

Framework for Allocation of Events (earlier called as CME /Mid-Term) Grants Across Zones

Dear All,

As you are all aware, the CME (Mid-Term) grant has now been distributed into three grants per year, to be organized across different zones on a quarterly basis. In this regard, the following framework is proposed to ensure equitable distribution, transparency, and effective program delivery.

1. Zonal Classification of State Chapters

There is no single universally accepted framework for dividing Indian states into four zones. Therefore, the Telemedicine Society of India (TSI) adopts a modified approach based on the Ministry of Home Affairs Zonal Council structure established under the States Reorganization Act, 1956.

- a. The Government of India recognizes five Zonal Councils and one North Eastern Council.
- b. For operational simplicity, TSI reorganizes these into four zones by:
 - i. Merging the Central Zone into North and West Zones
 - ii. Retaining North, South, East, and West Zones (Annexure 1)

2. Allocation of Quarterly Events

Each quarter, one zone shall be allocated the opportunity to organize the CME-supported event. The zone organizing the National Telemedicine Conference in that year may be excluded from quarterly allocation, to ensure balanced workload.

Within each zone:

- a. State Chapters shall follow a rotational system to host the event annually.
- b. Priority may be given based on readiness, past performance, and infrastructure.

3. Criteria for Quarter-wise Planning

To ensure effective planning and high participation, the following criteria shall be considered while selecting the zone and location for each quarter:

3.1 Weather Suitability

- i. Avoid extreme climatic conditions:
- ii. Severe heat waves
- iii. Extreme cold/fog
- iv. Monsoon and cyclones

3.2 Transport & Accessibility

- v. Availability of reliable air and rail connectivity
- vi. Risk of seasonal disruptions:
- vii. Fog (North India winters)
- viii. Flooding/monsoon (coastal regions)

3.3 Festival & Holiday Calendar

- ix. Avoid major national/regional festivals (may reduce attendance and increase costs)
- x. Events may be aligned with festivals only if thematically relevant

3.4 Cost & Availability

- xi. Peak tourist seasons may increase:
- xii. Venue costs
- xiii. Accommodation tariffs
- xiv. Off-season periods may be cost-effective but require risk mitigation planning

3.5 Audience Availability

- xv. Academic calendar (examinations, admissions)

- xvi. Financial year cycle (especially March-end constraints)
 - xvii. Availability of key stakeholders and faculty
4. Proposed Annual Zonal Plan

To optimize outcomes based on climate, logistics, and participation trends, the following indicative zonal allocation is recommended.

Quarter	Months	Zone	Preferred Window	Key Rationale
Q1	Jan–Mar	South	Feb–early Mar	Best weather, high participation
Q2	Apr–Jun	North	Apr (early) / May (hills only)	Avoid extreme heat
Q3	Jul–Sep	West	Aug–Sep	Moderate rain, lower costs
Q4	Oct–Dec	East	Nov	Post-monsoon, festive energy

To formalize this we can prepare a policy and guidelines

Policy Statement

TSI shall adopt a **quarterly zonal rotation strategy** for Event grant-supported programs. Event allocation shall be guided by a structured evaluation framework incorporating climatic conditions, accessibility, cost, and participant availability to ensure optimal utilization of resources and maximum impact.

A **standardized checklist and scoring tool** may be used for final location selection

Annexure 1

Zones of India, as per MHA , Gol		Proposed Zones of TSI	
Zone	States	Zones	States
Northern Zone Council	Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh	North Zone	• Haryana, • Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, • National Capital Territory of Delhi and • Union Territory of Chandigarh • Uttar Pradesh • Uttarakhand
Central Zonal Council	Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh	West Zone	• Goa, • Gujarat, • Rajasthan, • Maharashtra • Madhya Pradesh • Chhattisgarh • Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Eastern Zonal Council	Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and West Bengal	East Zone	• Bihar, • Jharkhand, • Orissa, • West Bengal] • North East • Sikkim
Western Zonal Council	Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	South Zone	• Andhra Pradesh, • Karnataka, • Kerala, • Telangana • Tamil Nadu • Union Territory of Puducherry • Andaman and Nicobar • Lakshadweep
Southern Zonal Council	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry		
North Eastern Council	(i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya (vii) Nagaland and (viii) Sikkim		