmed and space has been allotted, the participation fee shall not be refundable.

10. Important Dates

Milestone	Date
Application deadline	25 August 2026
Move-in and setup	6 October 2026
Exhibition (show days)	7 – 10 October 2026
Dismantling and removal of exhibits	10 October 2026, from 5:00 PM onwards

11. Documents Required

The following six uploads are mandatory on the online application form:

#	Document	Format
1	DPIIT Recognition Certificate (startups) or Udyam Registration Certificate (MSMEs)	PDF
2	Company Registration Certificate (registration or incorporation in India)	PDF
3	Company logo	PDF only, minimum 500 KB
4	One-page company and product or solution profile	PDF only
5	Pitch deck, not more than eight slides, prepared on the Pitch Deck Template	PDF only
6	Payment receipt	PDF or image

In addition, the following must be entered on the form: the DPIIT Recognition Number or Udyam Registration Number; a publicly accessible link to a product demonstration video of not more than two to three minutes; and the Transaction Reference Number (UTR or Transaction ID) for the participation fee.

11.1 Pitch Deck — Required Contents (Maximum Eight Slides)

The pitch deck is to be prepared using the Pitch Deck Template linked on the application form and uploaded as a PDF of not more than eight slides. It must cover the following:

Slide	Content
Slide 1	Company name, year and location of incorporation, product title and sector or domain.
Slide 2	Overview of the Startup (50 words).
Slide 3	Details of the product or solution proposed to be displayed, with an image (100 words).
Slide 4	Latest funding stage and future plans (50 words).
Slide 5	Competitive advantage and relevant market benchmarks.
Slide 6	Existing customer details.

12. Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated by a Selection/Review Committee constituted by TCOE India as per the Scheme Guidelines. The selection process comprises application scrutiny, eligibility verification, evaluation and a final decision by the Selection Committee. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of innovation, product readiness, investment readiness, commercialisation potential, export potential and relevance to the telecom and emerging technology sectors.

An application must be complete in all respects and must be accompanied by the applicable participation fee. Incomplete applications will not be shortlisted or placed before the Selection Committee.

The result will be communicated by email to both the primary and the secondary contact declared in the application, as soon as the decision is made. Participation fees of unsuccessful applicants will be refunded through the same channel through which payment was made, within 15 days of the decision. No refund will be made to successful applicants.

13. Venue

Venue	Yashobhoomi (India International Convention & Expo Centre)
Address	Sector 25, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110061, India
Dates	7 – 10 October 2026

14. Payment Details

The participation fee is to be paid online at the time of application, from the applicant entity's own bank account, using the payment link provided in the application form.

Payment link	https://payments.cashfree.com/forms?code=TCOE
Alternative	A QR code for the same payment form is displayed on the online application form.

Reference	The Transaction Reference Number (UTR or Transaction ID) and the payment receipt must be entered and uploaded in the application form.
Charges	Bank and payment gateway charges are to be borne by the applicant.

Applicants must retain the payment confirmation. Refunds, where applicable, are credited only to the account from which the payment was received.

15. Contact

Please write to us at indiamobilecongress@tcoe.in if you have difficulty submitting your application, if your payment succeeds but the application does not, or if you are unable to participate after selection.

PART TWO

Online Application Form

The complete content of the online form, in the order in which it appears.

Before You Begin

Applications are accepted online only. Applications sent by email, by post or in hard copy will not be considered. The form is a single continuous page and cannot be saved and resumed, so please assemble every document listed in Section 11 of Part One before you begin.

Set out below is the full content of the form, in the order in which it appears, including every option available under each list. Questions marked with a red asterisk (*) are mandatory. The question numbers below are the numbers used on the online form.

Organisation Identity & Registration

1. Organisation Name *

[Applicant response]

2. Organisation Type *

Dropdown — mark only one.

- ☐ Startups
- ☐ MSMEs

3. Upload relevant DPIIT Recognition Certificate / MSME Udyam Certificate *

Startups/MSMEs are required to upload a valid DPIIT Recognition Certificate or Udyam Registration Certificate, as applicable.

[File upload]

4. DPIIT Recognition Number / Udyam Registration Number *

Please provide the applicable registration number.

[Applicant response]

Technology Category

5. If MSME, select the relevant Technology Category *

Mark only one oval. MSMEs may apply with innovative products and solutions in these three categories only.

- ☐ NTN (Non-Terrestrial Networks)
- ☐ AI in Communication
- ☐ 5G-Advanced / 6G
- ☐ Not a MSME

6. If Startup, select the relevant Technology Category *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Wireless Communications (5G, 6G, Next-Generation Networks, Open RAN, etc.)
- ☐ Telecom & Networking Chipsets (5G/6G chipsets, RF & baseband processors, network processors, ASICs, etc.)
- ☐ Telecom and Networking Security (Network security, quantum communications, digital trust, privacy, etc.)
- ☐ Immersive Communication (IoT, Industry 4.0, wearables, AR/VR/XR, etc.)
- ☐ Artificial Intelligence in Telecom (AI/ML, IT & software, human-computer interaction, FinTech, etc.)

- Space Communication (Satellite communications, non-terrestrial networks (NTN), HAPS, LEO/MEO/GEO satellites, etc.)
- Others (Startups operating in telecom domain not covered under the six thematic areas above)
- Not a Startup

Startup World Cup

7. Would you like to participate in the Startup World Cup (only Startups are eligible, MSMEs are not eligible)? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Not eligible

8. Industry focus list for Startup World Cup participants

For applicants opting into the Startup World Cup only. This list is in addition to the technology category selected at question 6, which remains unchanged for all applicants.

- Aerospace, Defence
- Agriculture, Natural Resources, FoodTech, Forestry
- Arts, Media, Entertainment
- Automotive, EV, AV Products and Services
- Banking, Financial Services, FinTech
- Building, Construction, Civil Engineering
- Clean Tech / Green Tech
- Climate, Environment
- Child Development, Family Services
- Communications and Networking
- Entertainment, Media
- Education
- Energy, Utilities, Renewable Energy
- Engineering, Architecture
- Fashion, Interior Design
- Healthcare, Health Science, HealthTech, Medical Devices / Equipment
- Hospitality, Tourism, Recreation, Travel
- Information & Communication Technology (IT)
- Manufacturing, Machinery and Industrial Goods
- Materials and Chemicals
- Marketing Services
- Pharmaceuticals, Bio Pharmaceuticals, BioTech
- Real Estate, PropTech
- Sales Services
- Social, Public Services
- Transportation
- Other

Company Profile

9. Fascia / Display Name *

[Applicant response]

10. Company Website

[Optional]

11. Company One Liner *

Not more than 250 characters.

[Applicant response]

12. Company Logo *

PDF format only, minimum 500 KB.

[File upload]

13. Company Registration Certificate *

The company must be registered in India — please attach the Company Registration Certificate.

[File upload]

14. Select the State / UT your startup is legally incorporated in *

Mark only one oval — the full list of Indian States and Union Territories appears on the online form.

[State/UT selection]

Product & Solution Details

15. Details of the product or solution proposed to be displayed *

Maximum 100 words.

[Applicant response]

16. Upload a One-Page Company & Product/Solution Profile *

PDF only — including company overview, product/solution description, product image, key features, target market, achievements and contact details.

[File upload]

17. Upload your pitch deck / presentation slides *

PDF format only, maximum eight slides. Participants are required to download the Pitch Deck Template linked on the form, fill in the required details and upload the completed pitch deck.

[File upload]

18. Publicly accessible link to your product / solution demo video

A YouTube or Google Drive link, not exceeding two to three minutes. Ensure the link has the required viewing permissions and can be accessed without requesting access.

[Applicant response]

Funding & Business Details

19. What was the last stage of funding you raised? *

Dropdown — mark only one.

- ☐ Bootstrap / Self-Funding
- ☐ Seed / Angel Round

- Series A
- Series B / Later
- Others
- Not Applicable

20. How much funding have you raised to date *

Share value in Indian Rupees.

[Applicant response]

21. What is your current revenue to date? If none, how do you plan to generate revenue? *

Maximum 75 words.

[Applicant response]

22. What is your customer focus area *

- Business Product / Services (B2B)
- Consumer Product / Services (B2C)
- Government Product / Service (B2G)
- B2B2C

23. Which option best describes your type of product / service *

- Software
- Hardware
- Others

24. Are you currently looking to raise funding? If yes, please specify the target amount (in INR) *

[Applicant response]

Problem Statement & Competitive Advantage

25. Summarise the problem you are trying to solve, and who your target customer is *

Maximum 75 words.

[Applicant response]

26. What is your competitive advantage? *

Maximum 75 words.

[Applicant response]

Applicant Representatives

Both a primary and a secondary representative are mandatory on the online form (questions 27 to 34).

Primary Representative

27. Primary Name *	[Full name]
28. Primary Email *	[Email address]
29. Primary Contact *	[Mobile number]
30. Primary Designation *	[Designation]

Secondary Representative

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 31. Secondary Name * | [Full name] |
| 32. Secondary Email * | [Email address] |
| 33. Secondary Contact * | [Mobile number] |
| 34. Secondary Designation * | [Designation] |

Participation Fee & Payment

35. Participation Fee Payment *

Participation of startups and MSMEs in IMC 2026 is supported under the DoT scheme. The subsidised participation rates, inclusive of GST, are: Startups (ASPIRE Pavilion) ₹2,400 for a ready-to-use Pod of approx. 3.2 sq. m.; MSMEs (MSME Pavilion) ₹41,000 for a ready-to-use Booth of approx. 9 sq. m.

Payment link: <https://payments.cashfree.com/forms?code=TCOE> — a QR code for the same payment form is displayed on the online form.

Note: if an application is not selected, the participation fee will be refunded to the same bank account from which the payment was received.

☐ I have read and understood the participation fee and payment terms. I confirm that I am making the payment of the applicable participation fee, i.e. ₹2,400 inclusive of GST for startups or ₹41,000 inclusive of GST for MSMEs, as applicable. I understand that submission of the participation fee does not guarantee selection. My application will be evaluated by the Selection Committee based on the prescribed eligibility criteria and evaluation process. In the event that my application is not selected, the participation fee paid by me will be refunded.

36. Transaction Reference Number (UTR / Transaction ID) *

[Applicant response]

37. Upload Payment Receipt *

[File upload]

Declarations & Consent

38. Acceptance of Terms & Conditions and Communication Consent *

By submitting this application, the applicant confirms having read, understood and agreed to the applicable Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policies of India Mobile Congress 2026 and the Startup World Cup, and agrees to receive communications regarding the application, including application status, updates and relevant information from the Startup World Cup, its partners and sponsors.

The form links to: (1) IMC 2026 Mandatory Declaration; (2) Privacy Policy — IMC; (3) Terms & Conditions — Startup World Cup; (4) Privacy Policy — Startup World Cup.

☐ I have read, understood and agree to the above Terms & Conditions, Privacy Policies and communication consent.

PART THREE

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to common queries relating to eligibility, application, participation, payment and the selection process.

A. General Information

Q1. What is this programme?

Ans. It supports the participation of Indian startups and MSMEs at India Mobile Congress 2026 under the Technology Development & Investment Promotion Scheme of the Department of Telecommunications, with TCOE India as the Implementation Agency. Participation is offered as a complete package — a display area together with a structured programme of investor engagement, enterprise matchmaking, mentoring and knowledge sessions across the four days — and not as exhibition space alone.

Q2. When and where is IMC 2026 held?

Ans. From 7 to 10 October 2026 at Yashobhoomi (IICC), Sector 25, Dwarka, New Delhi.

Q3. What are the two participation tracks?

Ans. Startups are hosted in ready-to-use Startup Pods of approximately 3.2 sq. m. each in the ASPIRE Pavilion. MSMEs are hosted in independent, fully fabricated booths of approximately 9 sq. m. each in the MSME Pavilion, grouped by theme so that visitors and buyers can navigate the pavilion by technology area.

Q4. Why is a participation fee being charged this year?

Ans. Under the latest guidelines of the Department of Telecommunications under the Technology Development & Investment Promotion Scheme (TDIP), the participants are required to bear a small fraction of the actual cost of hosting, and the balance is met under the TDIP Scheme.

Q5. Which technology areas are covered for startups?

Ans. Six thematic areas are covered, together with an "Others" option on the application form under which Startups operating in telecom domain not covered under the six thematic areas may be considered:

- Wireless Communications — 5G, 6G, Next-Generation Networks, Open RAN, etc.
- Telecom & Networking Chipsets — 5G/6G chipsets, RF & baseband processors, network processors, ASICs, SoCs, FPGA-based solutions, optical networking chipsets, Wi-Fi/Bluetooth chipsets, edge AI chips and related telecom and networking semiconductor technologies
- Telecom and Networking Security — Network security, quantum communications, digital trust, privacy, cyber resilience, etc.
- Immersive Communication — IoT, Industry 4.0, wearables, AR/VR/XR, digital twins, immersive media, etc.
- Artificial Intelligence in Telecom — AI/ML, IT & software, human–computer interaction, FinTech, EdTech, HealthTech, e-commerce, etc.
- Space Communication — Satellite communications, non-terrestrial networks (NTN), HAPS, LEO/MEO/GEO satellites, positioning, navigation & timing (PNT), earth observation, drone/UAV communication, space-based services, satellite IoT and related space technologies

Applicants should select the single thematic area that most closely aligns with their primary product, solution or technology.

Q6. Which technology categories are open to MSMEs?

Ans. MSMEs may apply with innovative products and solutions in three categories only:

- NTN (Non-Terrestrial Networks)
- AI in Communication
- 5G-Advanced / 6G

B. Eligibility

Q7. What are the basic eligibility conditions?

Ans. The applicant must be an entity registered or incorporated in India. In addition:

- The product or solution offered for display must fall within telecom, information and communication technology or an allied domain covered by the thematic areas.
- The applicant must have a product, a working prototype or a demonstrable solution ready to be exhibited and demonstrated live on all four days.
- At least one representative must be deputed for the full duration of the event.
- The IMC 2026 Mandatory Declaration and the terms, conditions and privacy policies of India Mobile Congress and the Startup World Cup must be accepted on the application form.

Q8. Can an entity registered outside India apply?

Ans. No. Registration or incorporation in India is a condition of eligibility, and the Certificate of Registration or Incorporation must be uploaded with the application.

Q9. What additional conditions apply to startups?

Ans. The applicant should be recognised as a startup by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, with the valid recognition certificate uploaded, and should be working towards the innovation, development or improvement of products, processes or services.

Q10. What additional conditions apply to MSMEs?

Ans. The applicant must hold a valid Udyam Registration as a micro, small or medium enterprise under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, as amended, must upload the Udyam Registration Certificate with the application, and must apply in one of the three eligible technology categories — NTN, AI in Communication, or 5G-Advanced / 6G.

Q11. Can we apply under both tracks, or submit more than one application?

Ans. No. Only one application per entity is considered, an entity may apply in one track only, and a selected entity is allotted one pod or one booth.

Q12. Must the product be commercially launched?

Ans. No. A product, a working prototype or a demonstrable solution is sufficient, provided it is ready to be exhibited and demonstrated live on all four days of the event.

C. Application Process

Q13. How and by when do we apply?

Ans. Applications are to be submitted online only, through the online application form, **by 25 August 2026**. Applications sent by e-mail, by post or in hard copy will not be considered.

Q14. Can the form be saved and completed later?

Ans. No. The form is to be completed in a single sitting. Applicants are advised to keep all documents ready before starting the form and to submit well before the last date.

Q15. Why are two contact persons required?

Ans. A primary and a secondary contact, each with name, designation, e-mail address and mobile number, are used for all official communication, including the result of the application.

Q16. What happens to an incomplete application?

Ans. An application must be complete in all respects and must be accompanied by the participation fee. Incomplete applications will not be shortlisted or placed before the Selection Committee.

D. Documents & Submission

Q17. What documents must be uploaded?

Ans. Six uploads are required:

- A valid DPIIT Recognition Certificate for startups, or a valid Udyam Registration Certificate for MSMEs.
- The Company Registration Certificate.
- The company logo.
- A one-page company and product or solution profile.
- The pitch deck.
- The payment receipt.

The registration number, the demonstration video link and the Transaction Reference Number (UTR or Transaction ID) must also be entered on the form.

Q18. In what format should the uploads be?

Ans. The company logo, the one-page profile and the pitch deck are to be in PDF format only.

- The logo is to be of not less than 500 KB, so that it can be reproduced on the fascia and in the exhibitor listing without loss of quality.
- The pitch deck is not to exceed eight slides and is to be prepared on the Pitch Deck Template linked on the application form.
- The demonstration video is submitted as a publicly accessible link, not as an upload.

Q19. What must the one-page profile cover?

Ans. The company overview, a description of the product or solution, a product image, the key features, the target market, achievements and contact details.

Q20. What must the pitch deck contain?

Ans. Not more than eight slides, prepared on the Pitch Deck Template and covering:

- Company name, year and location of incorporation, product title and sector or domain.
- Overview of the startup (50 words).
- Details of the product or solution proposed to be displayed, with an image (100 words).
- Latest funding stage and future plans (50 words).

- Competitive advantage and relevant market benchmarks.
- Existing customer details.

Q21. What are the requirements for the demonstration video?

Ans. A link to a video not exceeding two to three minutes. The link must remain accessible without a password until the results are announced.

E. Participation Fee & Payment

Q22. What is the participation fee?

Ans. The participation fee is ₹2,400 for a 3.2 sq. m. ready-to-use Startup Pod in the ASPIRE Pavilion and ₹41,000 for a 9 sq. m. ready-to-use Booth in the MSME Pavilion, with GST included.

Q23. When is the fee payable?

Ans. At the time of application. The transaction reference and the receipt form part of a complete application.

Q24. How is payment made?

Ans. Through the payment link provided in the application form.

Q25. From which bank account should payment be made?

Ans. From the applicant entity's own bank account. Refunds are credited only to the account from which the payment was received, so a payment made from any other account cannot be refunded to the entity.

Q26. Can a single payment cover several applicants?

Ans. No. One payment is to be made for each application, and a single consolidated payment covering several applicants will not be accepted..

Q27. The payment succeeded but the application could not be submitted. What should we do?

Ans. Write immediately to indiamobilecongress@tcoe.in with the transaction reference and documentary proof.

F. Selection Process

Q28. How will applications be evaluated?

Ans. Applications will be scrutinised and evaluated by the Selection/Review Committee constituted by TCOE India on the basis of eligibility, innovation, product readiness, commercialisation potential, export potential and relevance to telecom and emerging technologies. Only complete applications accompanied by the applicable participation fee will be considered. The decision will be communicated by email.

Q29. How will the result be communicated?

Ans. By e-mail, to both the primary and the secondary contact declared in the application.

Q30. Can a decision be reviewed or appealed?

Ans. No. The decision of the Selection Committee and of TCOE India on all matters relating to eligibility, evaluation, selection, allotment and refund is final and binding, and no correspondence is entertained in this regard.

Q31. What happens to the fee if we are not selected?

Ans. It is refunded in full, to the same bank account from which the payment was received, within 15 days of the decision.

Q32. We have been selected but can no longer participate. Can we get a refund?

Ans. No. The fee is not refundable once participation has been confirmed and space has been allotted. TCOE India should nevertheless be informed at indiamobilecongress@tcoe.in at the earliest, so that the space can be reallocated to another applicant.

Q33. What if a selected participant neither withdraws nor turns up?

Ans. The fee stands forfeited, the space may be reallocated, and the fact may be taken into account in considering applications from that entity for future editions.

G. Participation at IMC 2026

Q34. What participation space is available for startups and MSMEs?

Ans. Startups will be provided a **Startup Pod of approximately 3.2 sq. m.**, while eligible MSMEs will be provided an **MSME Booth of approximately 9 sq. m.** Participation space will be allocated based on the category of the applicant.

Q35. What does a Startup Pod include?

Ans. Each ready-to-use Startup Pod of approximately 3.2 sq. m. in the ASPIRE Pavilion will include carpet flooring and essential exhibition infrastructure: branding, furniture, power supply, high-speed Wi-Fi, an LED display, exhibitor badges, an ASPIRE kit, food coupons, listing in the IMC Mobile App, and access to startup engagement activities and the inaugural ceremony.

Q36. What does an MSME Booth include?

Ans. Each 9 sq. m. fully fabricated MSME booth will be provided with standard exhibition infrastructure: branding, furniture, power supply, high-speed Wi-Fi, an LED display, exhibitor badges, a Silver Delegate Pass, food coupons, listing in the IMC Mobile App, and access to the exhibition, networking areas, conference sessions and the inaugural ceremony.

Q37. What support infrastructure is provided at the pavilion ?

Ans. The following are provided across the pavilion:

- Air-conditioning, general and aisle lighting, and aisle carpeting.
- Housekeeping of common areas and cleaning of the pavilion before each show day.
- An organiser's help desk and on-site programme office.
- A business lounge and networking zone.
- Signage, wayfinding and directory boards.

Q38. How many badges and food coupons does a participant receive?

Ans. Two exhibitor badges, giving access to the exhibition and to the conference sessions, and food coupons for two participants per day for each of the four days. This is the same for both tracks.

Q39. What is not included in the package?

Ans. Everything that is not listed in Section 5 of Part One remains the responsibility of the participant.

Q40. What is the schedule for move-in, show days and dismantling?

Ans. Move-in and setting up of exhibits on 6 October 2026; show days from 7 to 10 October 2026; and dismantling and removal of exhibits from 5:00 PM on 10 October 2026. Setting up must in any case be completed before the deadline notified in the exhibitor manual.

Q41. Must the pod or booth be staffed throughout?

Ans. Yes. At least one representative must be present throughout show hours on all four days, and the space must not be dismantled or vacated before the official close of the event.

Q42. What happens to material left behind after the dismantling deadline?

Ans. It may be removed and stored at the participant's cost and risk.

Q43. Can we choose where our pod or booth is located?

Ans. No. Allotment, including location within the pavilion, is at the sole discretion of TCOE India in consultation with the organisers of IMC 2026, and requests for a particular location cannot be entertained. TCOE India may also relocate or resize allotted space where this becomes necessary for operational, safety or regulatory reasons, with prior intimation.

Q44. Can the fascia name or logo be changed after applying?

Ans. The name and logo on the fascia will appear exactly as declared in the application. A change requested after the printing deadline notified in the exhibitor manual cannot be accommodated.

Q45. Who is responsible for the safety and insurance of our exhibits?

Ans. The participant is solely responsible for the safety, security and insurance of its exhibits, equipment and personnel, and indemnifies TCOE India, the Department of Telecommunications and the organisers of India Mobile Congress against any claim arising out of its participation.

Q46. Who will own the intellectual property rights of the product displayed?

Ans. The applicant shall be solely responsible for ensuring that the product or solution displayed does not infringe any intellectual property or other legal rights of any third party. Any claim or liability arising therefrom shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant.

H. Investor & Business Engagement

Q47. What investor engagement is offered?

Ans. Structured engagement with angel investors, venture capital firms and funding partners, comprising:

- One-to-one investor meetings arranged through the investor connect desk or app, on the basis of sector and stage.
- Live pitching sessions on the ASPIRE Stage.

- Visibility of the participant’s funding requirement and stage through curated profiles shared with the investor community.

Q48. What business development opportunities are offered?

Ans. Enterprise Connect sessions to explore pilot projects, partnerships and customer opportunities with telecom operators, original equipment manufacturers and large enterprises, including:

- Corporate matchmaking curated by thematic area.
- Interaction with visiting international delegations and buyer–seller meets.
- The opportunity to place the product before procurement and innovation teams that are actively scouting for solutions.

Q49. What learning and mentoring is available?

Ans. Mentorship from industry leaders, startup founders and domain experts, including:

- Masterclasses on scaling, fundraising and innovation.
- Panel discussions.
- Founders’ fireside chats.
- Continuing mentor engagement designed to carry the conversation beyond the four days of the event.

Q50. What competitions can we take part in?

Ans. There is an opportunity to participate in the Startup World Cup – India Regional Qualifier, with a chance to advance to the Global Finale and compete for a US\$1 million investment prize, for which the terms and conditions and privacy policy referred to in the application form apply, and in hackathons and other innovation challenges held during IMC 2026.

I. General Terms

Q51. Do exhibitor badges give access to the conference?

Ans. Yes. The two exhibitor badges give access to the exhibition and to the conference sessions, and badge holders may attend the inaugural ceremony.

Q52. Will participants be listed in any directory?

Ans. Yes, in the IMC 2026 Exhibitor E-Directory, which is circulated to delegates, buyers and visiting delegations.

Q53. What happens if the event is postponed or cancelled?

Ans. In the event of force majeure, TCOE India may postpone, curtail, relocate or cancel the programme or any part of it, and shall not be liable for any consequential loss.

Q54. Can the conditions or the calendar change?

Ans. Yes. TCOE India reserves the right to amend the conditions, the calendar and the scope of the support extended.

Q55. Whom do we contact for help?

Ans. TCOE India at indiamobilecongress@tcoe.in — for difficulty in submitting the application, for a payment that has succeeded without the application being submitted, and for intimation of an inability to participate after selection.

PART FOUR

Annexures

Mandatory declaration and undertaking, and the prescribed pitch deck template.

Annexure I — Mandatory Declaration / Undertaking

(to be submitted on the letterhead of the applicant entity)

DECLARATION OF PARTICIPATION COMMITMENT

ASPIRE / MSME Pavilion, India Mobile Congress 2026

I, the undersigned, on behalf of [Name of Startup / MSME], hereby declare and confirm the following:

1. Commitment to Participate

If selected for IMC 2026, we acknowledge that our entity has been offered an opportunity to exhibit at the ASPIRE Pavilion or the MSME Pavilion organised by TCOE India during IMC 2026. We confirm our participation and undertake a solemn commitment to be physically present and to actively exhibit at our allotted pod or booth for all four days of the event, from 7 to 10 October 2026.

2. No Last-Minute Withdrawal

We understand that withdrawal from participation after confirmation, particularly without prior written notice of at least 15 calendar days, will be treated as a last-minute dropout. We accept that such a dropout may result in:

- (1) disqualification from future events or programmes organised or supported by TCOE India for up to two years; and
- (2) loss of the opportunity to participate in competitions such as the Startup World Cup – India.

3. Adherence to Guidelines

We shall comply with all rules, regulations and instructions issued by TCOE India and the IMC 2026 organisers regarding booth setup, code of conduct and safety protocols.

4. Non-Transferability

We will not appoint a proxy participant, nor transfer, share or sublet the exhibition space allotted to us, without the prior written consent of TCOE India.

5. Authenticity of Information

All information submitted by us in the registration form and during evaluation is true and correct to the best of our knowledge. Any false claim or misrepresentation will lead to immediate cancellation of our participation.

6. Liability and Indemnity

We agree that TCOE India will not be liable for any loss, damage or legal issue arising out of our participation. We will indemnify TCOE India against any third-party claim resulting from our display, interaction or conduct at the event.

7. Acceptance of Declaration

I/We hereby confirm that we have read, understood and accepted the above terms and conditions and undertake to comply with the same for our participation in the ASPIRE Pavilion at IMC 2026.

Annexure II — Pitch Deck Template

The pitch deck is to be prepared on the Pitch Deck Template linked on the application form and uploaded as a PDF of not more than eight slides. The structure below sets out what each slide must contain.

Slide	Heading	What to include
1	Title	Company name, product or solution title, year and location of incorporation, and the sector or domain exactly as selected on the application form.
2	Company Overview	Mission, the problem addressed and the core value proposition (approx. 50 words).
3	Product / Solution and IPR	What the product does, how it works, the core technology or IP behind it, the TRL level and the problem it solves, with a product image (approx. 100 words).
4	Funding Stage & Future Plans	Latest funding round, amount raised, key investors, planned use of funds and upcoming milestones (approx. 50 words).
5	Competitive Advantage, ROI & Benchmarks	Key differentiators, market size, benchmark against the closest alternatives, and metrics that quantify the value delivered.
6	Existing Customer Details	Named customers with engagement type — pilot, paid deployment or letter of intent — and scale of usage.

Applications will be assessed on innovation, product readiness, investment readiness, commercialisation potential, export potential and relevance to telecom and emerging technologies. Up to eight slides are permitted; the six subjects above are all required.

F O R A S S I S T A N C E

indiamobilecongress@tcoe.in

Please write to us if you have difficulty submitting your application, if your payment succeeds but the application does not, or if you are unable to participate after selection.



Telecom Centres of Excellence India

A Public Private Partnership Initiative

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Implementation Agency for the Startup and MSME Participation Programme
under the Technology Development & Investment Promotion Scheme
Department of Telecommunications, Government of India