

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. The application form must be filled in English.
2. Applicants are encouraged to download an offline version of the application form and capture all responses as backup to avoid loss of time, effort, and information due to session time outs, internet connectivity lapses, etc.
3. The applicant organization may nominate itself up-to 5 categories. Organizations are requested to apply for awards only in categories applicable to their size (Micro / Small / Medium) and their areas of operations. However, Special Awards can be applied for by all enterprises irrespective of their size or nature of business
4. ZERO Application Fee: The participating organization is not required to pay any fees to nominate themselves for the awards.
5. Please provide all relevant information and documents demarcated as *mandatory in the application form. Incomplete information/documentation may render the application ineligible.
6. Please provide information to the relevant depth and level of detail/granularity.
7. In-case you find any question not relevant to you or choose not to provide requested details, Please write "Not Applicable" or "Data Not Available".
8. Verification of submissions: nasscom and/or Awards knowledge Grant Thornton Bharat may contact the entities/applicants for additional information to analyse the application, 'in addition to the material included in this document and the application form submitted.
9. For any general queries you can refer to FAQs section in the Awards website or write to us: smeinspire@nasscom.in

FAQs:

Q1. Who can apply?

Answer:

MSMEs which are members of nasscom and have consolidated annual turnover less ₹ 250 crores for the financial year 2023-24 are eligible to apply. The core offerings of the MSME units should be in Tech Services and/or Products & platforms and/or Business Process Management (BPM) & outsourcing of professional services space (including software development companies, system integrators, product & platform solution providers including white-label solutions and third-party service providers in Tech / BPM space). If the organization is head-quartered outside India, at least 2/3rd of the employees should be based in India.

However, there are 3 awards which are reserved from MSMEs operating in manufacturing sectors from various other industries for their 'Tech Adoption Initiative' which can be applied by non-nasscom members.

Q2. My organization has reached a turnover of ₹ 0 – 5 crores / ₹ 5 – 50 crores / ₹ 50 – 250 crores in the financial year 2023-24, am I eligible to apply for the awards?

Answer:

Yes, you are eligible to apply if your enterprise's turnover is less than ₹ 250 crores for the financial year 2023-24. You may apply as one of the following sub-segments of an MSME with turnover, as applicable for the financial year 2023-24:

MSME Sub-segment	Turnover Requirement for Eligible Enterprises
Micro enterprises	₹ 0 – 5 crores
Small enterprises	₹ 5 – 50 crores
Medium enterprises	₹ 50 – 250 crores

Q3. My organization is not a nasscom member, am I eligible to apply?

Answer:

No, you are not eligible to apply for the awards as the participating enterprise must be a nasscom member.

However, in case you are a manufacturing SME – you can still apply for the award which is reserved from MSMEs operating in manufacturing sectors from various other industries for their 'Tech Adoption Initiative'; If you fall under this and wish to participate, please write to us:

smeinspire@nasscom.in

Q4. My organization is a backend/support office of a global corporation / MNC, am I eligible to apply?

Answer:

- MNCs with global turnover more than INR 250 Crores will not be able to participate in the Awards.
- In-case you are headquartered outside India but more than 75% of your workforce resides in India, then you can participate in this award provided your global consolidated turnover is less than 250 Cr INR.
- Global Capability Centers (GCCs are offshore units of large multinationals which concentrate workers and infrastructure that handle operations and IT support to sustain productivity growth.) are also not eligible to apply for the awards.

Q5. Is there an application/registration fee to apply for the awards?

Answer:

No, the participating enterprise is not required to pay any fees to nominate themselves for the awards.

Q6. What is the deadline for submission of the application?

Answer:

The final date of submission of application is 15-December-2024.

Q7. What will be the next steps after the submission of application?

Answer:

In case you are shortlisted for the further rounds, nasscom and/or Grant Thornton Bharat may contact the entities/applicants for additional information to analyze the application, in addition to the material included in this document and the application form submitted. At the end, the jury at their discretion may shortlist/reject any applicant based on eligibility/evaluation parameters or suitability of application to the award category.

Q8. Do I need to fill in my company's financial information?

Answer:

Yes, relevant supporting evidence must be shared/presented for all responses and claims made in the application. Applicants are also required to submit Audited financial reports (including Balance Sheet, Statement of Profit and Loss, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Owner's Equity, Notes to Accounts, and the Independent Auditors' Report) for the following years:

- a) Financial Year 2023-24
- b) Financial Year 2022-23
- c) Financial Year 2021-22

Q9. Will I be allowed to withdraw my application at a later stage?

Answer:

Yes, the applicants may withdraw their application, if required, prior to the application proceeding for eligibility and evaluation checks.

Q10. The work done by my organization is getting covered under several categories, am I allowed to apply in more than one? / Can I apply in multiple categories?

Answer:

Yes. One enterprise can apply for a maximum of 5 awards including Special category awards.

Q11. Is it possible to make modifications to the application once submitted?

Answer:

No, you will not be able to make any modifications to the application once it has been submitted. In-case you wish to modify the application, you will have to submit it again.

If more than 1 entry is received from a particular organization, the latest entry will be accepted for evaluation.

Q12. My organization is a subsidiary company of another company, am I eligible to apply?

Answer:

Yes, you are eligible to apply provided your parent company is a Nasscom Member. In that case, please provide all information and documentation related to the subsidiary only, as information pertaining to the group and/or parent enterprise will not be considered for the purpose of evaluation of application.

Q13. Am I allowed to submit the application form offline?

Answer:

No, only online submission of the application form through the portal will be accepted.

Q14. If I have a query with regards to filling of the application form, whom should I contact?

Answer:

For any queries, please write to: smeinspire@nasscom.in

Q15. Is it possible to pause/save/resume filling the application form?

Answer:

Yes, that is possible.

Q16. When and where will the Jury Round be held?

Answer:

This will be done virtually in the month of February 3rd / 4th week in 2025. Details for the date, time and location will be shared with applicants which are shortlisted for the Jury round.

Q17. Who will be the Jury members for the award?

Answer:

The names of the Jury members will be finalized by mid-February 2025. It will comprise of experienced professionals from the industry, government, and academia.

Q18. What is the role of Grant Thornton as a knowledge partner in the award process?

Answer:

Grant Thornton Bharat is working as a knowledge partner for nasscom SME Inspire Awards for the following:

- a) Setting up of the framework for the complete award process from drafting of questionnaire, eligibility, and evaluation parameters, etc.
- b) Conducting the preliminary eligibility check followed by a detailed evaluation against the set parameters.
- c) Facilitate the jury meeting in mutual discussion with nasscom
- d) Preparation of Jury dockets