

Government of India  
Ministry of Communications  
Department of Telecommunications  
(Standards-R&D-Innovation Division)

Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi

No. 1-TR\_5G\_Startup\_Kit/2022-SRI-Part(4)  
2025

Dated: 13 March

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Launch of 5G Innovation Hackathon 2025**

DoT has set up 5G Use Case labs in 100 institutes across India with the aim of building competencies and engagement in 5G technologies for students and startup communities. In this regard, to ensure the maximum utilization of labs and to foster innovation, DoT is launching a **5G Innovation Hackathon 2025** from 15 March 2025 to empower telecom stakeholders i.e. students, researchers, Startups/MSMEs, R&D organizations etc. to develop commercially deployable solutions addressing real-world challenges using 5G labs set up at the institutes. This hackathon is an intensive six-month program from 15 March 2025 to 01 October 2025, designed to encourage use case innovations in 5G technology.

2. This initiative provides a unique opportunity for stakeholders to develop cutting-edge prototypes/applications using 5G capabilities through access to 5G Use Case labs, mentorship during the hackathon programme, seed funding for use case development, and support for commercialization. Following are the key details of hackathon:

i. **Hackathon Portal:** Stakeholders can access the Hackathon portal at <https://eservices.dot.gov.in/5ghackathon/>

ii. **Guidelines:** General guidelines for participation, focus areas and selection process is attached.

iii. **Proposal Submission Deadline:** 15 April 2025.

This is issued with the approval of competent authority.

Digitally signed by  
Shubham

Date: 13-03-2025

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i. OSD to Secretary (T)

- ii. OSD to Member (T)
- iii. PPS to DG(T)
- iv. CMD (TCIL)
- v. GM (Emerging Technologies), TCIL

## **Guidelines for the 5G Innovation Hackathon 2025**

### **1. Focus Areas/ Technology Domains:**

- i AI-driven network maintenance, IoT-enabled applications, 5G broadcasting, smart health, smart agriculture, smart education, industrial automation, non-terrestrial networks (NTN), D2M, V2X, and quantum communication.
- ii Creation of prototype using the various aspects of 5G Technology such as call-flow scenarios, Quality of Service (QoS), Network Slicing etc.

### **2. Eligibility:**

Open to:

- Undergraduate (UG)/Postgraduate (PG) students
- Startups and professionals.

### **3 Mentorship**

Experts from academia and industry will provide mentorship during the complete duration of hackathon.

### **4. Detailed Program Structure:**

#### **Stage I: Online Proposal Submission**

- Participants will submit comprehensive proposals outlining their problem statement, proposed solution, and anticipated impact to one of the institutes falls under 100 5G Use case labs initiative.

#### **Stage II: Shortlisting**

##### **Institute Level**

- Each participating institution may recommend 1-5 proposals to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) after screening by a committee led by the institution's HOD (EC/ CS/IT Department preferably).

##### **Regional Level**

- Proposals will be screened by regional committees comprising DoT LSA officers and academia wherein minimum 1 proposal from each institute and a maximum of 50 proposals from each region will be selected.
- Total 150-200 proposals (25-50 proposals from each region) will be shortlisted for evaluation by the Technical Evaluation Committees (TECs).

## **National Level**

- The shortlisted proposals will be given 4 weeks-time to strengthen their idea and give a presentation to the TEC.
- The Technical Evaluation Committees (TECs) will determine the best 25-50 proposals.

### **Stage III: Pragati Phase (Prototype Development)**

- Duration: 3 months (June 15 – September 15, 2025).
- Funding: ₹1,00,000 per team (top 25-50 teams).
- Mentorship: Guidance by experts from academia and industry.
- Resources: Access to labs and testing infrastructure.
- IPR Filing Support: In case any of the solution can be converted to an IPR, necessary support for IPR filing will be extended.
- Prototypes will be evaluated on:
  - i. Technical Execution: 40%
  - ii. Scalability & Market Readiness: 40%
  - iii. Societal & Industrial Impact: 10%
  - iv. Novelty: 10%

### **Stage IV: Final Evaluation and Showcase**

- A presentation and detailed demonstration will be taken for each of the 25-50 teams for detailed evaluation of their products via a Technical Expert Evaluation Committee (TEEC).
- TEEC will be a committee comprising of 5-7 experts from the government, Academia and Industry.

#### **5. Winners will be awarded as follows:**

- i. 1st Place: ₹5,00,000
- ii. Runner-up: ₹3,00,000
- iii. 2nd Runner-up: ₹1,50,000
- iv. Special Mentions: ₹50,000 for Best Idea and Most Innovative Prototype
- v. An opportunity to showcase the product at IMC 2025 for top 25-50 teams
- vi. Best 5G Use case labs: 10 labs will be given Certificate of Appreciation
- vii. Best idea from Emerging Institute-Certificate
- viii. Winners will present their solutions at IMC 2025 or other national platforms.

#### **6. Timeline:**

- i. Call for Proposals: March 15, 2025
- ii. Submission Deadline: April 15, 2025

- iii. Finalization of regional level winners: April 30,2025
- iv. Presentation to TEC and Evaluation by TEC: June 15, 2025
- v. Announcement of Shortlisted Teams: June 16, 2025
- vi. Pragati Phase Mentor Assignment & Prototype development: June 16- Sept 15, 2025
- vii. Final Evaluation and Showcase: Sep 16-Sep 30, 2025  
Announcement of winners: Oct 1, 2025