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MIT-WPU
॥ विद्याशान्तिर्ध्रुवं ध्रुवा ॥

Dr. Vishwanath Karad
MIT WORLD PEACE UNIVERSITY | PUNE
TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, SOCIAL INNOVATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Vishwanath Karad
MIT WORLD PEACE UNIVERSITY, PUNE

Department of Polytechnic and Skill Development

Department of Computer Engineering & Technology

Ignisia

THINK · BUILD · EVOLVE

National Level 24-Hour AI Hackathon

April 2-4, 2026

POST-EVENT REPORT

ESTEEMED PATRONS

Shri. Dr. Vishwanath Karad
Founder & Director General, MIT World Peace University, Pune

IGNISIA 2026 exemplifies MIT-WPU's core philosophy that education must extend beyond academic achievements to actively foster holistic development and social welfare. I commend the dedicated organizing committee and the brilliant young participants from across India who united to apply advanced computing technologies toward solving pressing real-world challenges. Platforms such as this are vital; they not only sharpen technical prowess but also instill a deep sense of social responsibility, empowering our youth to build a future grounded in peace, innovation, and humanity.

Shri. Dr. Rahul Karad

Executive President, MIT World Peace University

IGNISIA reflects the spirit of innovation and collaborative learning that MIT-WPU seeks to promote among its students. I appreciate Vivaan Mathur and his team for successfully conceptualising and executing a national-level platform that brought together young minds from across the country to solve real-world challenges through Artificial Intelligence. Such initiatives not only enhance technical competence but also nurture leadership, creativity, and resilience among students, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to society and industry.

Shri. Dr. R.M. Chitnis
Vice Chancellor, MIT World Peace University

IGNISIA 2026 demonstrates our students' remarkable capacity to bridge theoretical AI concepts with pragmatic, real-world solutions. I am immensely proud of the participants and the organizing committee for executing a national-level event that perfectly aligns with MIT-WPU's pursuit of academic and technological excellence.

Dr. Milind Pande

Pro Vice-Chancellor, MIT World Peace University

IGNISIA 2026 showcased the phenomenal ability of young minds to turn abstract AI algorithms into functional, high-impact prototypes. The dedication shown by both the competitors and our organizing team over these 24 hours was truly exceptional. This hackathon perfectly captures the essence of MIT-WPU's vision: to cultivate a vibrant, national ecosystem of cutting-edge research and applied technology.

Dr. Siddharth Chakrabarti

Dean, School of Engineering and Technology

IGNISIA, our 24-hour National Level AI Hackathon, reflects MIT-WPU's commitment to nurturing innovation that is both cutting-edge and socially relevant. This platform brings together some of the brightest young minds from across the country to collaboratively solve real-world challenges using Artificial Intelligence. We are proud to see such enthusiasm, interdisciplinary participation, and industry engagement, which together create a vibrant ecosystem of innovation at MIT-WPU.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Organisers

Dr.Siddharth Chakrabarti
Dean, School of Engineering & Technology

Dr. Rohini Kale
Program Director,
Department of Polytechnic and Skill Development

Dr. Balaji Patil
Program Director,
Department of Computer Engineering & Technology

Convenors

Dr. Jyoti Mante Khurpade
Program Head CSE & AI-DS
Department of Polytechnic and Skill Development

Dr. Sharmishta Suhas Desai
Associate Professor
Department of Computer Engineering and Technology

FACULTY LIST

Name Of Faculty	Designation
Prof. Hemlata Ohal	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Pradnya V Kulkarni	Assistant Professor (SoCSE)
Prof. Prerna Patil	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Megha Dhotay	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Manisha Kuveskar	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Dr. Sarika Bobde	Assistant Professor (SoCSE)
Dr. Prashant Lahane	Assistant Professor (SoCSE)
Prof. T.S. Nikumbh	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Ratan Patil	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Nita Dongre	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Sheetal Pawar	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Vilas Rathod	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. N K Patil	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Yogesh Gaikwad	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. D.S. Shastri	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. F.I. Shaikh	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Ruhi Patankar	Assistant Professor (SoCSE)
Prof. Pallavi Nehete	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Dr. Sanjivani Kulkarni	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Shilpa Budhavale (Shitole)	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic
Prof. Sulakshana Malwade	Lecturer Department of Polytechnic

Student Committee

STUDENT CONVENER

VIVAAN MATHUR
TY AI DS
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

PRINCIPAL COORDINATORS

ANSH THAKARE
TY AI DS
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

ANUSHKA WANI
TY AI DS
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

GRAPHIC HEADS

ARYAN MORE
TY AI DS
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

JANAVI HONRAO
TY CSE
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

TECHNICAL HEADS

SOHAM NIGAM
TY AI DS
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

HARSH GIDWANI
TY AI DS
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

PUBLICITY HEADS

SAMARTH BOLKOTGI
TY AI DS
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

PALAK GADHARI
TY CSE
POLYTECHNIC DEPT.

Volunteers

No.	Name	Details
1	Aryan Dani	SoCSE SY AIDS
2	Swayamprakash Patro	SoCSE SY AIDS
3	Pranshu Singh	Poly TY AIDS
4	Rutav Mehta	Poly TY AIDS
5	Shaurya Panhale	Poly TY AIDS
6	Shriya Sabnis	Poly TY AIDS
7	Aarushi Javale	Poly TY CSE-A
8	Nidhi Thakare	Poly TY CSE-A
9	Vaidehee Belan	Poly TY CSE-A
10	Rushil Jain	Poly TY CSE-A
11	Kshiteej Toradmal	Poly TY CSE-B
12	Taru Chaudhari	Poly SY CSE-A
13	Kunshi Kumaraswamy	Poly SY CSE-A
14	Anuj Auti	Poly SY CSE-A
15	Anamika Sahu	Poly SY CSE-A
16	Raunak Malhotra	Poly SY CSE-A

No.	Name	Details
17	Aayush Pawar	Poly SY CSE-B
18	Shreya Jakkulwar	Poly SY CSE-B
19	Neel Sonawane	Poly SY AIDS
20	Hrishikesh Tarade	Poly SY AIDS
21	Sahil Lale	Poly SY AIDS
22	Arindam Hanagandi	Poly SY ECE
23	Ovi Amale	Poly FY CSE-A
24	Pradyumna Patil	Poly FY CSE-A
25	Krishna Darekar	Poly FY CSE-A
26	Mrudun Samant	Poly FY CSE-B
27	Elina Apte	Poly FY CSE-B
28	Anuj Ugale	Poly FY AIDS
29	Urvee Nikam	Poly FY AIDS
30	Ishvari Thorat	Poly FY AIDS
31	Sreekar Mogulluri	Poly FY ECE
32	Adarsh More	Poly FY ECE

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About MIT World Peace University

MIT World Peace University (MIT-WPU) is a private university located in Pune, Maharashtra, founded by Dr. Vishwanath Karad. The institution was established with a core philosophy that education should extend beyond academic degrees and career outcomes, and should actively contribute to peace, social welfare, and holistic development.

Over the years, MIT-WPU has developed into one of the most well-recognised private universities in the region, offering programmes across Engineering, Management, Liberal Arts, Design, and several other disciplines. The university holds accreditation from NAAC and is recognised by UGC. Its campus infrastructure is extensive and well-maintained, comprising modern laboratories, a well-stocked central library, sports facilities, seminar halls, and auditoriums that support both academic and extracurricular activities.

MIT-WPU places considerable emphasis on research output, industry partnerships, and experiential learning. The university maintains active relationships with leading companies across sectors, which has resulted in a consistently strong placement record. Recruiters who visit the campus frequently return in subsequent years, which reflects the quality of graduates produced by the institution. The faculty comprises a combination of experienced academics and younger professionals who bring current industry perspectives into the classroom.

The campus is also known for its active student culture. Technical festivals, cultural events, guest lectures, industry workshops, and student-led initiatives are a regular feature of university life. This creates an environment where students are encouraged to pursue interests and develop skills outside of their formal curriculum.

IGNISIA 2026 was organised by the Department of Polytechnic and Skill Development and the Department of Computer Engineering & Technology. Both departments have a strong tradition of encouraging students to engage in practical, project-based learning, and IGNISIA represented a natural extension of this approach at a national scale.

Aim, Objectives and Domains

The primary aim of IGNISIA 2026 was to provide a structured, national-level platform where students could apply Artificial Intelligence to solve meaningful, real-world problems within a constrained 24-hour timeframe. The event was designed to test not only technical capability but also problem-solving aptitude, teamwork, time management, and the ability to deliver functional solutions under pressure.

A key objective was to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations. Many engineering students complete their degree programmes without building an end-to-end product under a tight deadline or receiving evaluation from industry professionals. IGNISIA was conceived to address this gap by creating conditions that closely simulate real-world product development environments, where deadlines are non-negotiable and requirements can change without notice.

The event also aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among student innovators from diverse institutions across India, and to strengthen MIT-WPU's position as a hub for student-driven innovation and industry-academia partnership.

Thematic Domains

To ensure diversity and real-world relevance, participants were required to build their AI-powered solutions within one of six designated thematic domains. These themes were not disclosed to teams prior to the event; they were revealed only on April 2nd, 2026, after all finalist teams had arrived on campus. This measure was implemented to ensure originality and prevent the submission of pre-built projects.
The six themes were as follows:

THEME	FOCUS AREA
Healthcare & Accessibility	AI solutions for diagnosis, monitoring, and care access
Education & Skill	Smart systems for learning, assessment, and skill building
FinTech	Intelligent systems for financial analysis and decision-making
Environment and Sustainability	AI for environmental monitoring and resource optimization
Smart Cities	Intelligent systems for urban mobility and infrastructure management
Tools for SMEs	AI-driven automation for business operations and workflows

Round 1: Registrations

Registrations for IGNISIA 2026 were opened on March 6, 2026 through the Unstop platform, a widely used platform for student competitions and hackathons in India. Teams of 2 to 4 members were invited to register by submitting a presentation deck outlining their initial concept, chosen domain, and proposed approach.

The registration window closed on March 17, 2026. By March 27, 2026, the final count stood at over 450 teams, comprising more than 1,600 individual participants. For a first-edition hackathon organised at the university level, these figures represent a strong and encouraging response.

Registrations were received from engineering colleges and universities across multiple states in India. Notably, teams from IIITs, NITs, and several other well-regarded institutions were among the applicants. Participants were willing to travel from cities including Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, confirming the national character of the event and the quality of the applicant pool.

The scale of registrations – over 450 teams within a two-week window – validated the demand for structured, AI-focused hackathons at the national level and set the stage for a rigorous qualifier round.

Round 2: Qualifier Round

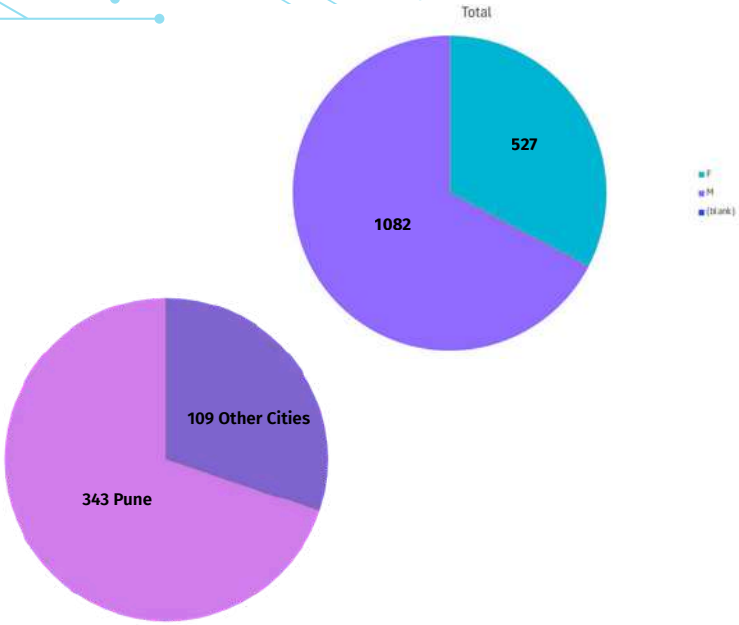
Given the volume of registrations received (450+ teams), selecting finalists solely on the basis of submitted presentation decks was not feasible. To ensure a fair and thorough screening process, an Online Qualifier Round was organised. Each registered team was scheduled for a virtual evaluation meeting with a panel of industry mentors who assessed the submissions in detail.

A total of over 300 individual evaluation meetings were conducted. Each team was assessed on three primary criteria: the feasibility of the proposed solution, the degree of innovation in the AI approach, and the relevance of the chosen problem to real-world needs.

The evaluation process was substantive rather than superficial. Panellists provided detailed feedback to each team, pointing out strengths as well as areas that needed improvement. In some cases teams were advised that while their core idea had merit, their technical approach required rethinking. In other cases teams were told that their concept lacked specificity and needed to be narrowed down. This level of rigour ensured that the qualifier round served as a genuine filter and not merely a formality.

An important outcome of this process was that even teams that were not shortlisted for the finals benefited from the experience. Every team that appeared for the qualifier round received direct feedback from industry professionals on their idea, their AI approach and the feasibility of their proposed solution. This made the qualifier round a valuable learning opportunity in its own right and not just an elimination stage.

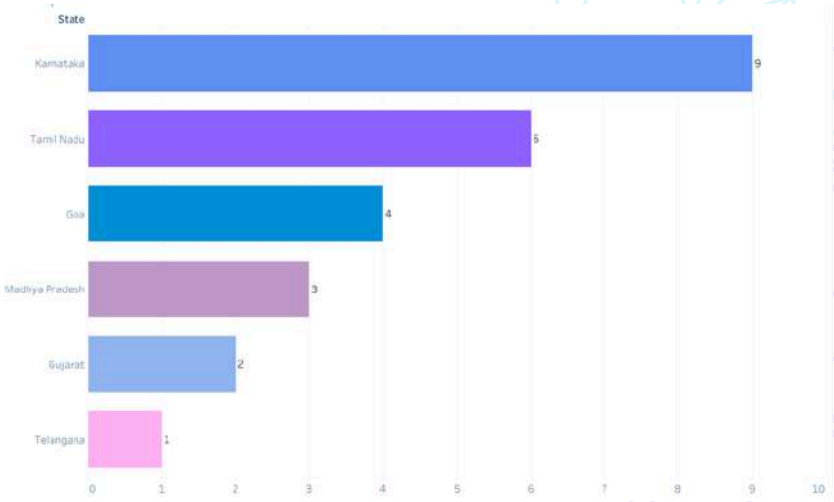
Following the completion of all evaluation meetings, 78 teams comprising approximately 280 participants were shortlisted as finalists. This represented roughly 1 in every 6 registered teams, reflecting the competitive nature of the selection process. The shortlisted teams were formally invited to the MIT-WPU campus for the main 24-hour hackathon.



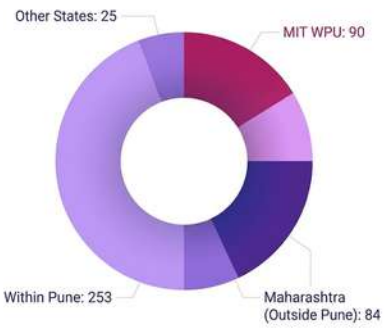
PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER
Total Teams	78
Total Boys	189
Total Girls	87
Total	276

Stats of the overall event

TEAMS FROM OTHER STATES



REGISTERED TEAM STATISTICS



PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

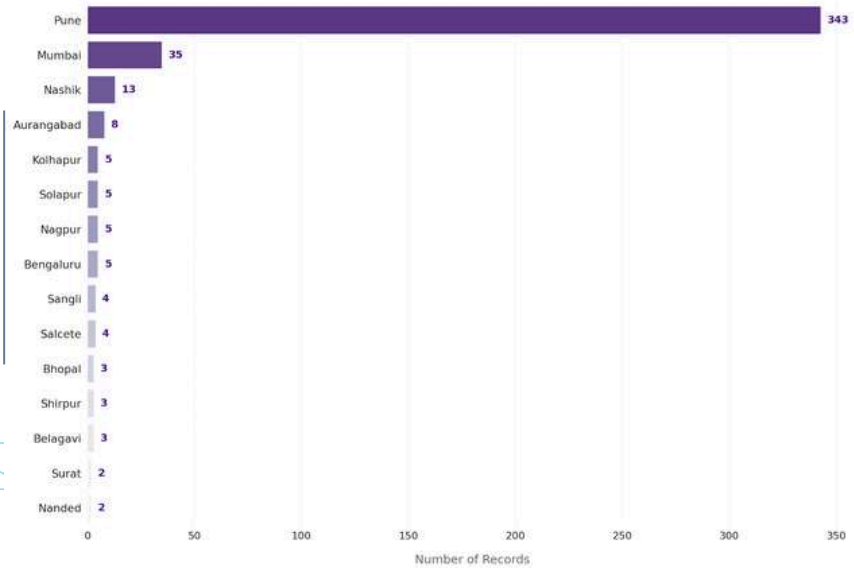
362
PAID TEAMS

90
MIT TEAMS

1613 PARTICIPANTS

DIFFERENT COLLEGES OUTSIDE MAHARASHTRA

TEAMS FROM PUNE (INCLUDING MIT-WPU) AND OUTSIDE PUNE



78 Finalists and Accommodation Arrangements

The 78 shortlisted finalist teams, comprising approximately 280 participants, were formally invited to the MIT-WPU campus for the main hackathon event spanning April 2-4, 2026. Given the national scope of the event, with teams travelling from multiple states across India, the organising committee placed considerable emphasis on ensuring comfortable and well-coordinated accommodation for all outstation participants.

On-campus accommodation was arranged for all participants arriving from outside Pune. Room allocations were made with team groupings in mind, ensuring that members of the same team could stay together for ease of coordination. The check-in process on April 2, 2026 was managed by volunteers and organising committee members, who guided participants across the campus, distributed event kits, and addressed logistical queries.

In addition to the main accommodation, dedicated resting areas were set up within the hackathon venue itself. This arrangement allowed participants to take short breaks during the intensive 24-hour build phase without needing to leave the building. This feature was specifically highlighted by multiple participants in post-event feedback as a practical and appreciated decision.
The accommodation and food arrangements received a participant rating of 4.6 out of 5 stars – the highest-rated category in the entire post-event survey. This result reflects the organisers' successful execution of the logistical and hospitality aspects of the event.

78 Finalists

No.	Team ID	Team Name	College Name
1	14	Bitwise	MITWPU
2	28	Novaa	MITWPU
3	35	Team Visiondrive	MITWPU
4	45	Ideanova	MITWPU
5	57	AlgoNova	MITWPU
6	1008	Nexora	MITWPU
7	1100	B101	MITWPU
8	1001	Dopicode	Xavier Institute of Engineering
9	1003	Amyron	MET Institute of Engineering
10	1004	Hexora	Manipal Academy of Higher Education
11	1007	Bitrangers	AP Shah institute of Technology
12	1010	Tristack Overflow	Manipal Academy of Higher Education
13	1012	Team Technexis	Lokmanya Tilak College of Engineering
14	1015	TEAM AURA	MGM's Jawaharlal Nehru Engineering College
15	1017	MetaMask	Vishwakarma Institute of Technology
16	1018	The Neurovox	RMD Engineering College
17	1023	Team SHLOK	Indian Institute of Informational Technology
18	1034	Hackvortex	K K Wagh Institute of Engineering Education and Research
19	1037	VishwaSena	Vishwakarma Institute of Technology
20	1040	Sentinel Nexus	Smt. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering

78 Finalists

No.	Team ID	Team Name	College Name
21	1042	Quantum Coders	Padre Conceicao College of Engineering
22	1043	Stack Minds	Thakur College of Engineering and Technology
23	1053	ViChaar	Vishwakarma Institute of Technology
24	1063	Technova	All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society's College of Engineering
25	1065	CodesterX	Deccan Education Society, Pune
26	1068	404-Terror	MGM's Jawaharlal Nehru Engineering College
27	1069	JD	National Forensic Sciences University
28	1075	The Last Semicolon;	SRM Institute of Science and Technology
29	1077	TechWizards	Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering
30	1088	FeedForward	Ajeenkya D Y Patil School of Engineering
31	1089	The Alchemists	All India Shri Shivaji Memorial Society's College of Engineering
32	1092	CurryCoders	Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering
33	1095	Debugging Daddys	Modern Education Society's College of Engineering
34	1105	Pancakes	MIT Art, Design & Technology University
35	1106	Smurfs	Army Institute of Technology
36	1107	404 Found	Ajeenkya D Y Patil School of Engineering
37	1108	Ctrl C Ctrl V	Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering
38	1113	Serendipity	Pimpri Chinchwad University
39	1126	Atrangi	Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering
40	1132	Creative Tanks	LNCT University

78 Finalists

No.	Team ID	Team Name	College Name
41	1133	Vanars	Sreenidhi Institute Of Science And Technology
42	1140	INFINITY LOOP	MIT Academy of Engineering
43	1146	TechWave	KLS Gogte Institute of Technology
44	1152	Neural Nurture	SRM Institute of Science and Technology
45	1173	Code & Pray	MIT Art, Design & Technology University
46	1175	AIM HIGH	Savitribai Phule Pune University
47	1178	The Compilers	SCTR's Pune Institute of Computer Technology
48	1181	MindForge	Deccan Education Society, Pune
49	1193	Hackspirants	Bansilal Ramnath Agarwal Charitable Trust's Vishwakarma Institute of Technology
50	1209	QuantumView	Vishwakarma University
51	1215	iamgroot	FR. C. Rodrigues Institute of Technology
52	1223	Igniters	MKSSS's Cummins College of Engineering for Women
53	1237	Eternum	SCTR's Pune Institute of Computer Technology
54	1238	Samvedna	MITWPU
55	1241	Mavericks	Walchand College of Engineering
56	1251	Brawn GP	SIES Graduate School of Technology
57	1252	TechFusion	Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil College
58	1266	NeuralNomads	Pune Vidyarthi Grihas College of Engineering and Technology
59	1271	Achievers	Indian Institute of Informational Technology
60	1273	YoungMonkss	Vidyalankar Institute of Technology

78 Finalists

No.	Team ID	Team Name	College Name
61	1280	Alt+F4	Marathwada Mitra Mandal's College of Engineering
62	1291	Debug Divas	Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal's Dwarkadas J. Sanghvi College of Engineering
63	1293	200_OK	Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering and Technology
64	1301	Trinetra	Sinhgad Academy of Engineering
65	1308	SpecForge	Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering
66	1317	Quantum Codex	Kolhapur Institute of Technology's College of Engineering
67	1319	Runtime Terrors	Bansilal Ramnath Agarwal Charitable Trust's Vishwakarma Institute of Technology
68	1321	Hacker	Vellore Institute of Technology
69	1325	MONOLITH	Bansilal Ramnath Agarwal Charitable Trust's Vishwakarma Institute of Technology
70	1333	BrainByte	LNCT University
71	1334	EL MATADOR	Bansilal Ramnath Agarwal Charitable Trust's Vishwakarma Institute of Technology
72	1342	Last_Minute_Chaos	Thakur College of Engineering and Technology
73	1344	SheServe	SRM University
74	1348	Cryptic	Deccan Education Society, Pune
75	1363	Soul Reapers	SIES Graduate School of Technology
76	1364	Synora	COEP Technological University

Inaugural Ceremony

The main day of the hackathon, April 3, 2026, commenced with breakfast for all participants at 8:30 AM. The formal inaugural ceremony was held at 10:00 AM in the presence of senior university leadership and a distinguished panel of industry professionals.

The following university dignitaries were present at the ceremony:

- Dr. R. M. Chitnis – Vice-Chancellor, MIT-WPU
- Dr. Siddharth Chakrabarti – Dean, School of Engineering and Technology
- Dr. Rohini Kale – Program Director, Department of Polytechnic and Skill Development

The event featured the following industry professionals as Chief Guest and Guests of Honour:

- Ms. Swati Sadineni – Senior Director, Software Engineering, NVIDIA
- Mr. Santosh Easale – Founder and CEO, OperforceAI
- Mr. Sanjay Patwardhan – Head, BI COE, Cybage Software
- Mr. Aneesh Nathani – Head of Service Line - Data and AI, Cybage Software
- Mr. Sarang Kamalakar – Founder and CEO, Parentheses Systems

The ceremony formally marked the commencement of the 24-hour build phase. Addresses delivered by the dignitaries and guests set the tone for the event, reinforcing its objectives and motivating participants ahead of the intensive hackathon schedule.

Round 3: Commencement of the Hackathon

Immediately following the inaugural ceremony, the 24-hour hackathon clock commenced. All 78 finalist teams proceeded to their designated workstations at the Vyas Building, MIT-WPU campus. The venue had been equipped with high-speed internet connectivity, uninterrupted power supply, projectors, and all necessary technical infrastructure to support teams throughout the event.

The specific problem statements for each of the six thematic domains were disclosed on the 2nd of April. Until this stage, teams were aware only of the broad domain categories. This decision was deliberate, intended to ensure that all solutions were developed from scratch within the 24-hour window and that no team could arrive with a pre-built project.

A dedicated Tech Support Team was made available on a 24-hour basis throughout the build phase. This team comprised senior faculty members and lab assistants from the Department of Polytechnic and Skill Development, and Department of Computer Engineering and Technology. Their responsibilities included assisting participants with environment configuration, cloud deployment, hardware interfacing, debugging, and other technical issues. This round-the-clock support ensured that teams could focus on core problem-solving and prototype development rather than troubleshooting setup or infrastructure issues.

Release Of The Problem Statements

On 2nd April at 14:00 hrs, the problem statements were officially released to the participants, marking the beginning of the core phase of the event. A total of six distinct domains were introduced, each carefully curated to cover a diverse range of fields and interests. These domains were designed not only to challenge participants intellectually but also to encourage interdisciplinary thinking and innovation.

The problem statements were structured to incorporate a significant level of technical complexity, ensuring that participants were required to apply critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and domain-specific knowledge. Rather than being purely theoretical, each problem was grounded in real-world scenarios, reflecting current industry needs and challenges. This approach aimed to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application, allowing participants to work on solutions that could have tangible impact.

Furthermore, the diversity of domains ensured inclusivity, enabling participants from different technical backgrounds to contribute effectively. The problems encouraged creativity, collaboration, and the exploration of emerging technologies, aligning with industry trends such as sustainability, digital transformation, and user-centric design. Overall, the release of these well-crafted problem statements set a strong foundation for meaningful engagement and innovative outcomes throughout the event.

PS ID	Title	Domain
SME01	Multi-Format Knowledge Retrieval Agent for SME Operations	Tools for SME
SME02	Autonomous RFP Response & Competitive Quotation Orchestrator	Tools for SME
SME03	Few-Shot Visual Quality Inspection System for Micro-Manufacturing	Tools for SME
FT01	Webhook Reconciliation Engine with Autonomous Ledger Healing	FinTech
FT02	Real-Time MSME Credit Scoring via Alternative Business Signals	FinTech
HC01	Agentic Diagnostic Risk Assistant for ICU Complication Detection	Healthcare & Accessibility
HC02	Contact-Free Cardiac Stress Monitoring via Facial Video Analysis (rPPG)	Healthcare & Accessibility
HC03	Golden-Hour Emergency Triage & Constraint-Based Hospital Routing System	Healthcare & Accessibility
ED01	AI-Assisted Answer Clustering & Grading Acceleration Engine	Education & Skill
ED02	Real-Time Procedural Skill Coach Using Hand-Tracking & Spatial Analysis	Education & Skill
EN01	Satellite-Based Urban Tree-Equity Auditor & Planting Prioritization Engine	Environment & Sustainability
EN02	Hyperspectral Methane Super-Emitter Detection, Quantification & Source Attribution	Environment & Sustainability
SC01	Predictive Last-Mile Transit Synchronizer with Dynamic Fleet Positioning	Smart Cities
SC02	Drone Image-Based 3D Infrastructure Defect Detection & Severity Scoring	Smart Cities

Industry Mentorship Session

A structured Industry Mentorship Session was conducted between 4:00 PM and 10:00 PM on April 3, 2026. A panel of 12 industry experts participated in this session, rotating between teams and providing focused, one-on-one guidance to each group. Following were the juries:
Amar Gangawane, Amit Shinde, Arya Bhivpathaki, Atharva Barve, Ayush Kulshreshtha, Ayushi Gupta, Devakanta Rao, Devesh Bhogre, Divyam Dholwani, Onkar Sonavane, Prateek Kuber, Radhakrishna Bhogte, Saahil Malge, Sahil Jaiswal, Saurabh Wani, Shreya Mukherjee, Shubham Chavan, Sunil Madhyan, Vaibhav Khinvasara

The session was scheduled approximately six hours into the build phase. At this stage, most teams had moved beyond initial ideation and were actively engaged in development. The timing was intentional, as mid-development feedback is most effective when teams have established a clear direction but still have sufficient time to incorporate improvements.

The mentors provided guidance across a range of areas, including technical architecture, data pipeline design, user experience considerations, and market applicability of the proposed solutions. Some teams used the session to validate and refine their existing approach, while others made significant adjustments to their prototypes based on the feedback received.

In post-event feedback, the mentorship session was consistently identified as one of the most valuable components of IGNISIA 2026. Participants noted that direct access to industry professionals provided insights that are not typically available within an academic setting. This input had a visible impact on the quality and direction of the final submissions.

Food and Refreshment Arrangements

Recognising that sustained energy and physical comfort are essential to participant performance during a 24-hour event, the organising committee implemented a comprehensive food and refreshment plan. Meals were served at regular intervals throughout the hackathon, including breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late-night refreshments.

In addition to scheduled meals, dedicated tea, coffee, and snack stations were set up within the hackathon venue itself, ensuring that participants could access refreshments at any time without needing to leave the building. The menu was planned to accommodate a range of dietary preferences.
The food and accommodation category received an average rating of 4.6 out of 5 in the post-event participant survey – the highest score across all evaluated parameters. This result confirms that the logistical and hospitality arrangements met or exceeded participant expectations and contributed positively to the overall event experience.

Midnight Jamming Session

At approximately 2:00 AM on April 4, 2026, a live jamming session was organised within the hackathon venue. By this point, teams had been working continuously for nearly 16 hours, and the activity was designed to serve as an informal break to re-energise participants during the overnight build phase.

The session featured impromptu musical performances by participants and volunteers. While informal in nature, it served a clear purpose by providing a mental reset during the most demanding stretch of the hackathon. It also contributed to building a sense of community and camaraderie among teams who had otherwise been focused on their individual workstations.

In post-event feedback, multiple participants identified the jamming session as one of the most memorable and appreciated elements of the event.

The Twist: Surprise Problem Modifications

Concurrent with the jamming session, the organisers introduced an element referred to as “The Twist” – surprise modifications to the original problem statements across all six thematic domains. Teams were not given any prior notice of these changes.

The rationale behind The Twist was to simulate real-world conditions in which project requirements evolve during development. In professional software and product development environments, shifting requirements, new constraints, and changing client expectations are common. This element was designed to test participants’ adaptability, resilience, and ability to iterate under pressure.

Teams were given until 11:00 AM on April 4, 2026 to integrate the modified requirements into their existing prototypes and finalise their submissions. This provided approximately nine hours for adaptation, although the challenge was compounded by the fact that most participants had not slept.
In post-event feedback, participants consistently described The Twist as both challenging and stimulating. It served as an effective differentiator in the final evaluation, as the teams that handled the modifications most creatively and effectively emerged as some of the strongest performers in the competition.

Final Jury Evaluation

By the morning of April 4, 2026, all 78 teams had completed their prototypes and were prepared for evaluation. It is important to note that all submissions were fully functional, demonstrable prototypes – not conceptual presentations or slide decks. These solutions were built entirely from scratch within the 24-hour window, making the quality of output particularly noteworthy given the time and physical constraints involved.
An expert jury panel comprising the Chief Guest, Guests of Honour, and senior faculty members conducted the evaluation. Each team was allocated a structured presentation slot during which they were required to present their prototype, explain their technical approach and AI methodology, and provide a live demonstration of the working solution.

The evaluation criteria included innovation and originality of the AI solution; technical depth of implementation (including model accuracy, data handling, and system architecture); real-world applicability and deployment potential; quality of integration of The Twist modifications; and overall clarity, structure, and persuasiveness of the presentation.

The jury evaluated each submission individually and thoroughly before arriving at the final rankings. The organisers ensured that the evaluation process was conducted with care and rigour, in recognition of the significant effort invested by every participating team.

Valedictory Ceremony

The valedictory ceremony was held at 4:30 PM on April 4, 2026, formally bringing IGNISIA 2026 to a close. The ceremony was attended by all dignitaries, including Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Milind Pande, Dean Dr. Siddharth Chakrabarti, Program Director Dr. Rohini Kale, the Chief Guest, Guests of Honour, and the organising faculty.

Winners were announced, and prizes and certificates were distributed to the top-performing teams across all categories. All participants received certificates of participation in recognition of their contribution to the event.

Closing addresses by the dignitaries acknowledged the quality of work produced during the hackathon, the collaborative spirit demonstrated by participants throughout the event, and MIT-WPU's commitment to continuing and expanding initiatives of this nature in the coming years. For the participants, many of whom had been on campus since April 2, 2026, the ceremony marked the culmination of three intensive days of preparation, development, and competition.

Participant Feedback

Post-eventfeedback was collected from all participants upon the conclusion of IGNISIA 2026. The quantitative ratings are summarised below:

The session featured impromptu musical performances by participants and volunteers. While informal in nature, it served a clear purpose by providing a mental reset during the most demanding stretch of the hackathon. It also contributed to building a sense of community and camaraderie among teams who had otherwise been focused on their individual workstations.

In post-event feedback, multiple participants identified the jamming session as one of the most memorable and appreciated elements of the event.

PARAMETER	RATING
Overall Experience	4.5 / 5
Food and Accommodation	4.6 / 5
Pre-Event Communication and Organisation	4.3 / 5

Qualitative feedback highlighted several aspects of the event as particularly noteworthy. Participants appreciated the structured, multi-stage format of the competition – registration, qualifier round, and finals – describing it as professional and well-organised. The industry mentorship session was frequently cited as one of the most valuable components of the event. The Twist was described as both challenging and engaging, while the food and accommodation arrangements received the highest ratings across all categories.

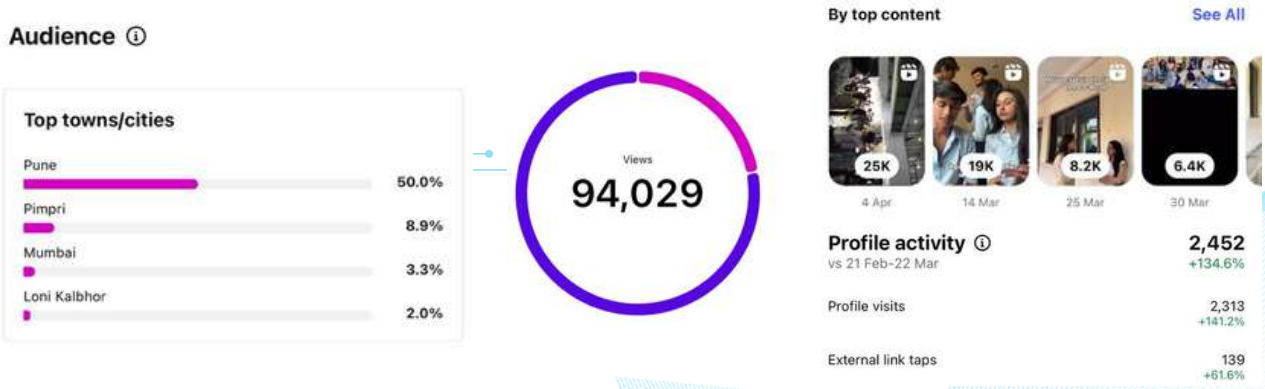
A recurring theme in the feedback was the positive impact the event had on participants' confidence and problem-solving capabilities. Many attendees observed that building a functional prototype within 24 hours under real-world constraints was a new and highly enriching experience, significantly enhancing their technical and collaborative skills. The overall atmosphere of the event was described as collaborative rather than purely competitive, with teams exchanging ideas during breaks and even assisting neighbouring teams with technical challenges. Several participants also reported forming meaningful professional connections during the event.

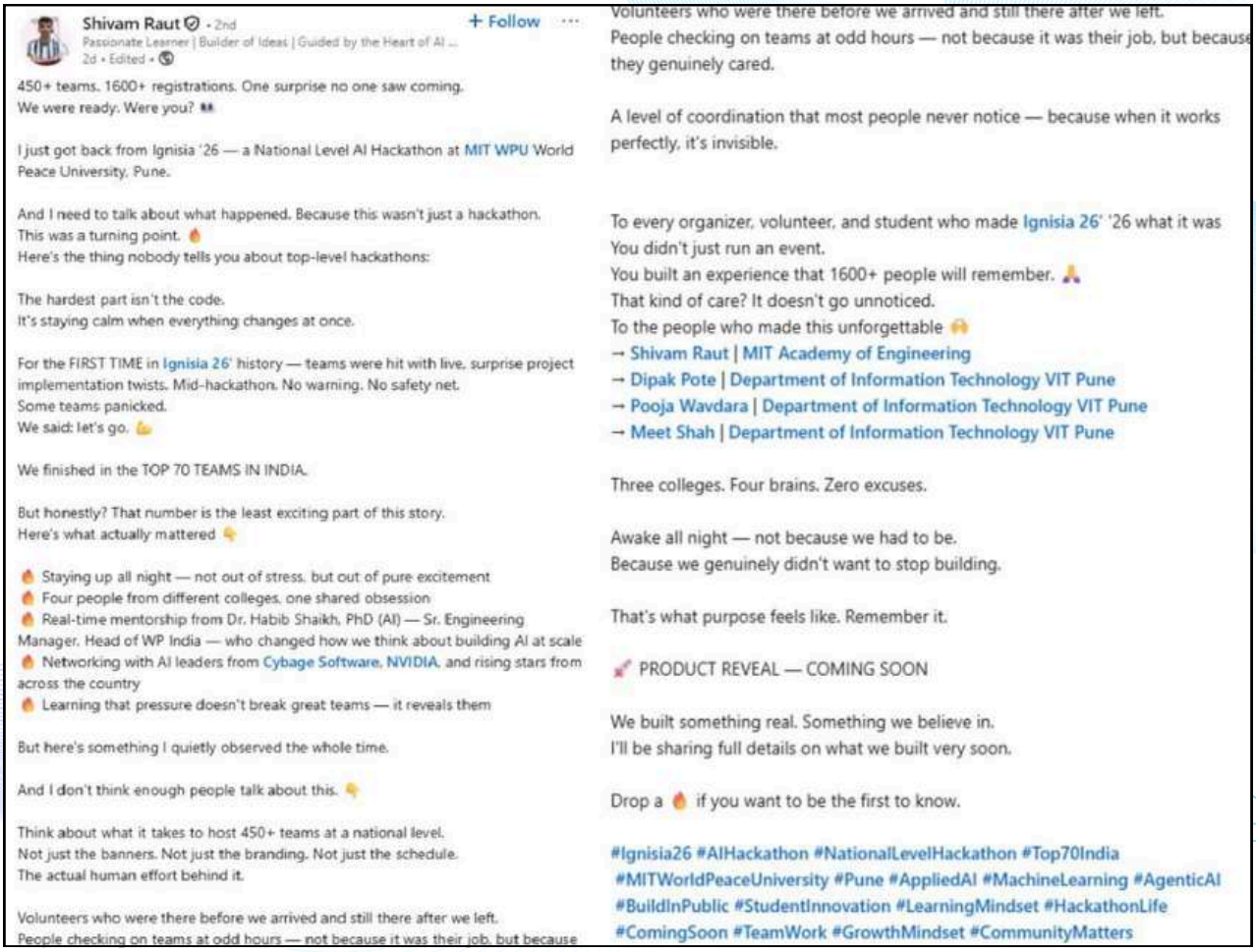
Digital Reach and Social Media Impact

IGNISIA 2026 generated significant engagement across social media platforms, particularly LinkedIn and Instagram. Participants, organisers, and attendees actively shared posts, stories, and updates throughout the event, amplifying its visibility and reach well beyond the physical campus.

Content shared by participants included photographs of their workstations and team setups, highlights from the jamming session, and post-ceremony celebratory updates. The organisers maintained a parallel stream of official event updates across their social media channels.

The organic nature of this digital engagement – driven primarily by genuine participant enthusiasm rather than a formal marketing campaign – is indicative of the positive experience delivered by the event. The resulting social media traction further contributed to strengthening MIT-WPU's visibility as an institution that actively supports student innovation and industry-academia collaboration.





Shivam Raut • 2nd
Passionate Learner | Builder of Ideas | Guided by the Heart of AI ...
2d • Edited •
+ Follow

450+ teams. 1600+ registrations. One surprise no one saw coming.
We were ready. Were you?

I just got back from Ignisia '26 — a National Level AI Hackathon at MIT WPU World Peace University, Pune.

And I need to talk about what happened. Because this wasn't just a hackathon.
This was a turning point.
Here's the thing nobody tells you about top-level hackathons:

The hardest part isn't the code.
It's staying calm when everything changes at once.

For the FIRST TIME in Ignisia 26' history — teams were hit with live, surprise project implementation twists. Mid-hackathon. No warning. No safety net.
Some teams panicked.
We said: let's go.

We finished in the TOP 70 TEAMS IN INDIA.

But honestly? That number is the least exciting part of this story.
Here's what actually mattered

- Staying up all night — not out of stress, but out of pure excitement
- Four people from different colleges, one shared obsession
- Real-time mentorship from Dr. Habib Shaikh, PhD (AI) — Sr. Engineering Manager, Head of WP India — who changed how we think about building AI at scale
- Networking with AI leaders from Cybage Software, NVIDIA, and rising stars from across the country
- Learning that pressure doesn't break great teams — it reveals them

But here's something I quietly observed the whole time.

And I don't think enough people talk about this.

Think about what it takes to host 450+ teams at a national level.
Not just the banners. Not just the branding. Not just the schedule.
The actual human effort behind it.

Volunteers who were there before we arrived and still there after we left.
People checking on teams at odd hours — not because it was their job, but because they genuinely cared.

A level of coordination that most people never notice — because when it works perfectly, it's invisible.

To every organizer, volunteer, and student who made Ignisia 26' '26 what it was
You didn't just run an event.
You built an experience that 1600+ people will remember.
That kind of care? It doesn't go unnoticed.
To the people who made this unforgettable
→ Shivam Raut | MIT Academy of Engineering
→ Dipak Pote | Department of Information Technology VIT Pune
→ Pooja Wavdara | Department of Information Technology VIT Pune
→ Meet Shah | Department of Information Technology VIT Pune

Three colleges. Four brains. Zero excuses.

Awake all night — not because we had to be.
Because we genuinely didn't want to stop building.

That's what purpose feels like. Remember it.

PRODUCT REVEAL — COMING SOON

We built something real. Something we believe in.
I'll be sharing full details on what we built very soon.

Drop a if you want to be the first to know.

#Ignisia26 #AIHackathon #NationalLevelHackathon #Top70India #MITWorldPeaceUniversity #Pune #AppliedAI #MachineLearning #AgenticAI #BuildInPublic #StudentInnovation #LearningMindset #HackathonLife #ComingSoon #TeamWork #GrowthMindset #CommunityMatters

Closing Note

IGNISIA 2026, in its inaugural edition, achieved results that place it firmly among notable national-level student hackathons. With over 450 registered teams, more than 1,600 individual participants, 78 finalists, and a post-event overall rating of 4.5 out of 5 from attendees, the event has established a strong benchmark in terms of both scale and quality.

The success of the event is attributable to the collaborative efforts of university leadership, faculty convenors, and industry professionals who contributed their time and expertise as mentors and jury members, as well as the student organising committee led by Vivaan Mathur. Most importantly, the event was made meaningful by the 1,600+ students from across India who registered, travelled to campus, and fully committed themselves to the challenge.

MIT World Peace University has indicated its intention to make IGNISIA an annual event, with plans to expand its scale, thematic scope, and industry engagement in subsequent editions. The strong foundation laid by IGNISIA 2026 provides a credible basis for this growth, and the university is well-positioned to build on the momentum generated by this inaugural edition.