

Pre-Launch Event

THE NATIONAL STAGE STARTS HERE.

24-Hour Mini Hackathon | Idea Pitching | Workshops | CEO Sessions

22-23 August, 2026

Dayananda Sagar University Innovation Campus
Kudlu Gate, Bengaluru



Powered by:
Palle to Planet | Josalukkas | JNTU Anantapuram

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FROM REGION TO NATIONAL FINALS.

The Karnataka Pre-Launch is the first stop on IC 2026's national roadmap. It runs across two days at Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore. The main conclave at JNTU Anantapuram is where India's best builders get funded, mentored, and backed. This is where Karnataka's builders earn their place in that room.

The pre-launch sets the stage for teams to perform and carry the traction directly into IC 2026. Top performers receive direct qualification or priority consideration for the national finals. **The pathway is real.**



WHAT HAPPENS HERE

THE 24-HOUR HACKATHON

The centrepiece of the pre-launch. Teams of 2-4 build working prototypes against real-world problem statements across six domains- AI, Smart Solutions, AgriTech, Rural Innovation, Student Productivity Tools, and Sustainability. The problem statements drop at the opening ceremony. Everything after that is on the team.

The format runs in six phases:

- Registration and idea submission
- Kickoff and problem reveal
- Ideation and planning (Hours 1 - 4)
- Development sprint (Hours 4 -18)
- Integration and testing (Hours 18 - 22)
- Final demo and judging (Hours 22 - 24)

Three independent evaluators assess each team across innovation, technical execution, prototype completeness, impact, and presentation.

THE IDEA PITCHING COMPETITION

The pitching competition is for founders at the concept stage, a startup idea, a problem you have been sitting on, a product that does not exist yet but should. Present it to a jury panel across five criteria: innovation, feasibility, market potential, impact, and presentation. Selected teams progress to the main conclave at Anantapur.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

Hands-on sessions run by practitioners. Tracks cover AI and Machine Learning, Data Science, Startup Building, Product Development, Career Readiness, and Emerging Technologies. These are working sessions built for people who already have some foundation and want to go further.

CEO AND LEADER SESSIONS

Founders and CEOs who have built through the hard parts, talk about what the journey actually looked like. Conversations that give the audience space to push back, ask the real questions, and hear honest answers.

NATIONAL FINALS PATHWAY

Winners and shortlisted participants from the pre-launch receive direct qualification or priority consideration for IC 2026 at JNTU Anantapuram. The pre-launch stands as a stepping stone toward the national finals.

STARTUP AND INNOVATION NETWORKING

Two days puts a lot of people in the same building mentors, investors, fellow builders from across Karnataka. This creates the perfect environment for participants to network and connect throughout the event

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Engineering students from any branch and any year. Degree and diploma holders - BCA, B.Sc, BBA, Polytechnic. Aspiring founders with early-stage ideas. If you are a student or early-stage builder from Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum, or anywhere in Karnataka, this is your floor.

Teams of 2-4 for the hackathon. Solo participation for the pitching competition and workshops.

EVERY ROOM LEADS TO A BIGGER ONE.

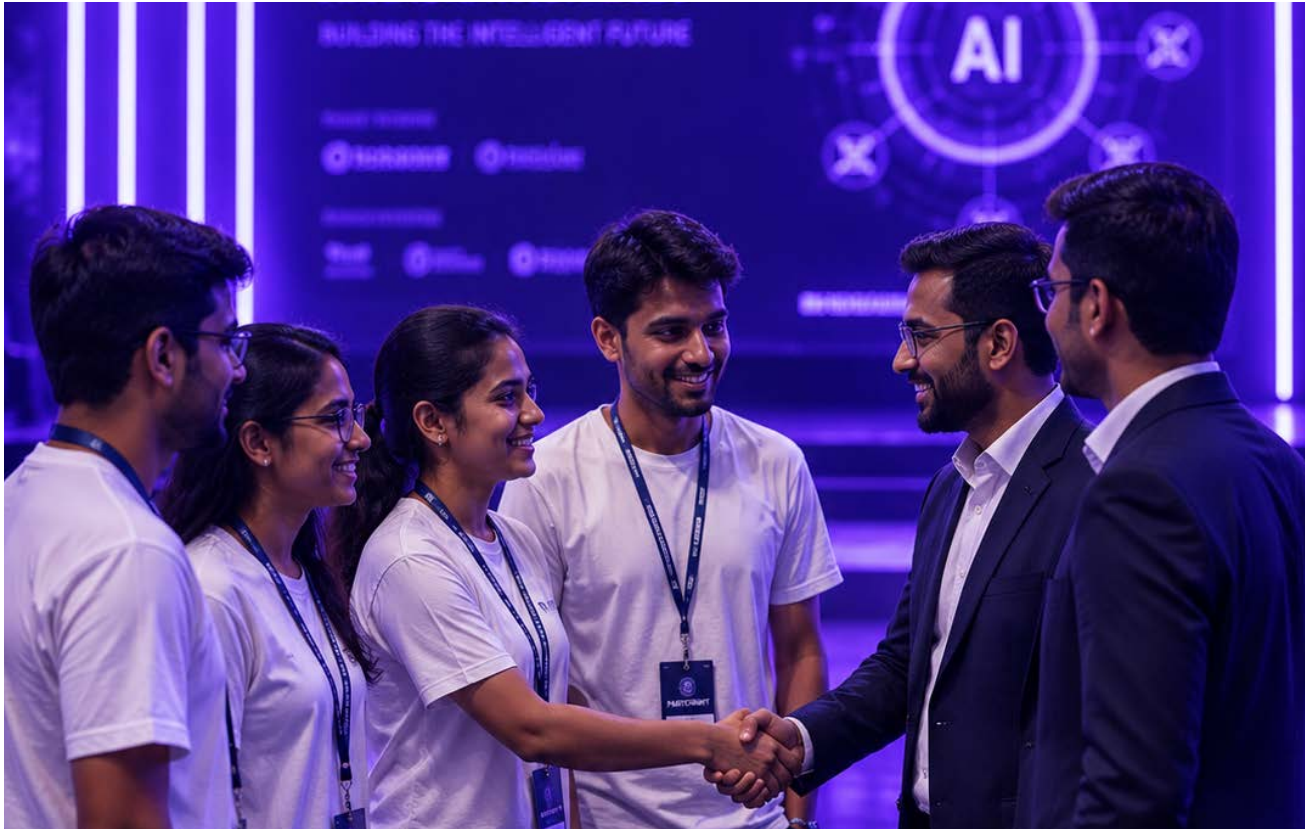
The Karnataka Pre-Launch is structured as the first step in a progression. What you build here, how you pitch here, and who you meet here, all of it carries forward. The floor at Dayananda Sagar University connects directly to the floor at JNTU Anantapuram. Here is how that works.





WHO YOU'LL MEET ON THE PRE-LAUNCH FLOOR

The people in the room at the pre-launch are practitioners of their respective fields, ranging from founders, evaluators, mentors, and institutional leaders who come specifically to find builders worth backing and progressing to the national stage.



HACKATHON EVALUATORS Domain experts drawn from the six hackathon tracks. An AgriTech judge has worked in agricultural technology. An AI evaluator has shipped models in production. The evaluation is sector-specific because generalist feedback at the prototype stage misses the point.

IDEA PITCH JURY A panel of investors, startup founders, and industry professionals evaluating concepts across innovation, feasibility, market potential, impact, and presentation.

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS Practitioners from leading companies running working sessions in AI/ML, Data Science, Product Development, Startup Building, and Emerging Technologies.

CEO AND INDUSTRY LEADERS Founders who have built through the hard parts. The room is small enough for real questions to get real answers.

MENTORS Assigned to hackathon teams at kickoff and available through the development sprint. They are matched to your domain and your stage. A team building in Rural Innovation is not mentored by someone who has only worked in enterprise SaaS.

FELLOW BUILDERS Students and early-stage founders from Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum, and across Karnataka. The two days put a specific kind of person in one building, someone who showed up to build something. That cohort is part of what you take away.



THE NATIONAL STAGE STARTS IN YOUR REGION.

Two days. One building. The clearest path from where you are to where IC 2026 happens.

Dayananda Sagar University Innovation Campus
Kudlu Gate, Bengaluru

22-23 August, 2026

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