



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education
Institution's Innovation Council

GUIDELINES

Business Plan Competition-2026

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is actively engaged in fostering self-reliance among its students and alumni in line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat by promoting, supporting and nurturing the innovative students and alumni of IGNOU interested in setting up their own startups. In this context, NCIDE, IGNOU is excited to call IGNOU students and alumni to participate in the **Business Plan Competition-2026**.

Key steps for participating in the Business Plan Competition-2026:

1. Interested IGNOU students and alumni who have an innovative business venture or entrepreneurship plan may submit the Business Model Canvas and Business Plan for their business initiatives through the Google Form link <https://forms.gle/ZyRG9t3GWYeaBWDW7>
2. The shortlisted entries will present their Business Model Canvas and Business Plan in the Demo Day/ Presentation session.
3. The top three shortlisted entries will be awarded a Certificates of Merit and cash prizes of Rs. 10000/-, Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 2500/- respectively. Additionally, all shortlisted entries will receive further training, guidance, and mentoring on setting up their startups.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

The Business Plan Competition-2026 is open to all the students and alumni of IGNOU, who have an innovative business venture/ initiative and intend to launch a Startup.

Why Should You Participate?

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

- ✓ **A national platform** to showcase your innovative business venture/ initiative.
- ✓ **An opportunity** to network with fellow innovators and entrepreneurs.
- ✓ **The possibility** of incubation and inputs for further progress of your innovative business venture/ initiative.
- ✓ **An E-Certificate** of Participation.
- ✓ **Prize money**, if applicable.

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. Any other

Will I Get a Certificate?

An E-Certificate of Participation will be awarded to the shortlisted entries which present in the Demo Day/ Presentation session for the Business Plan Competition-2026. Certificates of Merit will be awarded to the Winners of the First, Second and third positions in the Business Plan Competition-2026. However, the decision of the University in this regard will be final and binding.

How to Apply?

Interested student and alumni of IGNOU having an innovative business venture or startup or entrepreneurship can **submit their entries** through Google form with the link:

<https://forms.gle/ZyRG9t3GWYeaBWDW7>

Important to Note

1. Simple submission of entry for the Business Plan Competition-2026 will not entitle the candidates for any kind of Certificate or other document from the University.
2. The shortlisted entries will be required to give a presentation of their Business Model Canvas and Business Plan.
3. University's decision will be final and binding regarding the selection of the entries for Business Plan Competition-2026.

Important Dates

1. Last Date for submitting the entries for Business Plan Competition-2026: **12/05/2026**.
2. Demo Day/ Presentation session by the shortlisted entries **May 2026**.

NCIDE