

No.: F15(2)/DoIT&C/2026/SPL-RIC/2026

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2026

**CIRCULAR**

**Subject: Regarding Organization of “Rajasthan Startup Quest 2026” – Block, District and State Level Startup Ideathon.**

The Government of Rajasthan is committed to promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, employment generation and startup culture among the youth of the State. In order to identify and nurture innovative ideas from the grassroots and provide a structured platform for young innovators, startups and women entrepreneurs, it has been decided to organize “Rajasthan Startup Quest 2026” under the theme “Innovate Rajasthan: Ideas for Viksit Bharat”.

The programme shall be organized in a three-tier format at Block, District and State levels, culminating in a three-day State Level Grand Finale at Jaipur comprising an Innovation Mela/Startup Expo, live pitching, mentorship, plenary sessions and award ceremony.

**1. OBJECTIVES:** The programme aims to identify and promote grassroots innovation and entrepreneurial talent across Rajasthan, with a focus on youth, women, rural, tribal and non-metro communities. It will provide mentorship, entrepreneurship learning, pitch preparation and ecosystem linkages, creating a pipeline of innovative ideas and startups while contributing to employment generation and local problem-solving.

**2. PARTICIPATION:** The programme is open to student innovators, young and established entrepreneurs, startups, women, rural and tribal innovators, and teams developing technology-based, social, environmental or governance solutions aimed at societal and economic development.

**3. IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE:** The Rajasthan Startup Quest 2026 shall be implemented at the three levels: Block Level, District Level, and State Level. Each level shall progressively select the best ideas for participation at the next stage, culminating in the State Level Grand Finale at Jaipur.

Implementation shall involve DoIT&C, Department of Science & Technology, School Education Department, Higher & Technical Education Department, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, My Bharat and other concerned departments/ organizations. Entrepreneurs, industrialists, incubators and accelerators shall also be actively engaged as partners to provide mentorship, networking, industry exposure and co-investment opportunities to participating innovators and startups.

**4. BLOCK LEVEL:**

**4.1 Registration and Application:**

1. A dedicated application portal shall be used for registration and submission of applications.
2. The portal shall capture participant/ team details, sector, problem statement, idea summary and other supporting documents.
3. A real-time dashboard shall be maintained for monitoring registrations, applications, evaluation and progress at Block, District and State levels.
4. All eligible applicants shall be provided access to relevant iStart Learning Management System (LMS) modules after submission of the application.
5. Concerned field authorities shall undertake extensive outreach to ensure participation from rural areas, schools, colleges, women entrepreneurs, startups and tribal areas.

**4.2 Evaluation:**

1. The Block level evaluation shall be conducted in two stages:
  - o Shortlisting of applications; and



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- Final pitching/evaluation.
- The first phase (shortlisting) shall be conducted by the DoIT&C and the iStart teams.
- 2. Up to 30 teams from each Block/ participating location shall be shortlisted for pitching.
- 3. Shortlisted teams shall be provided structured mentoring by iStart Divisional Mentors for idea refinement, pitch preparation and district-level readiness.
- 4. All other participating teams shall also be provided suitable mentoring/ handholding, wherever feasible, to ensure development of a sustainable innovation pipeline.
- 5. The top three teams from each Block shall qualify for the District Level.

**4.3 Block Level Evaluation Committee:** The Block Level Evaluation Committee shall comprise of Sub-Divisional Officer (SDM) as the chairperson. Other members may be Block Development Officer (BDO), CBEO, My Bharat, Two prominent entrepreneurs/ startup founders as nominated by the SDM. The member secretary shall be the senior most officer at Block Level from DoIT&C. The Block-level evaluation shall be conducted through Video Conferencing (VC) mode.

**4.4 Block Level Team Awards:**

| Category | 1st Prize | 2nd Prize | 3rd Prize |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Amount   | ₹10,000   | ₹5,000    | ₹3,000    |

Digital participation certificates shall be issued to all eligible participants.

**4.5 Block Level Timeline:**

| Activity                                         | Tentative Timeline      |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Programme launch and start of applications       | 13 August 2026          |
| Calling for applications                         | Up to 15 September 2026 |
| Shortlisting of applications                     | Up to 30 September 2026 |
| Block Level Ideathons and declaration of winners | Up to 15 October 2026   |

**4.6 Financial Allocation per Block:**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cash Prize money (1st – ₹10,000, 2nd – ₹5,000, 3rd – ₹3,000) to teams</li><li>• Other tentative heads of expenditure:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Physical Branding – banners, flex, etc.</li><li>-Stationery / Materials, Misc. expenses and other as per requirement.</li></ul></li></ul> | <b>Total</b><br><b>₹50,000</b><br><b>(taxes extra)</b> |
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**5. DISTRICT LEVEL:**

**5.1 Participation:** The top 3 teams selected from each Block shall participate at the District Level.

**5.2 Evaluation and Pitching:**

1. The shortlisted Block-level winning teams shall physically pitch their ideas before the District Level Evaluation Committee/ Jury.
2. District Collectors shall identify suitable venues, preferably Government premises, educational institutions or other appropriate locations at the District Headquarters.
3. Adequate seating, electricity, audio-visual facilities, registration arrangements, refreshments, branding and other logistical requirements shall be ensured.
4. Each District shall select its top three teams for participation in the State Level Grand Finale.

**5.3 District Level Evaluation Committee:** The District Level Evaluation Committee shall comprise of District Collector or his nominee not below the rank of ADM as the chairperson. Other members may from Department of Science & Technology, School Education Department/DEO(S), Higher & Technical Education Department, representative of My Bharat and two prominent entrepreneurs/startup founders as members nominated by District Collector. DLO, DoIT&C shall be

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member secretary. The District Collector(s) shall ensure constitution of the Committee sufficiently in advance of the District Level event.

**5.4 District Level Team Awards:**

| Category | 1st Prize | 2nd Prize | 3rd Prize |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Amount   | ₹50,000   | ₹25,000   | ₹15,000   |

**5.5 District Level Timeline:** All District Level Ideathons shall be completed and District Level winners declared up to 15 November 2026.

**5.6 Financial Allocation per District:**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cash Prize money (1st ₹50,000 + 2nd ₹25,000 + 3rd ₹15,000 = ₹90,000)</li><li>• Other tentative heads of expenditure:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Venue: Government premises, Electricity, Rental, Chairs, etc.</li><li>- Food packets for participants, judges &amp; public representatives</li><li>- Physical Branding – banners, stage, microphones, hoardings, photography, videography</li><li>- Certification for winners</li><li>- Merchandise (T-shirts, caps) to all participants</li><li>- Miscellaneous Expenses and other as per requirement.</li></ul></li></ul> | <b>Total<br/>₹3,50,000<br/>(taxes extra)</b> |
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**6. STATE LEVEL GRAND FINALE:**

**6.1 State Level Event:** A three-day State Level Grand Finale shall be organized at Jaipur during the first week of December 2026.

**6.2 State Level Mentorship:** In addition to iStart/ District-level mentors, selected mentors, startup founders and industry experts from major startup ecosystems including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad may be invited to mentor and handhold State-level finalists.

**6.3 State Level Team Awards:**

| Category | 1st Prize | 2nd Prize | 3rd Prize | Special Category Awards (5) |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Amount   | ₹5,00,000 | ₹3,00,000 | ₹2,00,000 | ₹1,00,000 each              |

In addition, up to five special category awards would be given with each INR 1.00 Lakhs, as under:

1. Rural Innovation Award – Best idea originating from a rural area.
2. Best Idea from All-Women Team Award – Best woman-led team.
3. Tribal Innovation Award – Best idea originating from a TSP/tribal area.
4. Social Impact Award – Idea having significant potential for social/governance impact.
5. Green Innovation Award – Best sustainability/ climate/ environment-linked solution.

**6.4. State Level Evaluation Committee:** The Committee shall finalize the evaluation criteria, scoring methodology and process for selection of State-level winners.

**7. SPECIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVES:** The District and Block authorities shall make specific efforts to ensure participation of tribal, women and rural innovators through district and block-level facilitation, educational institutions, SHGs, entrepreneurship networks and local organizations, with a focus on identifying and supporting innovative ideas emerging from villages, communities, farmers, artisans and local enterprises.

**8. MARKETING, OUTREACH AND MEDIA:** The concerned authorities shall undertake a comprehensive communication and outreach campaign covering digital and social media, print advertisements, banners and hoardings, educational institutions, District administration and local

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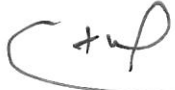
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government machinery. Outreach will also leverage startup networks, incubators, industry associations, entrepreneur networks and dedicated rural and tribal engagement initiatives to ensure wide participation. The best stories and winning innovations shall be suitably promoted at the State and national level.

**9. TRAVEL AND LOGISTICS:** TA/ DA for judges, mentors, officers and other authorized personnel involved in the State-level evaluation/ event shall be governed by applicable Government rules and approved budgetary provisions.

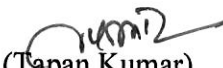
**10. GENERAL DIRECTIONS:**

1. All authorities shall ensure that the programme is conducted in a transparent, inclusive and time-bound manner.
2. The evaluation process at all levels shall be objective and based on notified criteria.
3. The decision of the respective Evaluation Committee/Jury shall be final and binding, subject to the provisions approved by the competent authority.
4. Participation shall be voluntary and shall not confer any right to an award, recognition, funding or other benefit.
5. The Department reserves the right to modify, postpone or cancel any component of the programme, including dates, venues, eligibility conditions and award structures, with the approval of the competent authority.
6. All financial expenditure shall be subject to availability of funds and applicable Government financial rules.
7. Any dispute arising in connection with the programme shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the competent authorities at Jaipur, Rajasthan.
8. All concerned officers shall ensure strict adherence to the approved timelines and instructions issued from time to time.

  
(Himanshu Gupta) 13/08  
Commissioner & Spl. Secy.

Copy to following for kind information & necessary action:

1. PS to Addl. Chief Secretary, Higher & Technical Education Department, GoR.
2. PS to Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, GoR.
3. PS to Addl. Chief Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Rajasthan
4. PS to Secretary, DoIT&C, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
5. PS to Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Government of Rajasthan.
6. PA to Commissioner and Spl. Secy., DoIT&C, Rajasthan, Jaipur.
7. Director, My Bharat, Rajasthan.
8. All Divisional Commissioners, Rajasthan.
9. All District Collectors, Rajasthan.
10. All concerned SDMs/ BDOs/ ULB authorities.
11. All DLO's, DoIT&C, Rajasthan
12. All concerned educational institutions and implementing agencies.
13. TD & JS, DoIT&C
14. CAO, DoIT&C
15. Guard File.

  
(Tapan Kumar)  
Technical Director