



NEXT-GEN FOUNDERS

FAQ

2026–27 EDITION • IDEAS FOR INDIA’S PROGRESS

Grades 5 –12 | Schools Across India

GRADES

5–12

TEAM

2 students

SUBMISSION

9 Oct – 5 Nov

TOP 100

14 Nov

Clear answers for participation, submission, evaluation and the next stage.

01 ABOUT THE COMPETITION

Q What is Next-Gen Founders?

Next-Gen Founders is a student innovation and entrepreneurship programme where you identify a real-world problem, develop a solution and take ownership of your idea.

Q What is the theme?

Ideas for India's Progress

You can develop your idea under any one of these five areas:

- 1. Sustainable India** — Water conservation, waste management, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and environmental protection.
- 2. Technology for People** — Accessibility, safety, inclusion and everyday solutions.
- 3. Healthy Communities** — Health, hygiene, wellbeing and assistive solutions.
- 4. Learning & Skills for Tomorrow** — Education, learning, skill development and future readiness.
- 5. Smart & Self-Reliant Communities** — Mobility, infrastructure, local systems and community needs.

02 ELIGIBILITY & TEAM RULES

Q Which students can participate in?

Students from **Grades 5–12** from schools across India.

Q How many students can be in a team?

Each team must have **2 students**.

Q Can students from different grades form a team?

Yes. Students from different grades can form a team, provided both students are in Grades 5–12.

Q Can students from different schools form a team?

Yes. Students from different schools can form a team, provided both students meet the eligibility criteria.

Q I do not have a teammate. Can I still participate?

Yes. You can **submit it independently in Phase 1**. If selected in the Top 100, you must add a second eligible student before entering Phase 2.

Q Can I be part of more than one team?

No. A student can be part of only one team.

Q How many ideas can I submit?

There is **no limit** on the number of ideas you can submit. Each idea must be submitted separately.

Q Can I apply without my school nominating me?

Yes. You can apply independently. School nomination is not required.

Q Who cannot participate?

Students officially part of the **YuviPep Young Founders Network** and finalists from the previous edition are not eligible.

03 YOUR IDEA

Q Does my idea have to be technical?

No. Your idea can be simple or advanced. Start with a real problem. Technology is a tool, not the starting point.

Q What should my idea explain?

Your idea should clearly answer:

PROBLEM — What problem are you solving?

USER — Who is affected?

RESEARCH — What did you learn or find?

SOLUTION — What are you proposing to create?

IMPACT — What could change if it works?

Q Can I research existing products or solutions?

Yes. Research is encouraged. However, you cannot copy an existing idea or submission. You should be able to explain what is **different or meaningful** about your approach.

Q What if I am not sure which theme my idea belongs to?

Choose the challenge area that is closest to the problem you are solving.

04 HOW DO I APPLY?

Q Where can I apply?

You can complete the submission in either of two ways:

OPTION 1 — YUUIPEP WEBSITE

Visit the official YuviPep website for the Next-Gen Founders submission details and form.

OPTION 2 — OFFICIAL QR CODE

Scan the official Next-Gen Founders QR code provided on the programme poster/document.

Both options provide access to the official submission process.

Q What is the submission period?

9 October – 5 November 2026

Q What form will I submit?

Your idea will be submitted through the official **submission form**.

Q What information will I need to provide?

Student/team details, selected challenge area, the problem and people affected, research/observations/evidence, proposed solution and expected impact.

Q What should I check before submitting?

Make sure your idea is clearly explained, your information is complete and accurate, your submission represents your own thinking, the correct challenge area is selected, and all attached links can be opened by the evaluators.

Q What happens if my submission is incomplete?

Submissions are checked for **eligibility, completeness and accuracy** before evaluation. Incomplete or invalid submissions may be removed before evaluation.

05 PROTOTYPE & FOUNDER VIDEO

Q Do I need a working prototype for Phase 1?

No. A working prototype is not required for Phase 1.

Q Do I need a business plan?

No. A business plan is not required for Phase 1.

Q Do I have to use specific hardware or software?

No. You can use any hardware, software, programming language, platform or technology for your idea or prototype.

Q Is the Founder Video compulsory?

No. It is optional. You may submit a Founder Video of up to 90 seconds explaining the problem, who faces it, your solution and why it matters.

Q Can I attach links to videos, documents or other material?

Yes. Make sure every link you submit is set as "View For All" so the evaluation team can access it.

06 AI, ORIGINALITY & STUDENT OWNERSHIP

Q Can I use AI?

Yes. AI can be used for research, brainstorming, learning, coding, design and development support. However, your submission **must not be completely AI-generated**.

Q What does student ownership mean?

You must understand your idea and be able to explain your decisions and work. Teachers, parents, mentors and experts can guide and support you, but they should not complete the project for you.

Q Can someone else build my project for me?

No. The idea, understanding, development and presentation must remain student-driven.

07 PHASE 1 EVALUATION

Q How will my idea be evaluated?

Problem Understanding — 15 marks

Solution Clarity & Practicality — 20 marks

Innovation & Creativity — 25 marks

Impact & Relevance — 25 marks

Student Ownership — 15 marks

Total — 100 marks

Innovation & Creativity and Impact & Relevance carry the highest weight.

Q Do I need an advanced prototype to get selected?

No. Phase 1 focuses on the **quality and potential of your idea and your understanding of it**. A sophisticated prototype is not required.

08 TOP 100

Q When will the Top 100 be announced?

14 November 2026

Q How will I know if I am selected?

Selected teams will be informed through their **registered email ID** and added to the official programme group for Phase 2 communication.

Q What happens if I entered Phase 1 alone and get selected?

You must add a **second eligible student** before entering Phase 2.

Q Is there another elimination immediately after the Top 100?

No. The Top 100 move into the development stage and complete the required onboarding before Phase 2.

09 PHASE 2 & GRAND FINALE

Q What happens after I am selected in the Top 100?

Selected teams develop their ideas further through **BUILD → TEST → IMPROVE → CHECKPOINTS → GRAND FINALE**.

Q What are the checkpoints?

Checkpoint 1 — Solution & Build Review: Show what you have understood, built and learned.

Checkpoint 2 — Prototype Progress Review: Show how your project has developed and improved.

Q Will the complete Phase 2 rules be available now?

No. Detailed Phase 2 rules, prototype requirements, checkpoints, judging criteria and Grand Finale requirements will be shared with shortlisted teams at the relevant stages.

Q When is the Grand Finale?

The date will be announced separately through official programme communication.

Q What happens at the Grand Finale?

Selected teams will present their projects, participate in judging and take part in the main-stage programme and awards. Be prepared to explain **Problem → Solution → Testing → Impact**.

10 COSTS, SAFETY & PERMISSIONS

Q Who pays for project and participation costs?

Costs related to **components, materials, prototyping, development, travel and participation** are to be borne by the **participating students or team**.

Q Where can I get the required components?

The required components are available for purchase on the YuviPep Store. Participants may also contact the official communication channels provided for any assistance or guidance regarding component selection and procurement.

Q Will permissions be required?

Required student, parent/guardian and applicable participation permissions will be collected through the official programme process.

11 PRIZES & RECOGNITION

Q What can participants receive?

TOP 3 TEAMS

Cash Awards + National Recognition + Opportunities to Take Your Idea Further

Potential opportunities may include incubation, showcase, industry exposure and seed-support opportunities, subject to the final programme and partner structure.

TOP 4–15

Cash Awards + Young Innovator Recognition + Certificates

TOP 100

National Recognition + Certificate + Opportunity to Continue into Phase 2

Final prize details and additional opportunities will be communicated through official programme channels.

12 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT

Q Where will I receive updates?

Official updates will be shared through the **YuviPep website**, **official programme email** and **official participant group**.

Q Should I regularly check official communication?

Yes. Check official communication for results, deadlines, Phase 2 requirements, checkpoints, event information and required actions.

Q Where can I get help?

For questions or clarification about eligibility, teams, submission, themes or the competition process:

Email: nextgenfounders@yuvipep.com

Mobile (Whatsapp): 9108432939

IMPORTANT

The Official Rule Book is the primary reference for competition rules and requirements.

Detailed Phase 2 and Grand Finale information will be communicated to selected teams through official channels.

QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATION

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