# NICE FELLOWSHIP

NMDC Innovation and Incubation Centre (NICE) is a joint initiative by iTIC Foundation IIT Hyderabad (iTIC Incubator) and NMDC Limited. NICE is an emerging entrepreneurship incubation center for deep-tech start-ups, providing fellowship and incubation support under the iTIC Incubator at IIT Hyderabad. The main objective of NICE is to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation in the country.

## Overview of the Program

NICE Fellowship is a prestigious scheme under the iTIC Incubator supported by NMDC Innovation and Incubation Centre (NICE) with the goal to support deep technology startups in India.

NICE fellows will be selected through an online application process and the shortlisting process will be done collaboratively by iTIC Incubator and NMDC Innovation and Incubation Centre (NICE).

Selected entrepreneurs/fellows would be designated as **NICE Fellows** who would receive fellowships from the iTIC Incubator amounting to INR 80,000/- per month for 12 months to each fellow.

The NICE Fellowship requires the fellows to work full-time and cannot be combined with fellowships from other funding organizations.

## Areas of Interest to NICE

The NICE fellowship aims to support deep tech startups in the following thematic areas only.

1. Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning

2. Quantum Computing

3. Augmented/Virtual/Mixed Reality

4. Cybersecurity

5. Robotics

6. Internet of Things

7. Industry 4.0

8. Blockchain

9. Electronics

10. Advance Materials

11. Drones

12. Biotechnology

# Structure of NICE Fellowship Program

1. Fellowship is for highly motivated individuals with a commercially viable product idea in the domains of interest to NICE. Fellows would be encouraged to create a team and subsequently create a Private Limited company by the end of the fellowship.

    a. In case the candidate already has a startup prior to getting onboarded to the fellowship, (s)he must be holding a majority stakeholding in the company.

2. Fellowship will be provided for mainly prototype development on the idea presented at the time of selections and will be of 12 months strictly, cannot be extended further.

3. The NICE Fellowship is a fully-funded fellowship with a monthly stipend of Rs. 80,000/-- for 12 months and also provides access to iTIC Incubator and NICE Maker Lab for prototype development.

4. Fellows will receive support under the iTIC pre-incubation program and must follow the guidelines for the same.

5. The iTIC Incubator reserves the right to terminate the project at any stage if it is convinced that the fellowship has not been properly utilized or appropriate progress is not being made.

# Benefits of NICE Fellowship

1. Fully funded fellowship with a monthly stipend of Rs 80,000/-- per month

2. Access to structured pre-incubation curriculum

3. Access to IIT Hyderabad network of Mentors and Investors

4. Mentoring from iTIC Incubator and on-demand mentoring from NMDC

5. Opportunities to seek further funding on successful completion

6. Pre-Incubation support including co-working space & IITH infrastructure

7. Access to Maker Lab for prototype development

# Eligibility

1. The NICE fellowship will be bestowed only to Indian citizens between the age of 18 to 35.

2. The applicant must be holding a graduation degree in the field of science, engineering, or technology.

3. NICE fellowship is a Proof-of-concept stage scheme for converting ideas and innovations into a prototype. Proposals for the products having crossed the prototype level are not eligible for the fellowship

4. The individual working on innovative idea/POC in the thematic areas of the incubator are eligible

# Role of NMDC and iTIC Incubator

iTIC Incubator

- Incubation Support

- Investment opportunity (grants/fellowship/investor connects)

- Access to labs and resources

- Mentorship

- Capacity-Building programs & workshops

- Co-working space

## NMDC

- Technical Mentor connects

- Market linkages

- Access to R&D facilities

- Network connects

# Selection process

1. The applications for the fellowship will be invited at the national level through advertisements.

2. The application will be submitted online through the iTIC Incubator website portal.

3. iTIC team will do initial filtration and eligibility checks. Assessment will be done over the proprietary assessment system of iTIC Incubator.

4. The Selection Committee would shortlist the applicants based on the scorecard provided by the assessment system and recommend it to the Program Review Committee for a final round of selections via interviews.

5. The shortlisted applicants will be called '**NICE Fellow**' and will enter into an agreement with the iTIC Incubator.

6. Assessment scorecards would be shared with selected as well as non-selected applicants as feedback.

# Progress Report

**Date:**

**Name of Startup:**

**Name of Founders:**

**Brief about the Startup:** (limit it to 2-3 lines)

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**Description of type of work carried out in last 3 months and its outcome:**

_____

| Category | Description | Outcome |
|----------|-------------|---------|
|          |             |         |
|          |             |         |

(Category - R&D, Travel, Prototyping, Marketing, Legal, Human Resource, Lab testing, etc.)

Name of the founder:

Stamp & Signature

# Work Plan

**Date:**

**Name of Startup:**

**Name of Founders:**

**Brief about the Startup:** (limit it to 2-3 lines)

_____

**Description of type of work to be carried out in next 3 months and its outcome:**

(Mention the roadmap for the next 3 months)

_____

| Category | Description | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

(Category - R&D, Travel, Prototyping, Marketing, Legal, Human Resource, Lab testing, etc.)

Name of the founder:

Stamp & Signature