India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026?

India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026 is a virtual summer bootcamp that introduces students of classes 6 to 12 and beyond to AI and Entrepreneurship. It's organized by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with Intel.

What will be the journey of the students during and after India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026?

Stage 1: Students register for India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026

Stage 2: Attend a series of 25 sessions on AI and Entrepreneurship, conducted by experts from industry and academia.

- Phase 1: Exploring Problem Domains and identifying a Problem Statement.
- Phase 2: Design Thinking & AI Skilling.
- Phase 3: Product/Solution Development (Building the prototype).
- Phase 4: Entrepreneurship Skills (Pitch decks, marketing, business structures).
- Phase 5: Real-world Solution Deployment and Impact, and User Feedback collection.
- Phase 6: Final Submission of pitch deck along with user feedback, and deployment evidence.

Stage 3: Top 100 projects with business plans will join the Atal Catalyst Program, wherein they get mentored by ISB.

What are the official themes for the 2026 projects?

Projects must target real-life challenges under 8 themes for nationwide social relevance:

- Healthcare: Fitness, mental well-being, wellness tracking, or elderly care.
- Education: Classroom engagement, productivity, personalized or inclusive learning.
- Sustainability: Water conservation, energy-saving, and eco-friendly lifestyles.
- Agriculture: Urban farming, automated irrigation, soil monitoring, and smart plant care.
- Safety: Personal safety devices, emergency response, and community alert systems.
- Accessibility: Inclusive tools and assistive tech for the elderly and differently-abled.
- Smart Homes: Household automation, IoT integration, and home efficiency.
- Environment: Waste management, recycling awareness, and pollution reduction.

Who can participate?

This initiative is open to students from Classes 6 to 12 and students from Higher Education institutions across the country, irrespective of their institution type, background, or prior knowledge.

Is knowledge of AI or coding necessary to join?

No prior knowledge is needed. The bootcamp starts from the basics and includes hands-on activities and beginner-friendly content in AI, digital tools, and entrepreneurship.

What is the core expectation of my final submission?

India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026 supports a diverse range of technical frameworks categorized into three types: Physical, Digital, and Phygital. However, unlike previous editions where a concept or digital prototype sufficed, this year's Tinkerpreneur focuses heavily on execution. Your final submission must include your completed pitch deck alongside proof of community deployment (such as data metrics, photos/videos of real users interacting with your device/app, and documented user feedback) and a 120-second project video.

What are the criteria for the judgment of an innovation submitted?

Each submission will be evaluated on a structured 50-point scale, distributed as follows:

- Novelty & Originality of the idea – 10 points
- Relevance to the chosen theme and application of AI – 10 Points
- Scalability & potential for wider adoption – 10 points
- Sustainability & long-term social impact – 10 points
- Feasibility of implementation in real-world contexts – 10 points

Can I register individually, or will my school register on my behalf?

You can register individually and encourage your friends/ classmates to also register for the India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026.

How do ATL and non-ATL students register?

The registration link is open to all students, regardless of the type of educational institution they are from. ATL affiliation is not mandatory.

What will I learn during the bootcamp?

You will learn to identify problems, apply AI technologies, build digital products, design business models, market solutions, and pitch your venture. The session plan includes:

- 11 sessions, including understanding AI, problem identification and 8 theme-specific sessions
- 2 sessions on Design Thinking & AI Skilling
- 3 sessions on Product development
- 6 sessions on Entrepreneurship Skills
- 2 sessions on Deployment
- 1 session on successful project submission

What are the program dates?

The India AI Tinkerpreneur sessions will run from 23 June to 13 August 2026.

Is there a participation certificate?

Yes. All completing students receive a certificate from AIM, NITI Aayog and Intel.

Where can I see the full program schedule?
The updated schedule is available on the social website: https://aistudent.community/tinkerpreneur-2026

Who are the mentors conducting the sessions?
The sessions will be conducted by AI coaches and experts from Industry and academia from AIM and Intel.

When can I start working on my project?
Students can keep working on their AI-enabled project throughout the Bootcamp. The sessions will be helpful in identifying project ideas, developing the project, developing a business plan and tips for showcasing the project. If the students need any help, they can also reach out to the mentors of change for guidance.

Why should I participate in India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026?
Participating gives you a unique chance to build entrepreneurial and AI skills early, with national-level exposure and mentorship from industry leaders.

What kind of AI tools will I learn to use?
You can explore beginner-level tools in Computer Vision (CV), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and Data Science to integrate into your project.

What support will I get if I get stuck during the program? Can I get mentorship support during the program?
There is a list of AIM Mentors of Change available on the India AI Tinkerpreneur page, with state and email details. Students can reach out to any Mentor of Change through the emails mentioned in the list. Mentors will be available to guide you via email and interactive sessions throughout the bootcamp.

Will there be live sessions or only self-paced content?
All sessions will be conducted live by experts. Post the live session, the recording of the session and the content will be available to all registered participants to learn at their own pace.

Is there a deadline to register?
Students can register anytime and attend the live sessions, before and on the respective dates.

What if I miss a session?
Recordings and learning materials will be available. You are encouraged to catch up and consult mentors if needed.

Do I need parental or school permission?
While not mandatory, informing your parents or teacher is encouraged for additional support.

Will the evaluation results be open for review or appeal?
All submissions will be evaluated by a panel of experts based on the published evaluation criteria. The evaluation process is designed to be fair, transparent, and merit-based. The decision of the organizing authorities and jury members regarding selection, ranking, and awards shall be final and binding.

How will my personal information and project data be used?
The information and materials submitted as part of the India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026 will be used solely for the purposes of administering, evaluating, and conducting the programme and associated activities. Participant data will not be used for any purpose unrelated to the competition without appropriate consent and will be handled in accordance with applicable guidelines and policies**.**

How can I stay motivated throughout the program?
Set weekly goals, actively engage in workshops, and interact with your peers and mentors regularly. Celebrate small wins to stay energized.

What's the commitment required from me?
Anyone curious to learn, eager to explore, and willing to innovate should participate in the India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026. To participate, one only needs access to a laptop or desktop, and good internet connectivity.

Can I switch a mentor mid-way?
Mentor changes are not encouraged once the bootcamp starts, except under special circumstances approved by the organizers.

Is there any Helpline where I can raise queries?
Please read the FAQ document for more details on India AI Tinkerpreneur 2026. If you still have queries, please email at aitinkerpreneur@gmail.com. Queries will be addressed by the organizing team from 9 am to 5 pm.