



Union Minister for Education Shri Pralhad Joshi to inaugurate Seva First Innovation Challenge at IISc Bengaluru

Will bring together young participants from five southern states and three union territories

Registration for the Event will be open from September 25 to October 24, 2026

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The Union Minister for Education Shri Pralhad Joshi will inaugurate the Seva First Innovation Challenge (SFIC), tomorrow, at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. The Initiative will encourage young people to identify problems they see in their communities and develop solutions that can be tested, improved and taken towards implementation. The Challenge will cover five states and three union territories including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

The Challenge will bring together young participants from schools, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), polytechnics, colleges and universities. It has three levels of participation –Junior, Technical and Open. School students from class 6 to Class 12 can participate at the Junior level. At this level, students can identify local problems and develop simple working solutions or well-reasoned service and governance ideas. Students from ITIs and polytechnics will focus on hands-on engineering, fabrication, electronics and process solutions, while undergraduate students, postgraduates and research scholars will be expected to demonstrate prototypes or pilots with a credible pathway to deployment.

The Challenge will focus on five national themes, namely 1) Clean and Sustainable Bharat, 2) Prosperous Farmers, Prosperous Bharat, 3) Healthy and Inclusive Bharat, 4) Educated and Skilled Bharat and 5) Secure Bharat. Registration for the Event will be open from September 25 to October 24, 2026. It will culminate in the National Finale to be held in New Delhi from December 10 to 17, 2026.

Participants will have access to academic and industry mentorship, laboratories, fabrication facilities, testing support, incubation, seed and pilot funding, field-testing opportunities and guidance on intellectual property protection. Promising solutions can also be connected with Ministries, State Governments, urban and rural local bodies, public sector undertakings and industry for possible adoption.

The Challenge is being organised jointly by the Union Education Ministry, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC) with IISc Bengaluru serving as the nodal institute.

The initiative aims to foster a culture of community-rooted innovation, enabling young people to move from identifying problems to building solutions and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

For more details, please visit the official website: <https://sevafirst.mic.gov.in/>



The poster for the Seva First Innovation Challenge features the Ministry of Education logo at the top. The title 'Seva First' is in large, stylized blue and green letters, with 'Innovation Challenge' below it. A blue banner reads 'A National Youth-led Problem-solving and Innovation Movement'. A yellow circular badge indicates 'Total Prize Money 5.4 cr'. The registration period is '25 September to 24 October, 2026'. The central image shows Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a man in a red shirt, with students in the foreground looking at a modern building and solar panels. A QR code is provided for registration, with the text 'Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore' and the website 'sevafirst.mic.gov.in'.

शिक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION

Seva First

Innovation Challenge

A National Youth-led Problem-solving
and Innovation Movement

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25 September to 24 October, 2026

Scan QR Code

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Visit: sevafirst.mic.gov.in

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