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INCUBATION
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NALANDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION

Parivartan

E-NEWSLETTER

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Parivartan

A Step Towards Change

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Message from CEO



Dear Ecosystem Family,

As we reflect on the second quarter of FY 2026–27, I am pleased to look back on a period of continued progress in strengthening innovation, entrepreneurship, and ecosystem engagement across Odisha. Initiatives such as the Regional AIM SUMVAAD – East Chapter, Odisha School Innovation Challenge, Odisha Tinker Marathon, and L.E.A.D. 2.0 created meaningful platforms for collaboration and grassroots innovation.

Our incubation efforts also moved forward with the launch of Vritika-WCIP 2.0 and Samarth 2.0, along with the successful Demo Days of IdeaNest 6.0 and 7.0. At the same time, our ATL and Fab Lab engagements continued to provide students and educators with hands-on exposure to emerging technologies and innovation.

The recognition of three innovators associated with AIC-Nalanda as Grassroot Innovators and MooRopan India's selection among the 54 finalists of Vande Bharatam added to the quarter's highlights. These achievements reinforce our belief in the potential of grassroots ideas and the importance of providing the right platforms and support to help them grow.

As we move forward, we remain committed to creating opportunities that enable innovators and entrepreneurs to transform ideas into meaningful and sustainable solutions.

Warm Regards



Durga Prasad Gouda
CEO, AIC-Nalanda

AIM SUMVAAD

The Regional AIM SUMVAAD – East Chapter is a strategic regional engagement initiative of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, designed to strengthen collaboration and deepen innovation linkages across Eastern India. It brings together policymakers, incubators, industry leaders, startups, academic institutions, and ecosystem enablers for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collective action towards building stronger and more connected innovation ecosystems.



Held on 3rd July 2026 at O-Hub, Bhubaneswar, this edition brought together 97 stakeholders from Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal to strengthen regional innovation and entrepreneurship. The conclave featured policy briefings, industry discussions, and interactive ecosystem huddles on incubation, grassroots innovation, and startup-led growth. A key highlight was the launch of the AIM Odisha Chapter, which aims to strengthen collaboration among AICs and ACICs. The event also explored opportunities across emerging sunrise sectors under the theme “Purvodaya – Building an Ecosystem for Sunrise Sectors.”



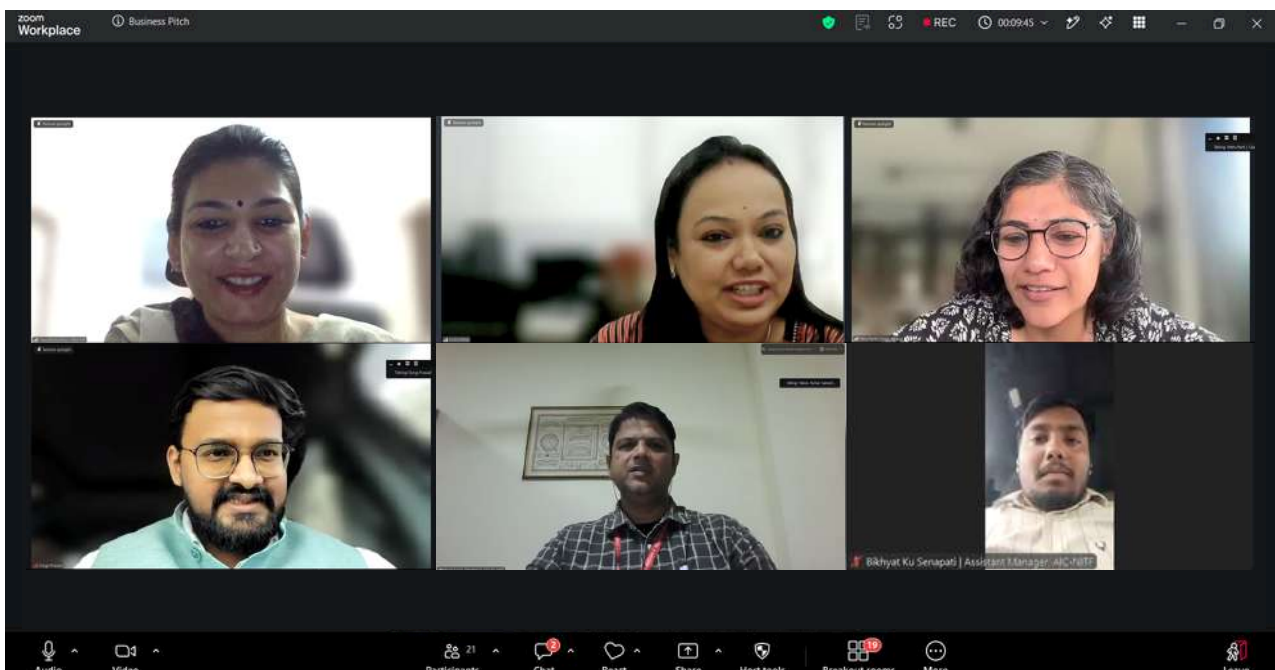
TEJAS Nuapada Edition

AIC-Nalanda served as ecosystem partner for the **TEJAS: Nuapada Edition**, a DPIIT initiative fostering entrepreneurship in aspirational districts, organised by Startup Odisha. The event featured multiple sessions and engagements. In one of the session, led by **Mr. Durga Prasad Gouda**, CEO, AIC-Nalanda, he highlighted rural enterprise opportunities and strengthening local startup ecosystems. These collaborative engagements reinforce AIC-Nalanda's ongoing commitment to delivering robust incubation support and driving impactful entrepreneurial growth.

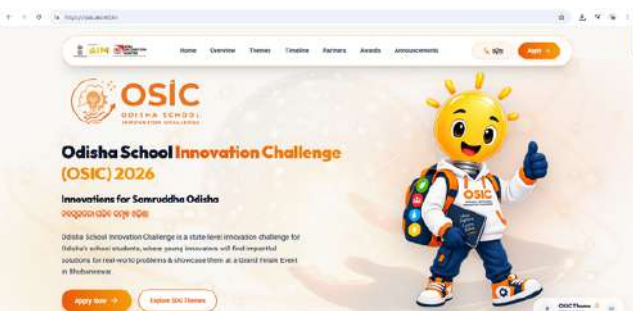




AIC-Nalanda officially launched the **Odisha School Innovation Challenge (OSIC) 2026** on 8th September 2026. The state-level initiative provides a dynamic platform for students in Classes VI to X across Odisha to showcase working prototypes and advanced proof-of-concept solutions that address real-world challenges. Inaugurated virtually in the presence of delegates from the Atal Innovation Mission, QUEST Alliance and Panchasakha Sikhya Setu, the program aims to foster entrepreneurial thinking, strengthen grassroots problem-solving, and nurture a statewide culture of student-led innovation.



Official Tagline
"ନବସୃଜନତା ଗଢ଼ିବ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା"



MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0

Nalanda Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, through its MSME Business Incubator, actively supported the outreach for MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0, encouraging students, aspiring innovators, entrepreneurs, and MSMEs to participate in the national-level innovation initiative.

The hackathon seeks to identify promising ideas and support their development through incubation, expert mentorship, and financial assistance, enabling participants to move towards sustainable and scalable enterprises in line with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat @2047.



MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0 Virtual Roadshow



AIC-Nalanda organised a Virtual Roadshow for the MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0 on 11th July 2026, engaging over 200 prospective participants. The awareness session introduced aspiring innovators to the program's key themes, eligibility criteria, and application guidelines. By highlighting essential requirements and providing strategic insights, the initiative empowered students and entrepreneurs to structure and submit their innovative ideas effectively, strengthening their readiness to participate in this national innovation drive.

“No matter how brilliant your mind or strategy, if you're playing a solo game, you'll always lose out to a team.”

– REID HOFFMAN

L.E.A.D. 2.0 Thinkcamp

ThinkCamp is a joint initiative of Youth4Water Plus and AIC-Nalanda, designed as an experiential learning bootcamp to promote innovation, design thinking, and entrepreneurial problem-solving among students across Odisha. The initiative focuses on helping young minds identify real-world challenges, understand user needs, generate ideas, and develop structured solutions through guided learning. ThinkCamp also introduces participants to L.E.A.D. 2.0, raising awareness of opportunities to develop sustainability- and SDG-focused solutions.



Institute Reached so far

- Srusti Academy of Management and Technology, Bhubaneswar
- GIFT Autonomous College, Bhubaneswar
- Ravenshaw University, Cuttack

Odisha Tinker Marathon: Results Announcement

AIC-Nalanda officially announced the results of the **Odisha Tinker Marathon (OTM) – Student Innovation Program**, selecting the **Top 50 teams** from across the state. The initiative aims to nurture creativity, problem-solving, and innovation among young minds. By empowering student innovators to design and build impactful solutions, the program continues to strengthen grassroots innovation and foster a technology-driven ecosystem for the creators of tomorrow.



INCUBATION

L.E.A.D. 2.0: Annoucement

AIC-Nalanda, in collaboration with Youth4Water Plus and UNICEF Odisha, officially launched L.E.A.D. 2.0 (Leading Eco-preneurs for Action & Development) on 12th August 2026 during the Odisha Conference of Youth (OCOY) 4.0. Announced in the presence of Smt. Sulochana Das, Hon'ble Mayor of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, the incubation program supports youth-led innovations addressing water, climate action, and sustainability. The initiative empowers young eco-preneurs, enabling their promising ideas to evolve into impactful, scalable ventures.

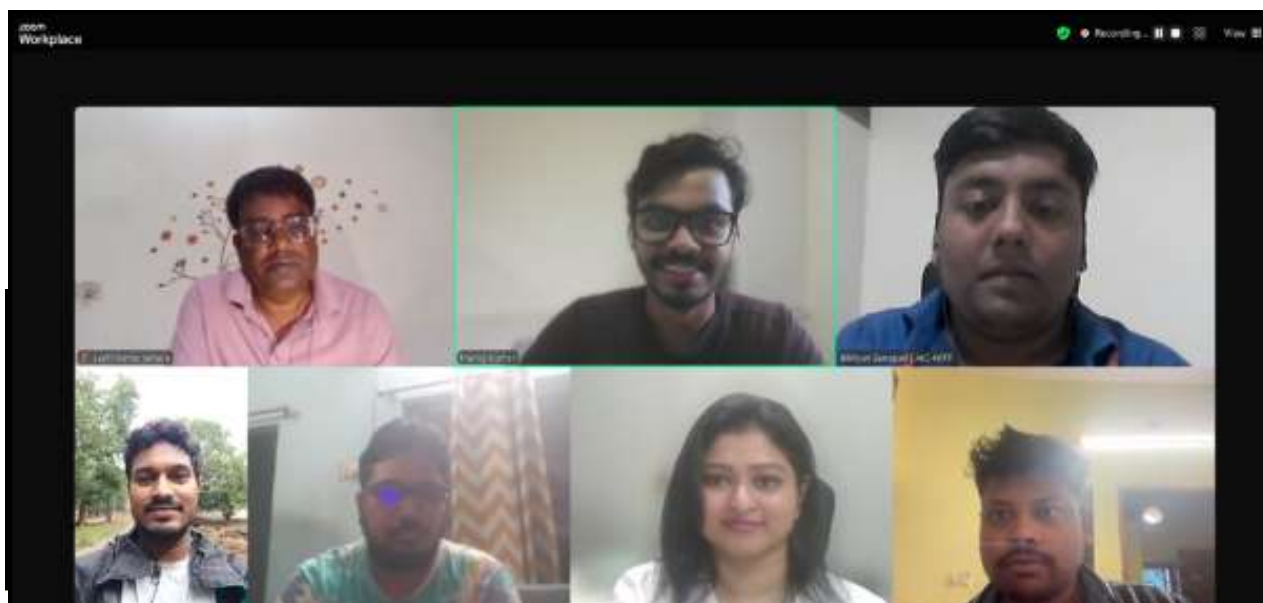


इन्वेंटि 4.0

AIC-Nalanda, in collaboration with Startup Odisha, officially launched VRITIKA-WCIP 2.0 on 2nd July 2026, welcoming 17 women-led startups. The 12 to 14-week virtual incubation program supports ventures across fashion, food, livelihoods, beauty, and handicrafts. Through structured mentoring, sector-specific workshops, and comprehensive guidance on branding, legal compliance, and investor readiness, the initiative empowers women entrepreneurs to accelerate business growth and build sustainable, scalable enterprises.

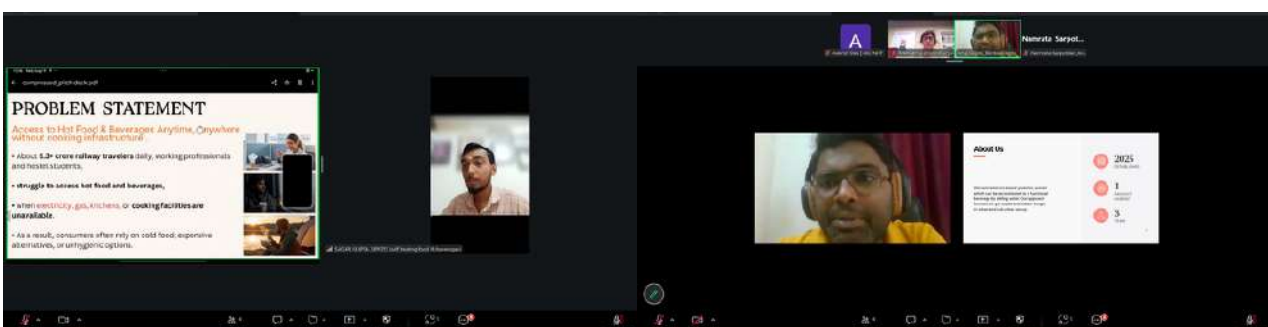
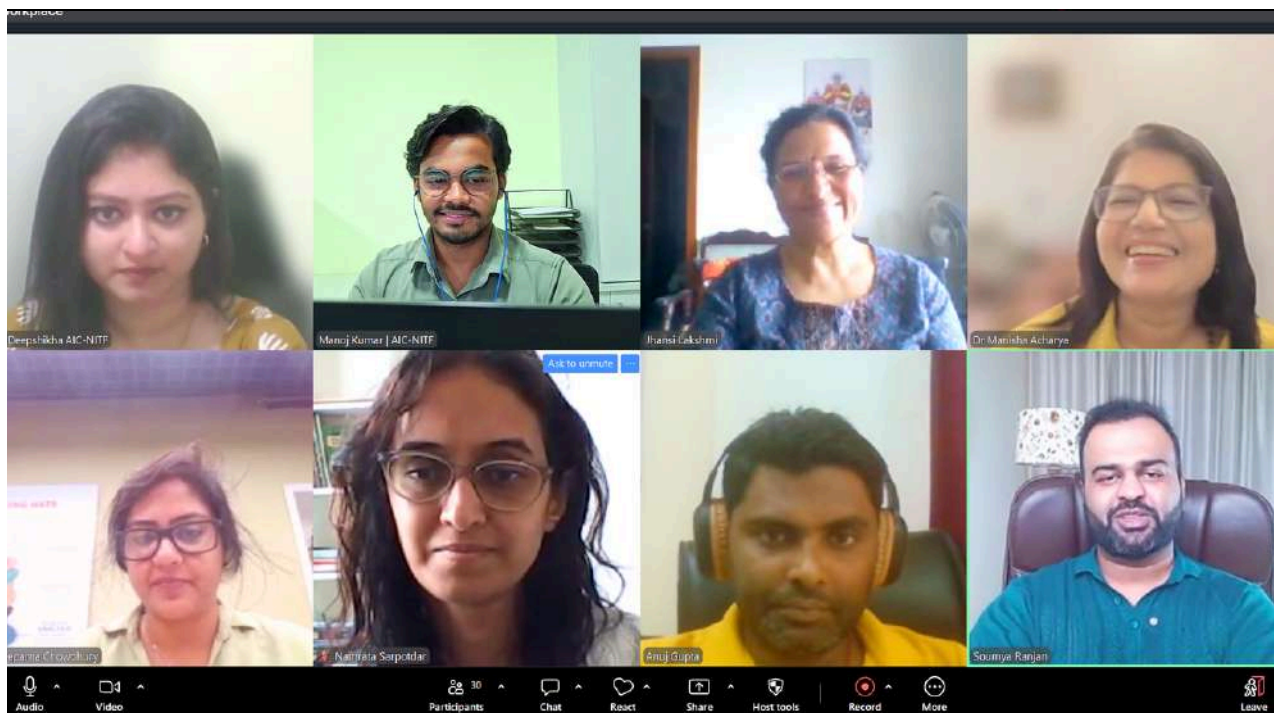


AIC-Nalanda officially launched Samarth 2.0, its flagship incubation program dedicated to empowering SC/ST-led startups, welcoming a cohort of 15 early-stage ventures. Building on the success of its first edition, the program provides structured incubation, capacity building, business development, and investor readiness support. The initiative aims to foster sustainable enterprise growth and create meaningful, scalable opportunities for entrepreneurs from marginalized communities within the innovation ecosystem.



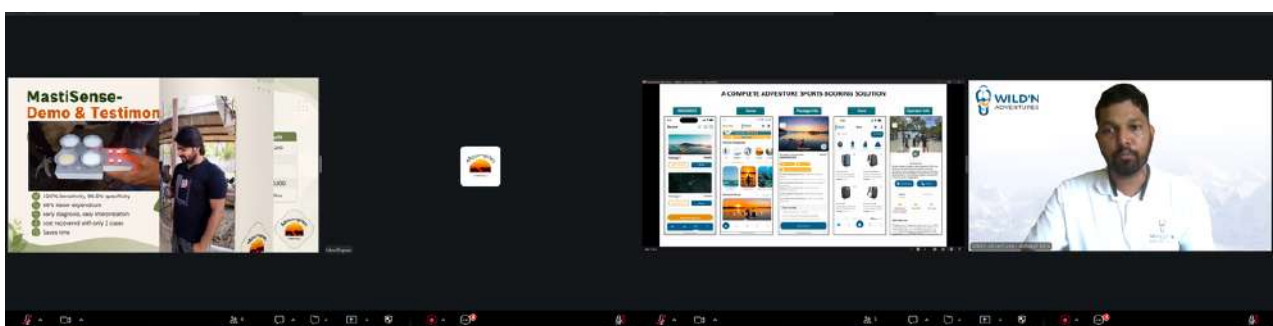
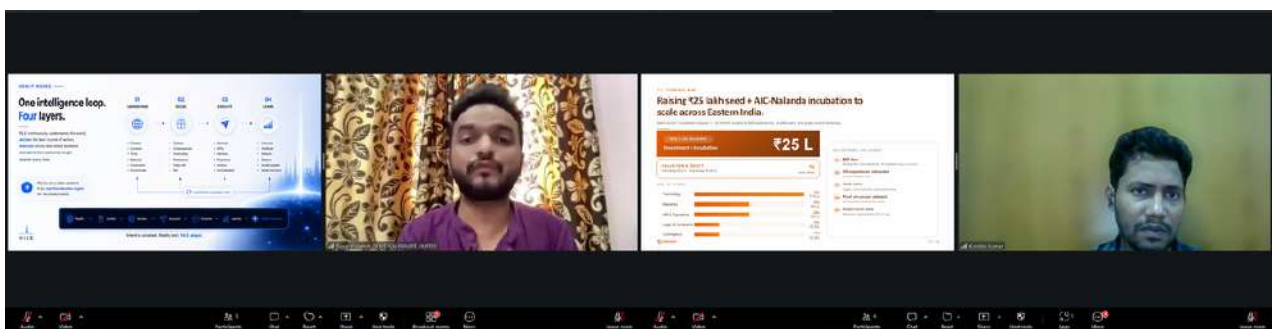
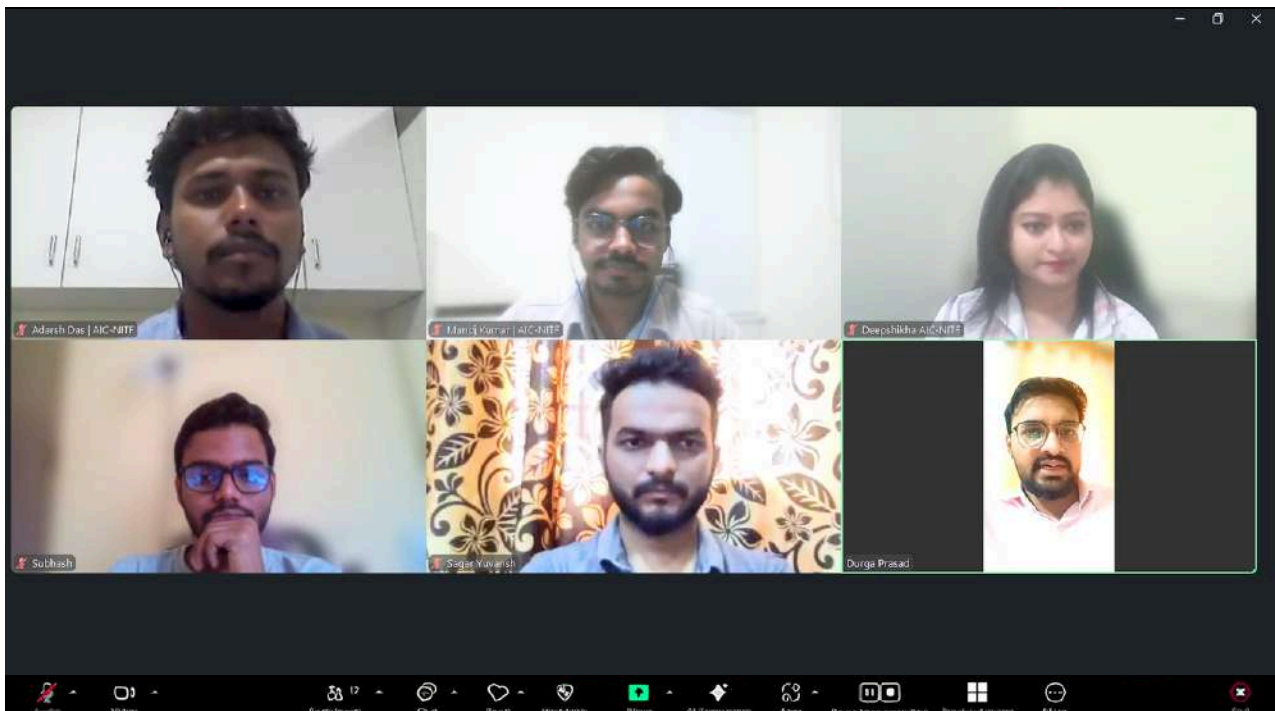
Demo Day

AIC-Nalanda successfully organised the IdeaNest 6.0 Demo Day on 20th August 2026, marking the culmination of its 10-week Pre-Incubation Program. The event provided a dynamic platform for 25 early-stage startups to pitch their innovations, business models, and market potential before an expert panel of investors and evaluators. Founders received constructive feedback and strategic industry insights, enabling them to refine their solutions, strengthen their ventures, and accelerate their entrepreneurial journey.



Demo Day

AIC-Nalanda successfully organised the IdeaNest 7.0 Demo Day on 21st August 2026, marking the culmination of its 10-week student-focused Pre-Incubation Program. The event provided a dynamic platform for 11 student teams to showcase their innovative ideas, progress, and business models before an expert panel of industry evaluators. Participants received constructive feedback and strategic insights, empowering them to refine their solutions and explore further avenues for sustainable venture development.



Tinker Camp - Dhenkanal

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda organised a Tinker Camp at PM SHRI Government Girls' High School, Dhenkanal, on 11th August 2026, engaging over 100 students in hands-on learning. The camp introduced participants to emerging technologies, including IoT, Drone Technology, 3D Design, and the fundamentals of Intellectual Property Rights. Concluding with an interactive idea-pitching session, the initiative strengthened exposure to grassroots innovation while encouraging students to explore practical, technology-driven solutions to real-world challenges.



“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

– FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Capacity Building Programme for ATL In-Charges

AIC-Nalanda successfully concluded a three-day State-Level Capacity Building Programme for ATL In-Charges of **Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir (SSVM)** schools at SSVM, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar. Engaging over 70 ATL In-charge across Odisha, the initiative provided hands-on training in ATL operations, design thinking, IoT, digital fabrication, and drone technology. In collaboration with Shikshya Vikash Samiti, Odisha, the program empowered educators to build innovation-driven learning environments, fostering grassroots creativity and problem-solving to support the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.



3-Day Training on Internet of Things (IoT)

Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir (SSVM), Brajarajnagar

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda successfully conducted a 3-Day Internet of Things (IoT) Training Program at Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir (SSVM), Brajarajnagar, engaging over 50 students. The program introduced participants to IoT fundamentals, sensor interfacing, and smart device development through interactive demonstrations and project-based learning. Concluding with a project showcase and certificate distribution, the initiative enhanced technical skills and fostered grassroots innovation, encouraging students to explore practical applications of emerging connected technologies.



3-Day Training on Internet of Things (IoT)

Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Talcher

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda successfully conducted a 3-Day Internet of Things (IoT) Training Program from 20th to 22nd July 2026 at Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir (SSVM), Talcher, engaging 50 students. Through interactive demonstrations and project-based learning, participants explored IoT fundamentals, sensor integration, and microcontrollers. The initiative enhanced students' technical skills and practical understanding of emerging connected technologies while encouraging grassroots innovation, problem-solving, and a technology-driven mindset among young learners.



5-Day Training on Drone Technology

Saint Arnold School, Kalinga Vihar, Bhubaneswar

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda successfully conducted a 5-Day Training Workshop on Drone Technology at Saint Arnold School, Bhubaneswar, engaging 50 students. The program introduced participants to UAV fundamentals, drone assembly, flight simulation, and practical operations through interactive and hands-on sessions. Concluding with a live drone flying demonstration and certificate distribution, the initiative enhanced participants' technical skills and practical understanding of emerging technologies while encouraging grassroots innovation and STEM exploration.



OCOY 4.0 – Odisha Conference of Youth

As part of Odisha Conference of Youth (OCOY) 4.0, ECO-SHOW was jointly organised by UNICEF, Youth 4 Water Plus, and AIC-Nalanda from 10th to 12th August 2026 in Bhubaneswar. The showcase brought together sustainability-focused startups to present innovative solutions addressing environmental and climate-related challenges.

ECO-SHOW created an interactive platform for founders to engage with youth delegates, ecosystem stakeholders, development partners, and industry representatives. The showcase encouraged knowledge exchange, networking, and potential collaborations while strengthening visibility for climate entrepreneurship and innovation-led solutions. It was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, who interacted with the participating startups and teams.



Bharat Pitchathon 5.0

AIC-Nalanda partnered with Headstart Network Foundation for Bharat Pitchathon 5.0, a premier startup discovery initiative spanning 30+ cities. Designed for early-stage startups, women, and student founders, the platform empowered ambitious startups to pitch and scale.

Building on a legacy of 4,500+ applications, 1,300+ investor connections, and over ₹100 Cr raised previously, the program successfully facilitated critical funding validations, robust ecosystem support, and accelerated growth for India's emerging ventures.



Partnership with Quest Alliance

AIC-Nalanda partnered with Quest Alliance as a key strategic collaborator for the Odisha School Innovation Challenge 2026. Backed by NITI Aayog and the Atal Innovation Mission, this joint initiative aimed to inspire and empower young innovators across the state. By laying the groundwork for early-stage problem-solving, the partnership strengthened the grassroots ecosystem, equipping students with the essential support and mentorship required to drive meaningful, long-lasting impact.



MEETUP

Women Founder Meetup

NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore, AIC-Nalanda, and Startup Odisha jointly organised the Women Founder Meetup on 23rd July 2026 at O-HUB, Bhubaneswar. The meetup brought together women founders, aspiring entrepreneurs, and ecosystem stakeholders for meaningful discussions on community-driven entrepreneurship. Key highlights included a Women Startup Program alumni experience, a panel discussion, a program overview, and an interactive Q&A, followed by networking, enabling participants to exchange insights and explore opportunities for collaboration and growth.



BOOTCAMP

Innovation Bootcamp at Centurion Public School

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda organised an Innovation Boot Camp at Centurion Public School, Paralakhemundi, on 19th August 2026. The hands-on program introduced students to emerging technologies, including IoT, Drone Technology, 3D Printing, Design Thinking, and Intellectual Property Rights. Concluding with an idea-pitching session, the initiative provided practical exposure beyond conventional classrooms, fostering grassroots problem-solving skills and encouraging students to explore technology-driven innovation.



BOOTCAMP

Bootcamp at Raajdhani Engineering College

AIC-Nalanda, in collaboration with Rajdhani Engineering College, Bhubaneswar, organised an Ideation & Design Thinking Bootcamp on 11th September 2026, engaging around 60–65 students. The session introduced participants to user-centric problem solving, idea generation, Design Thinking, and the Idea Canvas framework. The programme also provided an overview of the startup ecosystem, key stakeholders, and AIC-Nalanda's support initiatives, including L.E.A.D. 2.0, helping students explore innovation and entrepreneurship as practical pathways.

**BOOTCAMP**

Bootcamp at Govt. College of Engineering, Bhawanipatna

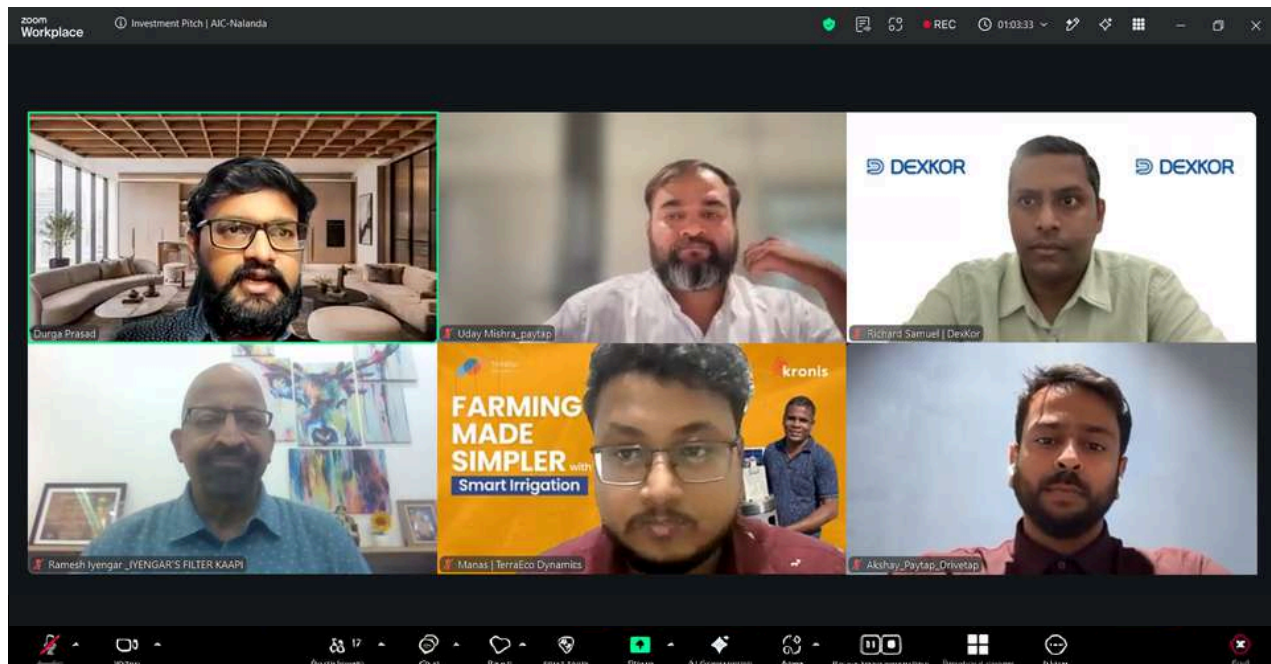
AIC-Nalanda, in collaboration with Government College of Engineering, Bhawanipatna, organised a Ideation & Design Thinking Bootcamp on 31st July 2026, engaging 75 students across four engineering and management disciplines. Participants explored user-centric problem-solving, idea generation, and structured innovation using the Idea Canvas. Divided into 15 interdisciplinary teams, students developed and refined their ideas with mentor guidance, with 10 teams presenting their Idea Canvas for feedback and validation.



INVESTMENT PITCH

Investment Pitch: September

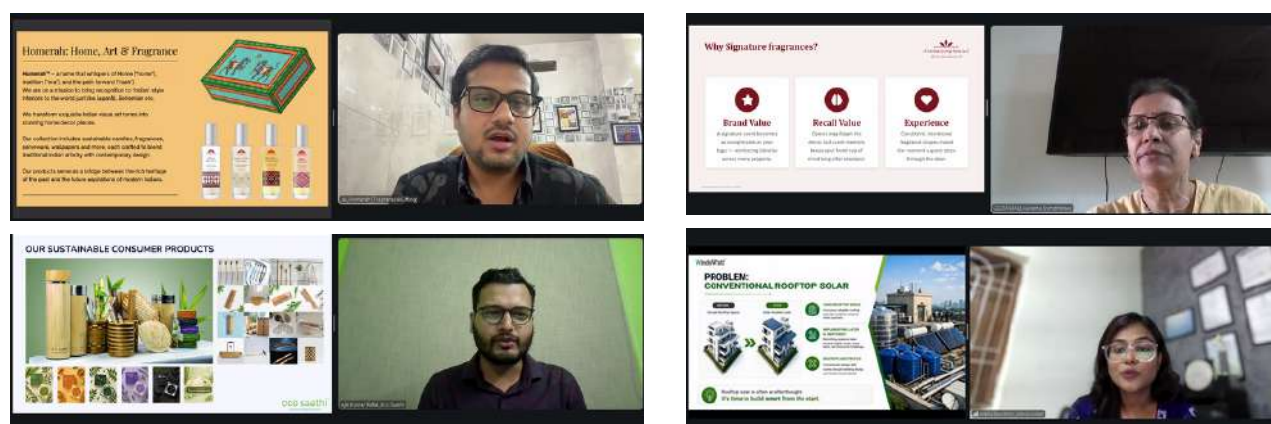
AIC-Nalanda organised the 2nd Edition of Investment Pitch on 23rd September 2026, bringing together 8 incubated startups and 6 investors on a virtual platform. The session provided startups with an opportunity to present their business models, growth strategies, and funding requirements before investors from networks including India Accelerator, Inflection Point Ventures, Venture Catalyst, Indian Angel Network, and MeritX Ventures. Each startup also participated in a dedicated Q&A, enabling meaningful investor interaction and valuable insights into their fundraising journey.



BUSINESS PITCH

Business Pitch: September

AIC-Nalanda organised a Business Pitch on 3rd September 2026 as a closed-door virtual engagement connecting startups with established business entities across Real Estate, Hospitality, and Education. The session provided startups with dedicated opportunities to present their offerings, interact directly with industry representatives, and receive practical feedback. Through sector-focused discussions, the engagement helped participating founders explore potential business opportunities, validate their approaches, and strengthen their overall business readiness.



2-Day Design Thinking Workshop

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda successfully organised a 2-Day Design Thinking Workshop on 7th and 10th August 2026, engaging 52 Innovation Club members. Mentored by Program Manager Mr. Manoj Kumar Dandapat, Program Manager, AIC-Nalanda, the interactive sessions introduced participants to a human-centred approach to problem-solving, ideation, and collaborative design. The initiative enhanced members' ability to analyze real-world challenges, fostering creativity and an innovation-driven mindset essential to developing meaningful, sustainable solutions.



2-Day Workshop on Internet of Things (IoT)

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda organised a 2-Day Internet of Things (IoT) Workshop on 21st and 22nd August 2026, engaging 52 Innovation Club members. Mentored by CIO Mr. Manas Kumar Samantaray and Assistant Manager Mr. Raghumani Rohidas, the interactive sessions introduced fundamental IoT concepts, applications, and technology-driven problem-solving. The initiative empowered participants to explore connected technologies, enhancing their technical skills and encouraging the development of innovative solutions for real-world challenges.



2-Day Additive Manufacturing Workshop

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda successfully organised a 2-Day Workshop on Additive Manufacturing on 12th and 13th August 2026, engaging 52 Innovation Club members. Mentored by CIO, Mr. Manas Kumar Samantaray and Assistant Manager, Mr. Raghupati Rohidas, the program provided hands-on exposure to digital design, prototyping, and modern fabrication techniques. The initiative empowered young innovators to transform concepts into physical prototypes, strengthening their technical skills and fostering an ecosystem of technology-driven solutions.



2-Day Workshop on Electric Vehicle

Fab Lab, AIC-Nalanda successfully organised a 2-Day Training Workshop on Electric Vehicle (EV) Technology on 26th and 28th September 2026. The program introduced participants to the rapidly evolving field of electric mobility, comprehensively covering EV fundamentals, battery technologies, and charging systems. Through interactive sessions and practical insights, the initiative empowered students to explore sustainable transportation, enhancing their technical knowledge and encouraging grassroots innovation within the growing electric vehicle ecosystem.



Grassroot Innovators of Odisha



Three innovators associated with AIC-Nalanda— **GARGI Automated & Robotic Gadget Industries**, **Newrup Tech Solutions** and **Urban Hyphae**—were recognised as **Grassroot Innovators** by **Atal Innovation Mission** and got invited for an interaction with the **Hon'ble President of India** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on 31st July 2026**. The recognition highlights the strength of grassroots innovation and the potential of locally driven solutions to create meaningful impact.



AIC-Nalanda's incubated startup MooRopan India, founded by Dr. Ankita Pagedar Singh, was selected among the **54 finalists of Vande Bharatam**, an initiative by the **Adani Group**, from over 26,000 applications received nationwide. The recognition highlights MooRopan India's continued efforts in developing practical, technology-driven solutions for cattle healthcare and fodder management, contributing to accessible and impactful innovations for farmers and the dairy ecosystem.

Employee Updates

Probationers



Mr. Sritam Kumar Jena



Mr. Vivek Kumar Singh



Mr. Rakesh Kumar Mohapatra

Celebrations at 2nd Home



Mr. Adarsh Das | 2nd August 2026



Mr. Manoj Kumar Dandapat | 4th August 2026



Mr. Manas Kumar Samantray | 13th August 2026



Mr. Nitish Kumar Sahoo | 22nd August 2026

“A successful team is a group of many hands and one mind, where every victory is a shared celebration.”

– BILL BETHEL

AIM-AiPEX

AIM-AiPEX 2026 is a capacity-building programme organised by **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **IIM Calcutta Innovation Park**, bringing together incubation professionals for expert-led sessions, case studies, practical exercises, and peer learning focused on strengthening incubation and startup support. The three-day programme covered key areas such as incubator models, startup sourcing, programme design, customer segmentation, product-market fit, Go-to-Market strategy, Design Thinking, mentoring, fundraising, governance, and compliance.

Representing AIC-Nalanda, **Mr. Manoj Kumar Dandapat**, Program Manager – Incubation, participated in the 3rd Edition of **AIM-AiPEX 2026**, held from **27th-29th July 2026**. The participation provided practical perspectives and peer learning that can contribute to strengthening programme design, founder engagement, mentoring structures, and startup support at AIC-Nalanda.





ATAL INCUBATION CENTRE

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