LT LOWKEY TECH

PAN-INDIA PARTICIPATION

LOWKEY TECH 2026

STARTUP & AI HACKATHON

Think Beyond Code. Build Beyond Ideas.

A pan-India startup and AI hackathon where teams turn real-world problems into working products using AI-powered development, modern tools and creative execution.

ONLINE ROUND

December 5–6, 2026
48-hour online challenge

SHORTLIST

December 16, 2026
Shortlisted teams announced

OFFLINE GRAND FINALE

December 19–20, 2026
Hyderabad, Telangana • 24 hours

THE CHALLENGE

Build a useful product, not just a presentation. Identify a genuine problem, create a solution, demonstrate what it does and explain how it could grow into a startup.

Team size: 2–5 members | **Solo entries:** Not allowed | **Online fee:** ■299/person | **Offline fee:** ■699/person

Build from anywhere in India. Shortlisted teams meet in Hyderabad.

01 / OVERVIEW

What is LOWKEY TECH?

LOWKEY TECH 2026 is a Startup & AI Hackathon designed for students, developers, designers, founders and innovators from across India. It challenges teams to identify meaningful problems and build functional, AI-powered solutions with the mindset of startup founders.

The event combines a 48-hour online selection challenge with a 24-hour offline grand finale in Hyderabad. Teams can use AI tools, external APIs, paid platforms and Vibe Coding workflows. The emphasis is on useful products, thoughtful execution and the ability to communicate a clear product vision.

What makes this hackathon different

- **AI-enabled building:** Use AI assistants and modern development tools throughout your workflow.
- **Vibe Coding is allowed:** Teams may use AI-powered coding platforms and workflows.
- **Startup mindset:** Focus on user problems, product value, business potential and scalability.
- **Creative freedom:** Choose a track or bring an idea from another domain through Open Innovation.
- **Mentorship and exposure:** Learn from mentors and present your product to the judging panel.
- **Pan-India participation:** The online round is open to teams from all Indian states and union territories.

Who should join?

- College students and student innovators
- Developers, programmers and AI builders
- UI/UX designers and product thinkers
- Aspiring startup founders and entrepreneurs
- AI enthusiasts, creators and problem-solvers

02 / EVENT FORMAT

Key dates, rounds & registration

Milestone	Date	Format
Online Round	December 5–6, 2026	48-hour online challenge
Shortlist Announcement	December 16, 2026	Qualified teams announced
Offline Grand Finale	December 19–20, 2026	24-hour event in Hyderabad

Registration fees

Round	Fee	Payment note
Online Round	**■299 per participant**	Paid at online registration
Offline Grand Finale	**■699 per participant**	Additional fee for shortlisted participants attending offline

The offline fee is an additional payment for shortlisted participants; it is not included in the online registration fee. All fees are per participant.

Participation & location

- Online participation is open across India.
- The offline grand finale will be held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Shortlisted teams are expected to attend the offline finale in person.
- The final venue address and on-ground reporting instructions will be shared with shortlisted teams.

Teams, tracks and creative freedom

Team registration rules

- **Team size:** Minimum 2 and maximum 5 members.
- **Team-only registration:** Individual or solo registrations are not allowed.
- **Same team:** Team composition must remain the same across the online and offline rounds.
- Any exceptional member change requires prior approval from the organizing team.
- Participants may register from any state or union territory in India.

Hackathon tracks

01 • AI IN HEALTHCARE

Healthcare access, care coordination, health operations and patient support.

02 • FINTECH & SMART FINANCE

Financial inclusion, payments, budgeting, fraud awareness and smarter finance.

03 • SMART CITIES & SUSTAINABILITY

Urban mobility, waste, water, energy and sustainable communities.

04 • EDTECH & FUTURE LEARNING

Personalized learning, education access, skills and student productivity.

05 • AGRITECH & RURAL INNOVATION

Tools for farmers, rural services, supply chains and local economies.

06 • CYBERSECURITY & DIGITAL SAFETY

Privacy, security awareness, safer digital services and cyber resilience.

07 • AI & BUSINESS AUTOMATION

AI agents, workflow automation, productivity and tools for businesses.

08 • OPEN INNOVATION

Any other domain where a team can demonstrate a genuine problem and useful solution.

Open challenge

Build Your Own AI-Powered Startup. Identify a real-world problem and develop an innovative, functional solution. Teams are not restricted to a single prescribed problem statement. Choose one of the tracks above or use Open Innovation.

04 / ONLINE ROUND

December 5–6 • 48-hour challenge

Teams will work remotely during the 48-hour challenge window. Each team must select a track, identify a problem, build or advance its solution, and submit the required materials through the official LOWKEY TECH Google Form.

Online submission checklist

- Project title and complete team member details.
- Selected hackathon track.
- **Problem statement:** What issue are you addressing, and who experiences it?
- **Proposed solution:** Explain how your product solves the problem.
- **Project document:** Include objectives, target users, key features, workflow, technology stack, implementation details, expected impact and business potential.
- **Presentation video:** A clear video presentation in English, uploaded/submitted as instructed in the Google Form.
- GitHub/repository link, if available.
- Working demo, prototype or deployment link, if available.
- **AI usage declaration:** List the AI tools/platforms used and explain how they contributed.

IMPORTANT: SUBMIT THROUGH THE GOOGLE FORM

The presentation video and project document must be submitted through the official Google Form. LinkedIn posting or tagging is not required. Follow the form's upload and link instructions.

Late or incomplete submissions

Submissions must be completed within the announced 48-hour window. Late or incomplete submissions may be disqualified. The organizing team will share the official form and submission deadline with registered teams.

AI tools, Vibe Coding and pre-built work

AI tools and Vibe Coding

- AI coding assistants, generative AI tools, AI agents and Vibe Coding platforms are allowed.
- External APIs, third-party services and paid AI tools are permitted.
- Teams are responsible for their own paid subscriptions, API usage and related costs.
- Teams should be transparent about AI-generated or AI-assisted components in their AI usage declaration.

Pre-built projects

Pre-built projects and previously developed components are allowed. However, teams must demonstrate substantial new work, meaningful improvements or additional features relevant to the challenge. Previously developed components must be clearly disclosed. Teams should be prepared to explain what was built or improved during the hackathon.

Intellectual property

Participants retain ownership of their original ideas, source code, designs and other intellectual property. LOWKEY TECH does not claim ownership of participant projects.

06 / OFFLINE GRAND FINALE

December 19–20 • Hyderabad

Shortlisted teams will come together in Hyderabad for a 24-hour, in-person startup-building experience. Teams will continue developing their products, receive mentorship, prepare their final demonstrations and pitch to the judging panel.

Facilities and participant support

- Dedicated workspace for participating teams.
- Wi-Fi/internet access at the event venue.
- Meals, snacks, refreshments and beverages during the event.
- Mentorship and guidance from invited mentors and industry professionals.
- Pitching and presentation arrangements.
- Participation certificates and event goodies/merchandise.
- Networking opportunities with founders, mentors, judges and other teams.

Mentorship, overnight operations and pitching

Mentor interactions are planned during the event, with mentor hours extending up to 11:00 AM on the final day. The organizing team will coordinate overnight event operations. Final project submissions, demonstrations and startup pitches will be scheduled within the 24-hour event programme. The detailed run-of-show will be shared separately.

What teams should bring

- Laptop and charger for each team or as needed.
- Valid college or government-issued ID.
- Mobile phone and charger.
- Any required adapters, accessories or development equipment.

Accommodation

Regular student accommodation is not provided. In an emergency, the organizing team may try to arrange temporary assistance or accommodation, subject to availability. Participants should plan their own travel and stay arrangements.

07 / FINALE DELIVERABLES

What every team should be ready to present

- A working product or functional prototype.
- Project documentation explaining the problem, solution and implementation.
- GitHub repository or source code, where applicable.
- Live deployment or a working demonstration.
- Pitch deck covering the problem, solution, users, product, business model and scalability.
- AI usage declaration describing tools, platforms and AI-assisted workflows.

How projects are scored

Evaluation criterion	Weight	What judges look for
AI-First Execution	**25%**	Meaningful use of AI in ideation, research, design, coding and development.
Product Innovation	**20%**	Originality, creativity and relevance to a real problem.
Functionality & Execution	**20%**	Working features, usability, technical implementation and overall execution.
Market Potential	**15%**	Target users, market need, business model and scalability.
AI Usage & Workflow	**10%**	Effective use of AI tools, agents, prompts and Vibe Coding workflows.
Demo & Pitch	**10%**	Demo quality, storytelling, clarity and communication.
TOTAL	**100%**	Overall product and startup potential.

Special recognition ideas

Possible recognition categories include Best AI Implementation, Best Startup Idea, Most Innovative Solution, Best Business Potential, Best Product Execution and Special Jury Recognition. Final categories are subject to organizer and sponsor confirmation.

Recognition and opportunities

Certificates

Online-round participants are eligible for an official digital participation certificate (E-Certificate), subject to the event's participation and submission requirements. Offline participants are eligible for an official event participation certificate, subject to attendance and event requirements.

Internship opportunities

Internship opportunities may be offered to eligible and outstanding participants from both the online and offline rounds, subject to performance, evaluation, partner availability and applicable selection processes. Internships are not guaranteed to every participant.

Prize pool

PRIZE POOL: TBA

Prize money of up to ■**1,00,000** is planned. The final prize pool, distribution, winner categories and any additional rewards will be announced after sponsorships are finalized.

No fixed category-wise amounts or sponsor-provided rewards are being confirmed in this guide. The organizing team will publish the final details once sponsorship arrangements are complete.

Important participant guidelines

Registration and payment

- Registration fees are ■299 per participant for the online round and ■699 per participant for the offline finale.
- The offline fee is an additional payment for shortlisted participants attending the offline finale.
- All registration fees are strictly non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Registration is confirmed only after successful payment verification through the official process.

Team continuity and conduct

- Only teams of 2–5 members are accepted; solo registrations are not allowed.
- The same team members must continue across both rounds unless an exceptional change is approved by the organizers.
- Teams must provide accurate registration and submission information.
- Teams must disclose pre-built work and AI-assisted components.
- Participants must respect other teams, mentors, judges, venue staff and event rules.

Photos, videos and participant privacy

Participant photographs, videos, interviews and project demonstrations will not be used for promotional or marketing purposes by default. Any external sharing or promotional use of identifiable participant content requires explicit consent from the relevant participants.

Safety and accommodation

Participants are responsible for their travel and personal belongings. Regular student accommodation is not included. Emergency assistance, if required, is subject to availability.

10 / FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Quick answers for participants

1. Is LOWKEY TECH open to participants across India?

Yes. Teams from all Indian states and union territories can join the online round. Shortlisted teams must attend the offline finale in Hyderabad.

2. Can I register alone?

No. Solo registrations are not allowed. Register as a team of 2–5 members.

3. Can we choose any problem?

Yes. Choose one of the listed tracks or use Open Innovation, provided your project addresses a genuine problem.

4. Is Vibe Coding allowed?

Yes. Vibe Coding, AI coding assistants, AI agents and other AI-powered development tools are permitted.

5. Can we use paid AI tools and external APIs?

Yes. Teams may use paid tools, external APIs and third-party platforms. Any related costs are the team's responsibility.

6. Are pre-built projects allowed?

Yes, provided substantial new work or meaningful improvements are demonstrated and previously developed components are disclosed.

7. Do we need to post our video on LinkedIn?

No. Submit the presentation video through the official Google Form. LinkedIn posting or tagging is not required.

8. What must the online submission contain?

Team and project details, selected track, problem statement, proposed solution, project document, English presentation video, available repository/demo links and AI usage declaration.

9. When will shortlisted teams be announced?

December 16, 2026.

10. What does the offline fee cover?

The ■699 per-person fee covers participation, workspace, Wi-Fi, meals, snacks, refreshments, certificate, goodies, mentorship and networking opportunities, subject to the final event arrangements.

11. Is accommodation included?

No regular student accommodation is provided. Emergency assistance may be arranged subject to availability.

12. Will online participants receive an E-Certificate?

Yes, subject to participation and submission requirements.

13. Are internships guaranteed?

No. Opportunities may be offered to eligible and outstanding participants based on performance and availability.

14. What is the prize pool?

Prize Pool: TBA. Prize money of up to ■1,00,000 is planned; final details will follow sponsor finalization.

15. Who owns our project?

Participants retain ownership of their original ideas, code, designs and intellectual property.

16. Are fees refundable?

No. Registration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

17. Will our photos/videos be used for promotion?

Not by default. External sharing or promotional use of identifiable participant content requires explicit consent.

18. How do we contact the organizers?

Email: saivathan02@gmail.com | Phone/WhatsApp: +91 6303440601.

11 / CONTACT

Have questions? Talk to the team.

EMAIL
saivathan02@gmail.com

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+91 6303440601

LOWKEY TECH 2026

THINK BEYOND CODE. BUILD BEYOND IDEAS.

Build from anywhere in India. Collaborate with your team. Turn a real problem into a product. Bring your idea to Hyderabad for the grand finale.

Organizer note: This guide reflects the event details currently shared by the LOWKEY TECH organizing team. Final venue address, Google Form link, mentor/judge list, detailed run-of-show and sponsor-confirmed prize distribution will be communicated separately.