



YUVAi: Global Impact Challenge

Participant Application Guide

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1.Introduction

The **YUVAi - Global Youth Challenge** is a global initiative designed to promote AI innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset among youth worldwide. The challenge aims to equip young innovators with foundational AI skills to address real-world problems and develop AI-based solutions for social good. Participants will have the opportunity to build AI solutions addressing critical challenges, receive technical mentorship, and present their solutions at the global AI Impact Summit in February, 2026.

This guide provides detailed information for potential applicants, including background, indicative themes, challenge process, evaluation criteria, and mentorship opportunities. The challenge encourages innovative AI solutions to advance a more inclusive, resilient, and AI-empowered global future.

2.Context

The profound advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are reshaping our societies and economies at an unprecedented pace. As we stand at a pivotal moment in this transformation, the global community must collectively ensure that AI is developed and deployed in a manner that is inclusive, ethical, safe, and beneficial to all.

Building upon the momentum of such global AI dialogue, including the Bletchley Park, Seoul and Paris Action Summit, India will be hosting the **AI Impact Summit** on the 19th and 20th of **February 2026** in **New Delhi**. With its vision of moving from action to impact, the Summit represents a pivotal moment in the global AI journey.

The summit will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and is expected to bring together Heads of States, global leaders, policy makers, researchers, industry experts and innovators to deliberate on the transformative potential of AI in delivering equitable growth, improving public services, and addressing our most pressing planetary challenges while ensuring safety, ethics, and inclusivity. Anchored around the theme of People, Planet, and Progress, the Summit will advance a future where AI delivers real impact, advancing inclusive growth, social development, and a healthier planet.

By anchoring discussions in tangible deliverables, demonstrations, and innovation challenges, the AI Impact Summit aspires to close the gap between global commitments and real-world results, ensuring AI becomes a driver of shared prosperity and responsible progress.

3.YUVAi: Global Youth Challenge

3.1 Challenge Overview and Objectives

YUVAi - Global Youth Challenge aims to build AI readiness among **youth in the age group 13 – 21 years**, by fostering relevant mindset and AI skillsets among them, and providing an opportunity for them to become responsible innovators, creators, and users of AI.

The challenge aims to:

- **Provide opportunities for youth** to engage with global AI experts through workshops and mentorships, offering applied learning experience to develop practical and scalable AI solutions for social good

- **Organize 10 day virtual bootcamps** for shortlisted applicants, equipping them with skills, tools, and knowledge to strengthen their AI solutions
- **Create a platform** for young innovators to showcase their work to a global audience, exchange ideas with peers worldwide, and gain invaluable exposure
- **Offer awards, credits, and opportunities** to scale the most promising solutions

3.2 Eligibility

The YUVAi: Global Youth Challenge invites participation from all applicants in the age group **13 to 21 years old**. Applicants may apply as individuals (1 member, 13 – 21 years old) or in teams (up to 2 members, 13 – 21 years old). Please note, all applicants must be ≤ 21 years of age as on 20th February, 2026.

Applicants can submit working prototypes / proof of concepts / deployable AI solutions that can be demonstrated and have large scale impact. The challenge welcomes any new solution, which has been refined through this challenge, as well as, existing solutions/prototypes that are already in development or deployment.

Please note that IP rights of solutions will remain with the participants.

3.3 What is in this challenge for you?

- **Monetary Awards:**

- First Prize: ₹15 Lacs each (Top 3 solutions)
- Second prize: ₹10 Lacs each (Next 3 solutions)
- Special Recognition Awards: 2 awards of ₹5 Lacs each

All monetary awards are subject to applicable taxes in accordance with Indian laws.

- **Global Visibility:** Participants can secure a chance to showcase their innovation to global leaders, policy makers, AI experts, industry leaders and investors at the India – AI Impact Summit,
 - Top 20 shortlisted applicants (up to 2 members per team, and 1 adult guardian per team, in case of minor applicants) to get **fully sponsored travel and stay** in New Delhi to present their innovation at the **AI Impact Summit 2026** during the **International Demo Day**.
 - Top solutions with highest deployment potential, and intent for scaling to present their solutions at **Impact Summit investor showcase**.
- **Structured Mentorship:** Participants will benefit from mentorship at each stage of the competition. This includes 10 day virtual bootcamps and opportunities to engage with global AI experts, offering applied learning experience to develop practical and scalable AI solutions for social good.
- **Rewards and Giveaways:** In addition to monetary rewards and mentorship, winning teams may receive additional rewards and giveaways, including compute credits and more.

3.4 Suggested themes

The Challenge invites all innovative cross-sectoral AI solutions that are widely deployable, impactful at scale, and address critical needs across diverse sectors. *Some indicative themes and problem statement include,*

- **Empowering people and communities:** AI solutions to support elderly care, enhance youth mental wellbeing and physical fitness, promote nutrition and holistic growth, ensure equitable access to education across demographics, and empower students with disabilities.
- **Transforming core sectors:** AI solutions to drive sustainable agricultural production, enable greener manufacturing, transportation, and logistics, support industrial transformation for societal good, and foster waste-to-wealth innovations.
- **Future-ready infrastructure and smart ecosystems:** AI solutions to enable safe and smart cities with sustainable infrastructure and mobility, advance clean and green environments, provide affordable clean energy, and improve last-mile public service delivery.
- **Wild Card/Open Innovation:** This theme welcomes novel cross-sector AI solutions beyond the scope of indicative themes listed above. Solutions that are deployable, scalable, and leverage cross-sector applications are strongly encouraged.

4. Challenge Process

Phase	Activity	Description
Round 1 (October – November 2025)	Call for Application	• Launch of global call for applications • Orientation Sessions/ Information Webinar for self-directed learning content, helping applicants in project development, solution enhancement, presentation, and submission. • Participants must submit their applications by completing the official application form in accordance with the guidelines provided below. • <u>Submission will be accepted in English only</u>
	Screening & Evaluation	• Submissions will be screened for eligibility, application completeness. • Screened solutions shall be evaluated using defined rubrics focusing on innovation, design, technology used, feasibility, and social impact • Top scoring applicants shall be shortlisted for second phase of the program

Round 2 (November – December 2025)	Bootcamps, Project Enhancement & Submission	- Shortlisted applicants to participate in a 10-day virtual bootcamp equipping them with skills, tools, and knowledge to strengthen their AI solutions - Applicants to receive mentorship opportunities by certified AI coaches, experts, and IndiaAI mentors for solution refinement <u>Applicants to submit refined solutions and relevant details by 7th December</u>
	Evaluation	- Shortlisted solutions shall be evaluated against the selection criteria outlined in this guide below. - Top scoring applicants shall be shortlisted for virtual interview and presentations.
Round 3 (December, 2025)	Virtual Interview and Presentation Round	- Shortlisted projects will be invited for the final virtual interview and solution presentation where they will interact with the judges and explain their innovative AI solutions - Top 20 finalists shall be selected to be invited for AI Impact Summit – International Demo Day and Winner Announcement
AI Impact Summit, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (February, 2026)		- Top 20 finalist applicants (up to 2 members per team and 1 adult guardian per team, in case of minor applicants) shall be invited to showcase their innovative AI solutions to global audience, including leaders, policy makers, technical experts, investors and philanthropists. - Top solutions with highest deployment potential, and intent for scaling to present their solutions at Impact Summit investor showcase. Winner Announcement: Top winners to be felicitated by distinguished guests and dignitaries at the AI Impact Summit

Please note: IndiaAI reserves the right to amend timelines, processes, or eligibility criteria in unforeseen circumstances, in the interest of fair competition and operational feasibility.

5. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following parameters –

- Significance of the problem statement** – The extent to which the proposed solution addresses a pressing, relevant, and well-defined problem.
- Diversity & Inclusion** – The degree to which the solution promotes inclusivity, equitable access, and consideration of diverse populations or contexts.
- Impact of the solution on society & human lives** – The potential of the solution to create meaningful, positive, and measurable social or human outcomes.
- Requirement & Innovative Use of AI in the Solution** – The necessity and originality of AI in the solution, demonstrating novel approaches or applications.

5. **Level of Complexity & Responsible Use of AI** – The technical sophistication of the solution, including ethical, transparent, and responsible AI practices.
6. **Readiness of the Solution** – The extent to which the solution is pilot-ready, operational, or deployable at scale.
7. **Technology inclusion and usage in the solution** – The effective integration and application of relevant technologies to enhance the solution's functionality and scalability.
8. **Uniqueness of the solution** – The distinctiveness of the solution compared to existing alternatives or approaches.

6. Prize Money Disbursal

- For winners aged 13–17 years, prize money will be credited to the bank account of a designated primary guardian.
- For winners aged 18–21 years, prize money will be credited to the bank account of the designated team leader.
- Winning applicants may be required to provide proof of income, such as a PAN card or an equivalent global document, to facilitate prize disbursal.
- All prize money is subject to applicable taxes and deductions under Indian law.
- IndiaAI reserves the right to amend timelines, processes, or the prize disbursal mechanism under unforeseen circumstances to ensure operational feasibility.

7. Queries and Clarifications

All queries or clarifications must be emailed to fellow3.gpai-india@meity.gov.in using the subject line: “YUVAi: Global Youth Challenge – Query - [Applicant Name]”.

8. Confidentiality

All applications and documents will remain confidential and accessible only to authorized evaluation and coordination teams. Applicants must clearly mark any proprietary or sensitive documents as ‘Confidential’.

9. How to Apply

9.1 General Instructions:

- Applications must be submitted **exclusively via the designated online portal**.
- All required fields must be completed, and necessary documentation uploaded in the prescribed format.
- Each proposal must be **self-contained** and fully address the application format provided.
- Multiple proposals may be submitted, provided each solution is **unique** and meets the eligibility criteria.
- In case of a team application, both the team members must be from same country.
- Applicants must download the **Participant Undertaking and Consent Form** (annexed below) and submit duly signed PDF copies as prescribed.
- Shortlisted applicants in Phase 2 may be required to provide **proof of age**, as applicable.

9.2 Application Form

Section	Question	Expected Answer Guidelines
	Number of Team Members (Select 1/2)	Select number of members in team; A team can have up to 2 members. Individual applicants can also apply.
Applicant Details - 1	Applicant First Name	First name of Applicant - 1
	Applicant Last Name	Last name of Applicant - 1
	Applicant Age	Age of Applicant - 1
	Name of Academic Institution	Name of academic institution where Applicant – 1 is currently enrolled, if available
	Email ID	Email id of Applicant - 1
	Mobile Number	Mobile number of Applicant - 1
	Country	Country of residence of Applicant - 1
	State	State of residence of Applicant - 1
	Role Played in the Project	Role played by Applicant – 1 in solution development; Eg. Team leader, Technical developer, marketing head, advisor, etc.
Applicant Details - 2	Applicant First Name	First name of Applicant - 2
	Applicant Last Name	Last name of Applicant - 2
	Applicant Age	Age of Applicant - 2
	Name of Academic Institution	Name of academic institution where Applicant – 2 is currently enrolled, if available
	Email ID	Email id of Applicant - 2
	Mobile Number	Mobile number of Applicant - 2
	Country	Country of residence of Applicant – 2
	State	State of residence of Applicant - 2
	Role Played in the Project	Role played by second applicant in solution development. Eg. Technical developer, marketing head, advisor, etc.
Primary Guardian Details	Name of Primary Guardian (in case of minor applicant)	Name of a primary guardian if applicant/s is/are <18 years old <i>*Primary guardian may be required to travel with the shortlisted team for international demo day, New Delhi</i>

	Email ID	Email id of primary guardian
	Mobile Number	Mobile number of primary guardian
	Country	Country of residence of primary guardian
	State	State of residence of primary guardian
Thematic Category	Select the thematic track you are applying under (Choose one only)	Select one of the below mentioned themes as per relevance to their solutions 1. Empowering people and communities 2. Future Ready Infrastructure and Smart Ecosystems 3. Transforming core sectors and economy 4. Wild Card/Open Innovation <i>Any solution not aligned to themes 1/2/3, can be submitted under Wild Card/Open innovation theme (4).</i>
	Briefly explain your problem statement, and how your solution address the problem undertaken (max 200 words)	In 200 words, explain: • Problem Statement: Clearly describe the challenge, its significance, and who is affected. Use evidence or data (if available) to establish the importance. • Solution Approach: Explain how your solution directly addresses the problem. Highlight the AI methods/ models/tools used. • Intended Outcome: Describe the impact your solution aims to create (e.g., social, environmental, economic). • Relevance: Show how the solution is feasible, innovative, and implementable in addressing the problem.
Solution Details	Title of Your Solution	Name of your solution
	Solution details, such as AI components used, features, functionalities, data requirements, scalability potential (Max 200 words)	Briefly describe: • The AI components/ technologies used, features, solution functionalities etc. • Any third-party AI components integrated, along with details of proprietary innovations, if applicable • Data requirements for solution training and operation • Scalability potential (how it can expand or be replicated)

	What stage is your solution currently in? (Select one)	Select one of the below stages as relevant to your solution • Concept Only – Idea defined, but no working model yet. • Working Prototype / MVP – Basic functional model demonstrating core features. • Deployment in Test Environment – Pilot-tested in controlled or limited real-world setting. • Full-Scale Live Deployment – Fully operational solution deployed at scale with end-users
	Share references/citations for any data/facts used (PDF format - Maximum 2 page)	Upload one pdf document comprising any references, research papers, reports, or datasets cited in this application form, or referred to in the development of your solution.
	Upload a 2-3 minute video demo (Including Self-Introduction, Project/Solution Description, Demonstration, Technology Used and Future Scope - Please add English subtitles)	Upload a 2-3 minute video (with English subtitles) or slide show demo in <u>Mp4 format (file size not exceeding 200 MB)</u> including: • Team-introduction • Solution description (problem statement and how AI is applied) • Demonstration of features or working prototype • Technology used (AI models, tools, platforms) • Future scope (scalability, social or sectoral impact) • Pilot or deployments details, if any • Any other relevant information for the evaluation committee
	Link to solution demo (if available)	Upload a link for solution demonstration, if available
Additional Information	Kindly confirm the following: (Select all that apply)	Confirm whether: • Applicant would be willing to travel to New Delhi, India for solution demonstrations and award ceremony at the AI Impact Summit (If selected)? (Yes/No) • Would you require travel and accommodation support for Summit days? (Yes/No)

Declarations	Conflict of Interest Declaration	Confirm the following: None of the applying team members are affiliated with the organizing committee, jury, or evaluation partners. In case of any such affiliation, the applicant may disclose the same in available space
	IP Ownership Declaration	Confirm that the submitted idea is original, and applicant/s hold the rights or relevant licenses to present it.
	Final Declaration	• Confirm that all the information provided is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge. • Confirm that the applicant understand that selection does not imply funding unless declared separately.
Document Upload	Participant Undertaking and Consent Form	Submit duly signed consent form annexed below for all the participating team members. In case of more than 1 members, all forms must be combined in a single pdf document to be uploaded. PDF file size should not exceed 4 MB.

Annexure – 1: Participant Undertaking and Consent Form

YUVAi – Participant Undertaking and Consent Form (For all applicants)

As a Participant and or a Parent/Guardian of the Participant at YUVAi – Global Youth Challenge, I hereby acknowledge that I/my ward will abide by all the rules and regulations of the YUVAi – Global Youth Challenge, including:

1. Avoiding any activity that is or has the appearance of a conflict of interest.
2. Not engaging in activities that interfere with the proper performance of the duties and/or responsibilities of a participant.
3. Ensuring that the entries submitted are my/my ward's (Participant's) original work and the content of the entries and any supporting materials are acceptable for all viewing audiences. At any stage, any evidence of misconduct, plagiarism, adoption of unfair means, etc., will result in disqualification from the Challenge.
4. Agreeing to release and hold harmless IndiaAI and its respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, partners and agents from any and all liability or any injury, loss, or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with YUVAi – Global Youth Challenge or any prize won.
5. Agreeing that IndiaAI's decisions will be final and binding on all matters related to entries submitted as part of the YUVAi – Global Youth Challenge.

I have read and am in agreement with the above Terms and Conditions.

Applicant Signature:

Parent/guardian signature

(For applicant under 18)

Name:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Email ID:

Annexure – 2: Terms and Conditions

IndiaAI Impact Summit 2025–26 – Global Challenges Terms and Conditions

Please note: These terms and conditions are bound to change without a prior notice

- **Rules & Guidelines:**
 - Applicants must meet all eligibility criteria outlined in various sections of the Global Challenges and submit truthful and complete information.
 - Any misrepresentation will lead to disqualification.
- **Single Point of Contact (SPOC):**
 - Each team must designate a Team Leader/Lead Applicant during registration, who will act as the SPOC for all official engagements and communications from the Organising Committee.
 - The SPOC cannot be changed during the course of the Challenge.
- **Official Communication:**
 - All updates, announcements, and instructions will be made available only through MyGov Portal and/or via the registered email ID of the Team Leader.
 - No other medium of official communication will be entertained.
- **Team Composition & Categories:**
 - YUVAi Global Youth Challenge: Individual participants (1 member, age ≤ 21) or teams (up to 2 members, all aged ≤ 21) may apply.
 - Travel and accommodation support will be provided for up to 2 members, if shortlisted for solution demonstration at the Summit.
 - In case where the shortlisted team members are minor, travel and accommodation will also be provided for 1 primary guardian per team as per IndiaAI guidelines.
- **Project Submissions:**
 - Each team may submit only one solution under a given Challenge category.
 - Multiple challenge applications by the same team are permitted only if each submission is a distinct solution aligned with that Challenge's objectives.
- **Submission Validity:**
 - Only complete and valid submissions that meet eligibility will be considered.
- **Prize Money:**
 - Prizes/Grants will be awarded by IndiaAI or designated funding partners in the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.
 - Applicable taxes will be deducted as per prevailing laws in India at the time of disbursement.
 - The selection of winners and the award of prize money will be completely at the discretion of the Jury.
- **Solution Development:**

- All work, including prototypes, MVPs, and pitch decks, must be created substantially by the registered team members.
- Use of external mentorship, training, or technical advice is allowed if disclosed to the Organising Committee.
- Outsourcing the bulk of development to unregistered third parties is prohibited.
- **Documentation & Transparency:**
 - Teams must maintain detailed documentation, including design notes, technical architecture, and progress logs.
 - The Organising Committee reserves the right to request documentation at any stage.
- **Reviewer / Jury Interaction:**
 - Shortlisted teams may be called to present their solutions virtually or in-person during any stage for verification or progress review.
 - Timelines and formats will be communicated in advance.
- **Travel & Participation:**
 - Travel and accommodation support will be provided only for shortlisted finalists invited to the AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, in line with the approved budget.
 - Any additional costs have to be borne by the participants.
- **Team Changes:**
 - Only registered team members shall be allowed to participate in case the applying team is shortlisted as a finalist.
 - No change in team representation will be permitted at any phase.
- **Intellectual Property (IP) & Compliance**
 - The submitted solution must be original, and not knowingly infringe on existing IP rights.
 - Any pre-existing IP incorporated into the solution must be owned or duly licensed by the team.
 - Solutions found in violation of IP, confidentiality, or ethical compliance rules will be disqualified.
- **Laws and regulations:**
 - All selected awardees must comply with applicable Indian laws and regulations.
 - The courts of India shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all disputes.
 - All solutions must align with ethical AI principles, avoid bias, and comply with applicable data protection laws.
- **Non-Compliance & Disqualification:**
 - Any false declaration, rule violation, or unethical conduct may lead to immediate disqualification.
 - The Jury Panel's decision on such matters will be final.
- **Decision-Making Authority:**
 - Any dispute or unforeseen case not covered in these guidelines will be resolved by the Designated Committee under India - AI Impact Summit & Partners.

- Their decision will be binding and final.
- **Data Processing and Retention:**
 - All information submitted by applicants will be handled in accordance with the laws of India.
- **Role of Jury Panel:**
 - Evaluation Responsibilities:
 - Review and score submissions across stages (prototype/MVP, final pitch) as per the official rubric.
 - Consider key parameters: problem relevance, innovation & technical feasibility, usability & accessibility, maturity & scalability, and public impact.
 - Transparency & Fairness:
 - Vet and approve evaluation rubrics before application.
 - Ensure reviews are free from bias; sign NDAs and Conflict of Interest declarations.
 - Moderate scores where significant variation occurs between reviewers.
 - Engagement in Challenge Phases:
 - Participate in thematic bootcamp reviews, provide feedback to teams, and conduct Q&A sessions as needed.
 - Attend final jury moderation meetings to select winners for each challenge.
 - Final Selections:
 - Select Top Winners for each category
 - Ensure results are locked and communicated to the Organising Committee for announcement in time.



AI IMPACT SUMMIT भारत

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