



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

General Guidelines for Smart IGNOU Hackathon (SIH)-2026

Gateway for IGNOU Students to Participate in Smart India Hackathon (SIH)-2026

What is Smart India Hackathon?

Ministry of Education's (MoE's) Innovation Cell (MIC) and AICTE have launched the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2026. It's a non-stop product development competition, where problem statements are posed to students for innovative solutions. SIH 2026 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to find innovative solution to some of the pressing problems faced by our society. For details about Smart India Hackathon, students can visit SIH Website <https://sih.gov.in/>.

Who can participate in Smart India Hackathon?

First, an **Internal Smart IGNOU Hackathon-2026** will be organized in IGNOU in September 2026 to shortlist the suitable Teams, then the selected Teams will be nominated to participate in the National SIH-2026.

What is Smart IGNOU Hackathon-2026?

In order to select the Teams for SIH-2026, IGNOU is organizing an Internal Hackathon named as **Smart IGNOU Hackathon-2026** at the University level. Internal Hackathon will be organized during September 2026 at IGNOU in Virtual Mode. Smart IGNOU Hackathon-2026 is a gateway for IGNOU Students to participate in the National Smart India Hackathon-2026.

Who can participate in Smart IGNOU Hackathon?

All IGNOU students can participate in the Smart IGNOU Hackathon at IGNOU. However, it is suggested that each team may have students from different disciplines having members from computer science background, i.e. MCA and BCA, etc. It is a good opportunity for IGNOU students to be part of such a mega event at the national level. The students participating in Internal Hackathon will get Certificate of Participation.

What are Problem Statements and Themes?

The interested students can choose any problem statement under the sectors Renewable/Sustainable Energy, Block Chain and Cyber Security, Smart Education, Fintech, Smart Automation, Fitness and Sports, Heritage and Culture, Meditech/ Biotech/ Healthtech, Agriculture, Foodtech and Rural Development, Smart Vehicles, Transportation and Logistics, Robotics and Drones, Clean and Green Technology, Tourism, Space Technology, Disaster Management, Games & Toys and Miscellaneous.

How to Participate in Smart IGNOU Hackathon-2026?

Students at IGNOU who are interested in participating must form a team according to the guidelines of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) and select a problem statement from the list provided below. The students are also encouraged to identify any other issues related to societal or environmental challenges and develop solutions for them. Teams need to generate their own ideas in response to the chosen problem statement and submit their proposals to the coordinator (SIH) IGNOU at latest by **August 30, 2026**. The selected teams will be invited to participate in the Internal Hackathon at IGNOU during first week of September 2026 in Virtual Mode.

Problem Statements

- 1) Suggest an AI-based solution to enable ease of grievance lodging and tracking for students across multiple departments.
- 2) AI-Based Crop Disease Detection: Develop mobile applications that identify crop diseases using smartphone images.
- 3) Academic Integrity Detection: Develop tools to identify plagiarism and AI-generated academic submissions while providing constructive feedback.
- 4) Educational STEM Toys: Design affordable interactive toys that teach coding, robotics, mathematics, or science.
- 5) Carbon Footprint Calculator: Create AI platforms that estimate and reduce institutional carbon emissions.
- 6) Smart Water-Energy Nexus: Design systems that optimize both water and electricity consumption.
- 7) Develop an AI-powered learning companion that provides personalized explanations, study plans, doubt resolution, and motivational support based on individual learning progress.
- 8) Renewable / Sustainable Energy: Innovative ideas that help manage and generate renewable /sustainable sources more efficiently.
- 9) Digital platform for innovation, incubation & entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- 10) Create AI-driven workflow automation and decision support systems to facilitate efficient university administration and governance.
- 11) Design an intelligent digital platform that allows students and staff to develop competencies through individualised instruction, AI mentoring, simulations, assessments, certifications and collaborative learning experiences.
- 12) Any other problem statement of your choice related to societal or environmental challenges

What is Format for Submitting the Proposal?

Interested students may submit their details in the following format through email at ncide@ignou.ac.in:

1. Team Name
2. Chosen Problem Statement
3. Idea Title
4. Idea Description
5. Idea PPT in PDF Format

6. Name of Team Leader and other five Team Members including one female team member (along with Mobile Number, Enrollment number, Email, Programme, Year of Study, and IGNOU Regional Centre).

After teams are selected in the Internal Hackathon, their registration will be done through SIH website and hand holding will be done by National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education (NCIDE) and other Experts.

Why should you participate in ‘Smart IGNOU Hackathon-2026’?

Smart IGNOU Hackathon-2026 is a gateway to participate in the National level Smart India Hackathon-2026. The teams selected at the University level Hackathon will be recommended to participate in the **SIH-2026**. The participating teams that present their solutions in the Smart IGNOU Hackathon will be given Certificate of Participation.

Why should you participate in Smart India Hackathon-2026?

Participation in such a national level event will be a matter of pride. The winning teams at the National level Hackathon will be supported to develop the end product by the SIH team.

Whom to contact?

For any clarification, you may email: ncide@ignou.ac.in. NCIDE will facilitate the selected teams in registration and submission process as IGNOU’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC).

**Last Date of Registration and Submitting the Proposal for
Smart IGNOU Hackathon-2026 is August 30, 2026**

(Director, NCIDE)