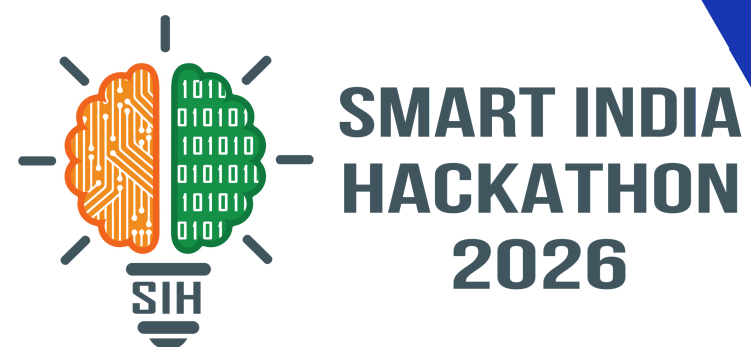




SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2026

GUIDELINES

#InnovationseAtmaNirbharBharat

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SPOC REGISTRATION

01

SIH 2026

WHO CAN BE SPOC:

The SPOC (Single Point of Contact) for Smart India Hackathon 2026 can be any senior member of the college faculty, such as Lecturer Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Head of Department (HOD), Dean, Director, Principal or another designated official.

HOW TO REGISTER:

- **Students:** You cannot register directly. Your college's SPOC (Single Point of Contact) will handle registrations.
- **SPOCs:** Visit Smart India Hackathon's official website for registration.

The SPOC is typically responsible for coordinating the internal hackathon, managing student registrations, and ensuring that all guidelines are followed for the institution's participation in the event.



SPOC ACCOUNT APPROVAL

After SPOC registration, the SIH implementation team authorizes the account.

Once verified, the SPOC gains access to the SIH portal.



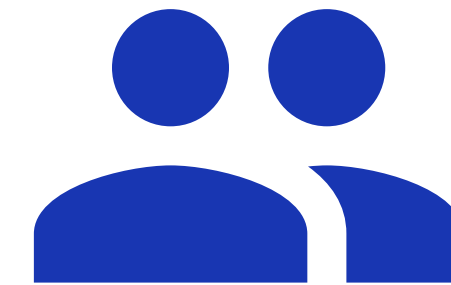
STUDENT REGISTRATION CRITERIA



Only students selected in the Internal Hackathon can be registered.



The college SPOC nominates top teams based on internal hackathon results



Maximum of 50 teams from one institute and 100 teams from university can be nominated in Smart India Hackathon 2026.

INTERNAL HACKATHON



SIH 2026

DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SPOC FOR INTERNAL HACKATHON SUBMISSION

Internal Hackathon Report	Internal Hackathon Image/Video Link	Internal Hackathon Location
Total Number of Teams Participated	Date of Internal Hackathon	Total Number of Students Participated
Total Number of Female Participants	Total Number of Male Participants	Mode of the Internal Hackathon (Online/Offline)

CONDUCTING INTERNAL HACKATHON

06

SPOCs must upload a detailed Internal Hackathon report (maximum 15 pages) on the dashboard portal

The report should include

- Event overview (1 page)
 - Event photos (2 pages)
 - Participating teams' pictures (2 pages)
 - Judging process (1 page)
 - Jury panel details (1 page)
 - Nominated top teams (1 page)
 - Judges' information (1 page)
- Total participating teams & students (2 pages)
 - News articles (1 page)
 - Social media promotion (1 page) with hashtags #sih2026 and #smartindiahackathon2026
 - Tag the official page of Innovation Cell, Ministry of Education on Twitter.

TEAM FORMATION AND REGISTRATION



STUDENT/TEAM FORMATION

07

All team members must be from the same college (no inter-college teams)

Each team consists of 6 members, including the team leader.

At least one female team member is mandatory

For software edition, programming skills are crucial. For hardware edition, multi-disciplinary teams are encouraged (Mechanical Engineers, Electronic Engineers, Product Designers, Programmers, etc.)

STUDENT REGISTRATION CRITERIA

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**ONLY STUDENTS
SELECTED IN THE
INTERNAL
HACKATHON CAN BE
REGISTERED FOR THE
SMART INDIA
HACKATHON 2026**

**THE COLLEGE SPOC
NOMINATES TOP
TEAMS BASED ON
INTERNAL
HACKATHON
RESULTS.**

**MAXIMUM 50 (45
SHORTLISTED + 5
WAITLISTED)
TEAMS CAN
PARTICIPATE IN
SMART INDIA
HACKATHON 2026
FROM INSTITUTE**

NOTE: UNIVERSITY CAN NOMINATE UPTO 100 TEAMS

TEAM NOMINATION PROCESS



TEAM NOMINATION PROCESS

- It is mandatory that the College SPOC enters the details for a nominated team in the prescribed format only (Annexure A, also can be downloaded from the SPOC dashboard). Team details once entered cannot be altered. College SPOC will be responsible to ensure that all the data entered by him/ her is accurate

- The letter must be issued on college letterhead only. **It must clearly state name of the team and all 6 team members and upto 2 Faculty/Industry Mentor and must be duly signed by college principal/ dean/ institute director and bear the college seal.** This letter will be required during the grand finale, if the team is selected for grand finale

- The team name should be unique and must not contain the name of your institute in any form

- A max of 50 teams **(45 Shortlisted + 05 Waitlisted)** per college and in case of university 100 Team can be nominated (including Problem statement based/Student innovation category)

- There is no bar for the Software and hardware categories. You can make the combination as per your convenience but the total number of the teams should not breach 50 team's criteria for institute and 100 for university.

IDEA SUBMISSION PROCESS



IDEA SUBMISSION PROCESS

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- SPOC registration will start from July 2026 & **the last date for team nomination and idea submission by College SPOC on SIH portal is till 15th Sep 2026.**
- Idea submission counter will start from Aug 2026 and only 500 ideas will be submitted for a particular PS. Once the count number got all 500 ideas, the particular PS will get freeze and no idea submission will be allowed for the respective PS
- Count number with the ideas submitted numbers and Ideas left numbers will be displayed in the public domain just opposite to the PS and can be viewed by anyone on sih.gov.in
One team can submit Ideas against maximum of 2 Problem Statement only
- Nominated Team's team leader will get the Login credentials after SPOC upload team details in the portal to complete the idea submission process
- The last date for team nomination and idea submission by College SPOC and Team leader on SIH portal is till 15th Sept 2026 only. No request will be entertained after the deadline

IDEA SUBMISSION PROCESS

The team leader needs to enter the details on the SIH portal that include:

- 1) Verify pre-entered Team name.
- 2) Verify pre-entered College authorization letter PDF (in given format)
- 3) Verify pre-entered Names of team leader and the rest 5 team members
- 4) Verify pre-entered Gender of team leader and the rest 5 team members
- 5) Verify pre-entered Email id of all the team members along with the team leader
- 6) Verify pre-entered Mobile no. of all the team members along with the team leader
- 7) Chosen problem statement or Student Innovation Category.
- 8) Idea title.
- 9) Idea description.
- 10) Idea presentation (PDF).

SHORTLISTED IDEAS ANNOUNCEMENT

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Notification about selected teams will be put up on our portal and will also be sent to their respective email IDs



Be available for meetings, sessions and trainings during the preparation phase; you will be notified about them in advance



4-5 teams per problem statement may be selected for the grand finale, but the final decision rests with the problem statement creating organization, which isn't obligated to declare a winner unless student proposals meet their expectations

GENERAL GUIDLINES

A hand is shown interacting with a futuristic, glowing blue circular interface. The interface has concentric rings and a central area with the word 'GUIDELINES' in white capital letters. The background is dark blue with some glowing lines and dots, suggesting a high-tech or digital environment. A purple triangular shape is visible in the upper left corner of the image.

GUIDELINES

IDEA SELECTION CRITERIA

Post Idea submission process, the ideas will be evaluated by experts. Evaluation criteria will include novelty of the idea, complexity, clarity and details in the prescribed format, feasibility, practicability, sustainability, scale of impact, user experience and potential for future work progression.

MODE OF SIH GRAND FINALE

SIH 2026 Grand Finale will be held offline at various nodal centers across pan India and teams have to travelled to their respective nodal centers. The Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2026 is proposed to be organized in December 2026

MENTORS ELIGIBILITY

For the SIH Grand Finale, after the teams are shortlisted, each team will have the option to select up to 2 mentors from industry or academia. A mentor is expected to possess relevant experience(5 years) in industry and/or academic domains to qualify.

Each team, consisting of 6 student members, may include up to 2 mentors in addition to the core student team. However, the participation of mentors along with the team is optional and entirely at the discretion of the team.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MENTOR

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To mentor and guide teams via phone/video-chat or in person before the grand finale to help convert students' ideas into a working prototype

To provide guidance and support to their allocated teams. Mentors along with participating students work together as a team during the grand finale

To work collaboratively with the allotted student team during the SIH Grand Finale to build a working prototype

Out-station travel to the hackathon venue may be necessary to participate in the Grand Finale

The travel and accommodation of students and their mentors will be taken care by SIH2026 organizers. However, both mentor and students are eligible for same class of stay and travel

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE GRAND FINALE

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If a team is selected for the final Hackathon, members will need to travel to the assigned nodal center which can be anywhere in India

College photo ID and Consent letter copy is mandatory for participating in the finale

Each college/institute will issue a stamped photo ID to each member of the teams selected for the finale

The nodal centers will be arranging for accommodation of teams during the grand finale

Shortlisted teams along with mentor traveling to the grand finale are eligible for The maximum ceiling of travel reimbursement is Rs 3,000/- per person (subject to actuals) for round trip including local mileage, if any based on production the actual bills irrespective of any mode of travel

No person—whether a faculty member, family member, friend, or anyone else—apart from the officially registered student team members and mentors will be allowed to participate in or stay at the hackathon venue. Additionally, no reimbursement claims from any such unregistered individuals will be entertained.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

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Intellectual property (IP) of the winning idea would be split equally between industry that gave the problem statements and the winning team or will be decided on the mutual agreement.

Selected ideas will be supported to be developed further so that industries/government institutions will be able to utilize these ideas; more efforts beyond the finale are required from the selected teams thereafter

The ideas or solutions provided/developed/proposed by the teams must be new and must not have been present in any previous event/program of any sort

PROBLEM STATEMENTS AND PRIZES

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Teams are encouraged to think out-of-the-box and provide creative solutions to themes under 'Students Innovation' category.

SIH2026 brings you problem statements from leading public and private organizations, union ministries, state governments and NGOs in India

There would be ONE single winning team for every problem statement posted on the portal. The prize money will be given by the collaborating ministry/ industry ONLY IF that organization likes the idea of the winning team. However, it is NOT mandatory to announce only one winning team against each problem statement.

Amount of prize money to be awarded to each winning team is Rs.1,50,000/- per problem statement

If there is a tie between two or more teams, the final decision of the prize money distribution will be taken by the problem statement creator only and once the decision is made, it won't be changed further

SIH 2026



MoE's
INNOVATION CELL
(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)



SMART INDIA
HACKATHON
2026

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CONTACT INFORMATION



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