



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110 068

Guidelines for Submitting Entries for
'Best Innovation Award-2026'

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been promoting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship among its students. In view of the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* mission, Viksit Bharat@2047 and also as recommended by NEP-2020 to promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship, it becomes more important to identify, recognize and support the innovator and entrepreneur students of IGNOU. In this context, for the last eight years, IGNOU has been awarding its innovator students with the Best Innovation Awards. Under this scheme, entries are invited from IGNOU students for the "**Best Innovation Award-2026**".

Who is Eligible to Apply for the Best Innovation Award?

Any *bonafide* and registered students of IGNOU who has developed and implemented an innovative product, process or services as a solution to the problem/challenge being faced by individuals or society in any area, preferably from the given theme areas, is eligible to submit application for the 'Best Innovation Award-2026' in the prescribed format.

Why Should You Apply for the Best Innovation Award?

1. The selected innovator Students of IGNOU will be recognized nationally.
2. The selected best three Innovators will get Best Innovation Award-2026 with Certificates, Trophies and Cash Prizes of Rs. 10,000/-, Rs. 7,000/- and Rs. 5,000/- respectively.
3. The students selected for the Best Innovation Award-2026 will be invited to IGNOU Headquarters, Delhi to receive the award.
4. The selected potential innovators will get opportunity to interact with other innovators and learn from their experience.
5. The selected other potential innovators, from amongst the applicants of the Best Innovation Award scheme, will be imparted guidance, handholding and mentoring for improving their innovation further and taking it to the next level.

What are the Theme Areas?

Your innovation may be in any of the following areas:

1. Food Systems, Agriculture, AgriTech, and Rural Development	11. Hospitality, Travel, Tourism, and Experience Economy
2. Clean Energy, Energy Storage, and Alternate Fuels	12. IoT, Connected Devices, Sensors, and Edge Intelligence
3. Clean Water, Water Security, and Water Management	13. Artificial Intelligence, Data, and Digital Public Infrastructure
4. Environment, Waste Management,	14. FinTech, InsurTech, and Financial

	and Circular Economy		Inclusion
5.	Public Health, Healthcare, MedTech, Swacchhata initiatives and Hygiene	15.	DeepTech, Robotics, Drones, and Automation
6.	Fitness, Wellness, Lifestyle, and SportsTech	16.	EV Ecosystem, Battery Tech, and Charging Infrastructure
7.	Smart Mobility, Transportation, Logistics, and Traffic Management	17.	SpaceTech and DefenceTech
8.	Smart Cities, Urban Development, and Housing	18.	Startups innovations integrating Indian Knowledge System and Ethos
9.	Electronics and Semiconductors	19.	Any other
10.	Education, Skilling, Employability, and Digital Learning		

How to Apply?

1. Those who are interested in applying for Best Innovation Award-2026 may submit the filled-in Proforma dully typed in MS Word along with the supporting documents through e-mail to **ncide@ignou.ac.in**.
2. You should enclose a 5-10 Minutes Video Clip on the Development and Working of your Innovation. You may attach it with email or upload on your YouTube Channel and give URL of the same.
3. Enclose the relevant Photographs pertaining to your Innovation.
4. The Application Form can be downloaded from the Announcement Section of IGNOU Website and NVRIETI Portal at <https://sites.google.com/ignou.ac.in/navrieti/best-innovation-award-2026>.

Important to Note

1. Applications will be received only through email at ncide@ignou.ac.in. No hard copy and handwritten or scanned copy will be entertained.
2. Simple submission of Application for the award will not entitle the candidates for any kind of Certificate or other document from the University.
3. The shortlisted students will be required to give presentation of their innovation, its development process and its working, etc. in Hybrid Mode.
4. After declaration of result, the winners will be informed individually as well as through the above mentioned Website. No other communication will be done individually with the other applicants.
5. University's decision will be final and binding regarding the selection of the students for Best Innovation Award-2026.

Last Date for Submission

The last date for submission of complete Application in the prescribed format along with the required Documents, Photographs and Video Clip of the innovation is October 09, 2026.

Director, NCIDE