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HackNexus Hackathon Event 1

HackNexus: Agentic AI Hackathon using IBM Watsonx and IBM Cloud

Date: 23rd September 2025
Venue: Vishwakarma University, Pune, Maharashtra
Organized by: Edunet Foundation in collaboration with IBM SkillsBuild for Academia

Introduction

The **HackNexus – Agentic AI Hackathon with IBM Watsonx** was conducted on 23rd September 2025 at **Vishwakarma University, Pune**, with participation from six leading engineering institutes across Maharashtra.

Over the past quarter, more than 1,800+ engineering students from various institutes participated in immersive workshops and Guided Learning Experiences (GLEs) focused on artificial intelligence, cloud computing and design thinking. Delivered through IBM's advanced learning platforms and tools, these sessions offered hands-on exposure to real-world applications.

From this cohort, 6 institutes comprise of 36 students were nominated to represent their institutions at the hackathon, where they engaged in practical project development, structured mentorship and competitive evaluation. Participants built and demonstrated solutions using IBM watsonx.ai and IBM Cloud under the guidance of IBM volunteers and Edunet faculty mentors. Final presentations were evaluated by a jury panel, with 100+ Vishwakarma GLE students attending the reviews to foster shared learning.

The hackathon was designed to demonstrate how **agentic AI systems** can be applied to solve pressing challenges across domains such as healthcare, agriculture, sustainability, and governance. Students worked with **IBM Watsonx.ai, LangFlow, IBM Granite models, and IBM Cloud**, guided by mentors from IBM and Edunet Foundation.

This event also marked the **culmination of the July–September Guided Learning Experience (GLE) cohort**, celebrating the successful skilling of over **11,000 learners** in AI, cloud, and emerging technologies, across Maharashtra in quarter June to Sept 2025.

Hackathon Purpose

To provide practical experience via a hackathon model of delivery on AI and cloud computing literacy among engineering students using IBM's watsonx.ai and IBM Cloud platforms.

1. **Showcasing the Partnership**

   - Highlight the collaboration between IBM SkillsBuild, Edunet Foundation, and engineering institutes to promote scalable, industry-aligned learning.
   - Edunet Foundation, as IBM's implementation partner, has delivered the Guided Learning Experience (GLE) to over 11,000 students across Pune and neighbouring regions in the last Quarter (June to Sept).

2. **Celebrating GLE Completion**

   - Celebrate the successful completion of the July–September GLE cohort.
   - Participating teams in the hackathon were shortlisted from GLE pool, thereby building anticipation and interest to participate in future GLE for such opportunities.

3. **Reflecting on SkillsBuild Impact**

   - To showcase in a single event all benefits of the program, from course consumption in SB, credentialing, GLE and its core precepts and visibility for achievement.
   - Provide a moment to acknowledge and thank institutional and program stakeholders for their consistent support.

4. **Showcasing the Partnership**

   - Highlight the collaboration between IBM SkillsBuild, Edunet Foundation, and engineering institutes to promote scalable, industry-aligned learning.

Implementation Model and Outreach

- 1,800**+ students** had been engaged in preparatory GLE and orientation activities across Maharashtra. Students from institutes that previously participated in the **GLE (Guided Learning Experience)** sessions were invited to participate.

- Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation, K b Joshi Institute of Information technology, Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology, PES's Modern College of Engineering, Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering, and Vishwakarma University have nominated students for this hackathon. 12 **Teams** (2 teams each from 6 engineering colleges), 36 Hackathon Participants In total supported by 6 faculties for coordination.
- The hackathon follows a structured engagement format:

  - **Pre-Hackathon Orientation & Training:** To ensure preparedness, structured mentoring, trainings were organized introduce IBM Cloud, Watson AI, and development tools.

- **Virtual Training Sessions (11th–13th September 2025):**

  Overview of IBM Watsonx.ai, Granite models, and LangFlow.

  Cloud deployment basics on IBM Cloud.

  LangFlow deep-dive by Adarsh Sriraganavar (IBM)

- **Mentoring Period (11th–22nd September 2025):**

  o Each of the 12 teams was assigned mentors.
  o Students received guidance on project framing, model usage, and technical integration.
  o The mentoring process created continuity and confidence leading into the hackathon day.

The hackathon was a unique One-day physical Event where teams of students from Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation, K b Joshi Institute of Information technology, Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology, PES's Modern College of Engineering, Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering, and Vishwakarma University attended where they development projects using Langflow integrated with IBM Watsonx and Granite.

Focus Domains & Problem Statements

The curated **15 problem statements** reflected India's developmental priorities and innovation opportunities:

- **Domains:** Healthcare, Agriculture, Sustainability, Education, CareerTech, Travel, Governance.

- **Examples:** Nutrition Agent, Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention Agent, AI Legal Aid Multi-Agent System, Smart Farming Advice Agent, Air Quality Action Agent, Intelligent Shopping Agent.

This diversity allowed teams to explore **societal impact, deployment readiness, and market viability** in their prototypes.

Jury & Evaluation

- **IBM Jury Members:** Vinay Udekar**,** Adarsh Shiragannavar, and Dhiraj Kumar Dambare

- **IBM Mentors/Volunteers:** Jagmohan Bayas, Sanjay Deshpande, and Tushar Bedekar

Evaluation Criteria (30 marks):

- Usage of IBM Cloud & Granite Models

- Scalability and Innovativeness

- Contribution/Benefit to Society

- Readiness for Deployment

- Commercial Viability

- Future Scope

This rigorous framework ensured **balanced assessment of technical skills, innovation, and real-world applicability**.

Outcomes and Benefits

- All **12 teams delivered functional prototypes** built with IBM technologies.
- Students demonstrated capacity to translate **concepts into deployable workflows** within time-bound constraints.
- Domains such as **legal aid, healthcare, and sustainable farming** saw particularly strong solutions.
- Jury noted the projects showed **early incubation potential**.

Key Benefits for Stakeholders:

- **Students:** Hands-on experience, peer learning, recognition, and career pathways.
- **Institutes:** Visibility for innovation and integration of IBM SkillsBuild into academic culture.
- **IBM & Edunet:** Reinforcement of thought leadership in **applied skilling and agentic AI adoption**.

Winners & Recognition

- 1st Place: Visionary Autonomous Pioneer – Vector Store RAG Agent for DIP Diet
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place
- Runner-Ups
- Certifications & Mementoes to Faculties and Students

Certificates and mementoes were distributed to all participants. Winning teams received special recognition and consideration for internship opportunities.

Annexures

- **Annexure 1: Attendees** – 36 learners, 6 faculty mentors,6 IBMers, 6 Edunet team members.

- **Annexure 2: Problem Statement List** – 15 curated challenges.

- **Annexure 3: Event Agenda** – Timed flow of hackathon.

- **Annexure 4: Press Release & Media Coverage** – Shared for review and approval institutions, social media posts to scheduled soon

Annexure 1: Attendees

S No	Attendees	Designation	College Name
1	Aditya Kadwade	Student	PES's Modern College of Engineering
2	Ananya Barve	Student	PES's Modern College of Engineering
3	Pushkar Jawale	Student	PES's Modern College of Engineering
4	Payal Santosh Bagade	Student	PES's Modern College of Engineering
5	Srushti Pramod Zode	Student	PES's Modern College of Engineering
6	Vasudha Somnath Kshirsagar	Student	PES's Modern College of Engineering
7	Aniket Laxman Zimane	Student	Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation
8	Abhay Prabhakar Sangale	Student	Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation
9	Kiran Dadarao Janjal	Student	Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation
10	Ishwar Gadade	Student	Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation
11	Varun Bhagwat	Student	Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation
12	Arjunsingh Rajput	Student	Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation
13	Aadarsh Pathre	Student	Vishwakarma University
14	Varun Inamdar	Student	Vishwakarma University
15	Piyush Dhoka	Student	Vishwakarma University
16	Piyush Kumar	Student	Vishwakarma University
17	Shravan Patel	Student	Vishwakarma University
18	Atharva Borkar	Student	Vishwakarma University
19	Harshita Varma	Student	K.B.Joshi Institute of Information Technology
20	Shailaja Kshirsagar	Student	K.B.Joshi Institute of Information Technology
21	Vedvathi Aacharya	Student	K.B.Joshi Institute of Information Technology
22	Sejal Patil	Student	K.B.Joshi Institute of Information Technology
23	Sayli Kumbhar	Student	K.B.Joshi Institute of Information Technology
24	Aadnya Bhawar	Student	K.B.Joshi Institute of Information Technology
25	Sampada Sanjay Akkar	Student	Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology
26	Devendra Laxman Dhokare	Student	Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology
27	Rushil Rahul Dhale	Student	Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology
28	Pruthviraj A. Shinde	Student	Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology

29	Kinjal P. Jadhav	Student	Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology
30	Siddhant N. Lokhande	Student	Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology
31	Divya Chaudhari	Student	Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering
32	Kshitija Ghan	Student	Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering
33	Tanishqa Shetkar	Student	Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering
34	Soham Muley	Student	Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering
35	Komal	Student	Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering
36	Aditya Tilekar	Student	Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering
37	Dr. Hanchate Vandana Vijaykumar	Faculty	PES's Modern College of Engineering
38	Dr. Pravin Latane	Faculty	Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Engineering and Innovation
39	Dr. Kailas Patil	Faculty	Vishwakarma University
40	Kirti (placement coordinator)	Faculty	K.B.Joshi Institute of Information Technology
41	Ms. Vidya E. Kadam	Faculty	Marathwada Mitra Mandals Institute of Technology
42	Dr. Payal Tayade	Faculty	Pune Vidyarthi Griha College of Engineering
43	Dhiraj Kumar Dambare	IBM Volunteer	IBM
44	Vinay Udekar	IBM Volunteer	IBM
45	Jagmohan Bayas	IBM Volunteer	IBM
46	Sanjay Deshpande	IBM Volunteer	IBM
47	Adarsh Shiragannavar	IBM Volunteer	IBM
48	Tushar Bedekar	IBM Volunteer	IBM
49	Krishna Kanth Naik	Program Manager, CSR, IBM	IBM
50	Yogesh Raje	Edunet Team	Edunet Foundation
51	Aditya Gajanan D	Edunet Team	Edunet Foundation
52	Bhupesh	Edunet Team	Edunet Foundation
53	Sricharani	Edunet Team	Edunet Foundation
54	Sami	Edunet Team	Edunet Foundation
55	Kush	Edunet Team	Edunet Foundation
56	Akshay Harkare	Edunet Team	Edunet Foundation
57	Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Marathe	Vice Chancellor	Vishwakarma University

Annexure 2: Problem Statements

- Problem Statement No.1: Nutrition Agent
- Problem Statement No.2: Agentic AI for Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention
- Problem Statement No.3: AI Legal Aid Multi-Agent System
- Problem Statement No.4: Sequential Task Agent – Investment Analyst
- Problem Statement No.5: Managing Content Overload for Blog Writers
- Problem Statement No.6: Intelligent Market Research Assistant
- Problem Statement No.7: Research Agent
- Problem Statement No.8: Document Q&A RAG Agent for Recipe Generator
- Problem Statement No.9 : Vector Store RAG Agent for DIP Diet
- Problem Statement No.10: Social Media Agent
- Problem Statement No.11: Intelligent Shopping Agent
- Problem Statement No.12: Smart Idea Generator Agent
- Problem Statement No.13: Smart Study Generator Agent
- Problem Statement No.14: AI Agent for Smart Farming Advice
- Problem Statement No.15: The Daily Air Quality Action Agent

Detailed problem statement with objectives and Mandatory Tech Stack can be found in the document uploaded to the box folder

Annexure 3: Broad Agenda

Time	Agenda	Speaker
09:30 AM – 10:00 AM	**Student Arrival, Registration & Welcome Refreshments**	Edunet Foundation
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	**Inaugural, Context & Expectation Setting**	Edunet Foundation
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	**Inaugural Address**	Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Marathe Vice Chancellor, Vishwakarma University
10:30 AM – 1:30 PM	**Hackathon Project Development Round 1**	Mr Yogesh Raje, Technical Lead, Edunet Foundation **IBM Mentors** Dhiraj Kumar Dambare Vinay Udekar Adarsh Shiragannavar
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM	**Submission of Projects**	-
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	**Lunch**	-
2:45 PM – 4:45 PM	**Project Demonstrations & Jury Interaction: Round 2**	Mr Yogesh Raje, Technical Lead, Edunet Foundation **IBM Jury Members:** Jagmohan Bayas, Sanjay Deshpande Tushar Bedekar
04:45 PM – 5:00 PM	**IBM Special Address**	Krishna Kanth Naik, Program Manager, CSR, IBM
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM	**Result Announcement**	Edunet Foundation
5:30 PM – 5:50 PM	**Valedictory & Felicitation Ceremony**	IBM and VU Representative
5:50 PM – 5:55 PM	**Vote of Thanks & Closing Remarks**	Edunet Foundation
6:00 PM onwards	**Hi-Tea**	

Press Release Note

IBM SkillsBuild and Edunet Foundation host AI innovation hackathon at Vishwakarma University Pune
or
Maharashtra's tech talent shines at IBM SkillsBuild AI Innovation Hackathon in Pune
or
Young innovators harness Agentic AI at IBM SkillsBuild Hackathon in Pune

36 learners from six institutes applied agentic AI to solve practical challenges, marking the SkillsBuild GLE cohort finale

Pune, 23 September 2025: Edunet Foundation, a leading non-profit working in the area of skilling, livelihood enhancement and STEM education, in collaboration with IBM, successfully hosted the IBM SkillsBuild Hackathon at Vishwakarma University, Pune on Tuesday, 23 September. The event highlighted the practical benefits of agentic AI in daily work and showcased problem-solving using next-generation AI and cloud technologies.

Over the past quarter, more than 1,800+ engineering students from six institutes participated in immersive workshops and Guided Learning Experiences (GLEs) focused on artificial intelligence, cloud computing and design thinking. Delivered through IBM's advanced learning platforms and tools, these sessions offered hands-on exposure to real-world applications.

From this cohort, 36 students were nominated to represent their institutions at the hackathon, where they engaged in practical project development, structured mentorship and competitive evaluation. Participants built and demonstrated solutions using IBM watsonx.ai and IBM Cloud under the guidance of IBM volunteers and Edunet faculty mentors. Final presentations were evaluated by a jury panel, with 100+ Vishwakarma GLE students attending the reviews to foster shared learning.

Speaking about the initiative, IBM spokesperson Mr. Krishna Kanth Naik said, *"We believe innovation flourishes when education and industry work hand in hand. IBM SkillsBuild enables students to move beyond theory and apply AI and cloud technologies to solve real-world challenges. The creativity and problem-solving we witnessed at this hackathon show how young minds, with the right guidance, can drive meaningful digital transformation."*

The hackathon also marked the completion of the IBM SkillsBuild program's July-September GLE cohort. Through this program, Edunet has empowered more than 11,000 learners across Maharashtra with emerging technology skills, strengthening career readiness for the evolving digital economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Nagesh Singh, Chairman, Edunet Foundation, said *"Through IBM SkillsBuild, we are witnessing the direct impact of experiential learning on student innovation. By combining classroom knowledge with practical challenges like this hackathon, young learners gain the confidence and capability to turn ideas into technology-driven outcomes."*

The IBM SkillsBuild AI Innovation Hackathon 2025 highlighted how structured mentorship, hands-on practice, and collaborative learning can unlock student potential. By fostering innovation and encouraging practical application of emerging technologies, IBM and Edunet Foundation are not only preparing learners for future careers but also cultivating a generation of problem-solvers who will contribute to India's digital growth story.

About Edunet Foundation

Edunet Foundation is a non-profit working in the area of skilling, livelihood enhancement and STEM education. Founded in 2015 Edunet Foundation is registered under sections 12AA and 80G of the Income Tax Act. EF has pan India presence with central offices in Bengaluru and Gurugram. All programs delivered by Edunet Foundation seek to raise the employability and entrepreneurial quotients of participants. It works with a diverse audience accessed through the national school eco-system, industrial training institutes, engineering colleges and other academic institutions. Skills imparted include career readiness and future skills like problem solving, communication, collaboration; and technical skills ranging from digital literacy to Cloud Computing to Artificial Intelligence.
Edunet Foundation has been a trusted implementation partner for top global technology companies and has been certified as a Great Place to Work for five years in a row. It also enjoys Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Conclusion

The HackNexus – Agentic AI Hackathon with IBM Watsonx successfully demonstrated the impact of experiential learning. By combining IBM's cutting-edge technology, Edunet's outreach model, and academic collaboration, the event showcased a replicable template for AI-driven skilling.

The hackathon not only created functional solutions to real problems but also built momentum for future initiatives, inspiring both students and institutions to continue their journey with IBM SkillsBuild.

Hackathon Photos