

IGNOU Students and Alumni
— are invited to Participate in —
STARTUP COMPETITION- 2026
(BEST STARTUP AWARD)



First Prize
Rs. 10000/-



Second Prize
Rs. 7000/-



Third Prize
Rs. 5000/-

Cash Prize, Certificate and Trophy

01 First Round

- Entries are invited for the Startup Competition-2026.
- The interested students & alumni can submit the details of their Startup/ Business Venture through the Google Form.



02

Shortlisting of the Entries

Entries will be screened by an Expert Committee and shortlisted students & alumni will be eligible to participate in Second Round of the Startup Competition-2026.



03

Pitching Round

The shortlisted students and alumni will be required to present their Startup/ Innovative Business Venture before an Expert Committee.



04

Final Round

The three Startup/ Innovative Business Venture selected in the final round will be awarded with the Best Startup Award 2026.



For Notification



For Guidelines



National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education
Indira Gandhi National Open University

Last date for submission

August 31, 2026



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

GUIDELINES

Startup Competition-2026 (Best Startup Award-2026)

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is actively engaged in fostering its students and alumni towards *Atmanirbhar Bharat* by promoting, supporting, and nurturing the innovator students and alumni of IGNOU interested in setting up their own startups. In this context, NCIDE, IGNOU, is excited to invite IGNOU students and alumni to participate in the **Startup Competition-2026**.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

The **Startup Competition-2026** is open to all the students and alumni of IGNOU who have an innovative business venture/startup or intend to launch a startup.

Why Should You Participate?

If you participate in the Startup Competition-2026, you can look for the benefits like:

1. The top three Startups/ Innovative Business Ventures/to be Startups/ Innovative Business Ventures will be given the **Best Startup Award-2026**.
2. The winner of First, Second and Third Prizes will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10000/-, Rs. 7000/- and Rs. 5000/- respectively.
3. A national platform to showcase your startup/ innovative business venture.
4. An opportunity to network with fellow innovators and entrepreneurs.
5. The possibility of incubation and inputs for further progress of your startup/ innovative business venture.
6. An E-Certificate of Participation to all the shortlisted students and alumni who present their startups.

What are Different Stages?

1. Interested students and alumni are required to submit the details about their Startup/ Innovative Business Venture/ to be a Startup/ Innovative Business Venture through the Google Form for the First Round.
2. The entries received by the last date will be screened by an Expert Committee to shortlist the Startups/ Innovative Business Ventures/ to be a Startup/ Innovative Business Ventures.
3. The shortlisted students and alumni will be eligible to participate in the Second Round of the **Startup Competition-2026** be required to present their Startup/ Innovative Business Venture before the Expert Committee in the scheduled Pitching event.
4. The shortlisted candidates will be provided a **Template** for pitching/ presentation during the Second Round of the **Startup Competition-2026**.

What are the Suggested Themes?

1. Food Systems, Agriculture, AgriTech, and Rural Development
2. Clean Energy, Energy Storage, and Alternate Fuels
3. Clean Water, Water Security, and Water Management
4. Environment, Waste Management, and Circular Economy
5. Public Health, Healthcare, MedTech, Swacchhata initiatives and Hygiene
6. Fitness, Wellness, Lifestyle, and SportsTech
7. Smart Mobility, Transportation, Logistics, and Traffic Management
8. Smart Cities, Urban Development, and Housing
9. Electronics and Semiconductors
10. Education, Skilling, Employability, and Digital Learning
11. Hospitality, Travel, Tourism, and Experience Economy
12. IoT, Connected Devices, Sensors, and Edge Intelligence
13. Artificial Intelligence, Data, and Digital Public Infrastructure
14. FinTech, InsurTech, and Financial Inclusion
15. DeepTech, Robotics, Drones, and Automation
16. EV Ecosystem, Battery Tech, and Charging Infrastructure
17. SpaceTech and DefenceTech
18. Startups innovations integrating Indian Knowledge System and Ethos
19. Any other

Will a Certificate be Awarded?

An E-Certificate of Participation will be awarded to the shortlisted entries which are presented in the Demo Day/ Presentation session for the Startup Competition-2026.

How to Apply?

Interested Students and Alumni of IGNOU who have established a **Startup/ Innovative Business Venture or are at an advanced stage (at least TRL-5 to 7) of setting up their Startup/ Innovative Business Venture** can **submit their detailed entries** through Google Form at the link: <https://forms.gle/Eb6gWHMouh65wrzk6> latest by **August 31, 2026**.

Last Date of Submission: The last date for submitting the entries is **August 31, 2026**.

Whom to Contact

For any clarification or more details, you may contact via email at **ncide@ignou.ac.in**.

NCIDE, IGNOU



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

F. No.: IG/NCIDE/Startup/2026/2698

Dated: July 17, 2026

NOTIFICATION

Inviting Entries for "Startup Competition-2026" (Best Startup Award-2026)

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is actively engaged in fostering its Students and Alumni towards Atmanirbhar through promoting, supporting and nurturing the Innovator Students and Alumni of IGNOU interested in setting up their own Startups.

As a part of the IIC Calendar Activity, the IIC-IGNOU is organizing a **Startup Competition-2026** for IGNOU Students and Alumni.

All the Students and Alumni of IGNOU who have set up a Startup or Innovative Business Venture are invited to submit the details of their Startup or Innovative Business Venture for the Startup Competition-2026.

The Startup Competition-2026 will be held in **Two Rounds**.

- In the First Round, the details about the startup/ innovative business venture submitted through the Google Form will be screened and shortlisted by an expert committee.
- In the Second Round, the shortlisted Students/Alumni will be required to pitch their Startup/ Innovative Business as per the template provided after completion of the First Round.

Finally, the **Best Startup Award-2026** will be given to the Startups/Business Venture selected after the pitching.

The entries for the First Round of the Startup Competition-2026 can be submitted through the Link: <https://forms.gle/Eb6gWHMouh65wrzk6> latest by August 31, 2026. For any clarification, the interested Students and Alumni may contact at email ncide@ignou.ac.in.

This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

(Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit)
Director, NCIDE

डॉ. ज्योत्सना दीक्षित / Dr. Jyotsna Dikshit
निदेशक / Director
रा.दू.वि.न.के., इग्नू / NCIDE, IGNOU

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