INNOVIT 2026

Phase 2 – Prototype & Progress Submission

Official Participant Guidelines

1. Introduction

INNOVIT 2026 is a student-centric innovation initiative aimed at promoting creative thinking, real-world problem solving, and hands-on technical development. The competition encourages participants to move beyond ideas and focus on building practical, scalable, and impactful solutions.

Phase 2 of INNOVIT 2026 is the Prototype & Progress Submission Round, conducted after the initial idea submission phase (Phase 1).
Only teams that have been successfully shortlisted after Phase 1 are eligible to participate in this round.

This phase does not expect a fully completed or market-ready product. Instead, it focuses on understanding:

- How effectively teams have refined and improved their original idea
- How well the idea has been translated into a working or partially working prototype
- Whether the team has a clear, feasible, and scalable plan to complete the solution before the finale

The emphasis is on progress, clarity, and seriousness of effort, rather than perfection.

2. Phase 2 Submission Details

Submission Link (Google Form):
Click here to submit for Phase 2

Tentative Submission Deadline:
📅 **7 February 2026**

⚠️ Late submissions, incomplete entries, or inaccessible links may not be considered for evaluation. Teams are strongly advised to complete their submission well before the deadline to avoid last-minute technical or connectivity issues.

3. Objective of Phase 2

The primary objective of **Phase 2 of INNOVIT 2026** is to evaluate the **growth, seriousness of effort, and implementation capability** of shortlisted teams since Phase 1. This phase acts as a **critical checkpoint** to assess whether teams have progressed beyond conceptual ideation and have begun converting their ideas into **tangible technical outcomes**.

Phase 2 is designed to measure **how ideas evolve into execution**, rather than judging final perfection. Judges aim to understand how teams think, build, iterate, and plan.

3.1 What Judges Are Looking For

During evaluation, judges will focus on the following key dimensions:

Idea Evolution & Refinement

- Improvements made after Phase 1 based on feedback, research, or deeper analysis
- Enhanced understanding of the problem, including user pain points, constraints, and real-world challenges
- Increased clarity and maturity in the solution approach

Innovation & Originality

- Clear value proposition and differentiation from existing solutions
- Creative problem-solving approaches or novel feature design
- Innovative use of technology, workflows, or user experience

Technical Progress & Understanding

- Evidence of actual implementation (working code, modules, integrations, or prototype components)
- Demonstrated understanding of chosen technologies and tools
- Logical code structure, documentation, and development practices
- Ability to explain technical decisions and problem-solving strategies

System Design & Architecture

- Clear and logical system architecture with understandable component interaction
- Justified technology stack aligned with the problem requirements
- Awareness of scalability, data flow, and future expansion
- Use of diagrams, flowcharts, or architecture visuals to support explanations

Implementation Roadmap & Feasibility

- A realistic and well-defined plan to complete the solution before the finale
- Clear breakdown of completed work, work in progress, and planned features
- Practical assessment of remaining effort, risks, and challenges

Team Commitment & Effort

- Consistency of work rather than last-minute implementation
- Evidence of collaboration through repository contributions
- Willingness to learn, adapt, and overcome challenges—especially for beginner teams

3.2 Progress vs. Perfection

Phase 2 does **not** expect a finished or market-ready product. Instead, it values:

✅ **What Is Valued**

- A working or partially working prototype with core functionality
- Honest documentation of current progress and future plans
- Modular or proof-of-concept implementations
- Clear explanations of what works and what is still under development

3.3 Target Progress Level

Teams are encouraged to implement **at least 50% of their core idea**, which includes:

- Demonstration of the main functionality
- A visible proof-of-concept
- Existence of foundational components (database, APIs, models, contracts, etc.)
- At least one complete and functional user flow

The focus is on **demonstrated understanding and execution**, not completeness.

4. Mandatory & Optional Submissions

4.1 Updated Presentation (Mandatory)

Each team must upload an updated presentation in PDF format.

- **Recommended length:** 8 slides

The presentation should clearly and logically explain:

- The problem background and why it is important
- The refined solution approach, including improvements made after Phase 1
- The overall system architecture or workflow

- Flowcharts or diagrams explaining the process
- Screenshots of the prototype, if available
- Technologies used or proposed, along with justification
- Innovative features, scalability, and future scope

📌 If no major changes were made after Phase 1, teams may upload the Phase 1 presentation. However, updating the PPT with better explanations, visuals, and clarity is strongly recommended to improve evaluation outcomes.

4.2 Prototype Development Progress (Mandatory)

Teams must demonstrate technical progress by submitting a public GitHub repository link.

Mandatory Requirements

- The repository must be public
- All development work must be pushed before submission
- A README.md file should be included with:
    - Project overview
    - Setup instructions
    - Current progress description

The repository may include (but is not limited to):

- Frontend development (UI/UX)
- Backend logic or APIs
- Database schemas or models
- Smart contracts or scripts
- Integration or testing work

✅ **Important:**
Even partial, modular, or incomplete implementations are acceptable. Judges are looking for genuine effort and technical understanding, not perfection.

4.3 Demo / Explanation Video (Mandatory)

Teams must submit a **screen-recorded demo or explanation video**.

- **Recommended duration:** 3-5 minutes

The video should clearly explain:

- The problem statement and motivation
- Which parts of the solution have been implemented
- How the current prototype works (live demo preferred)
- The next features planned and future roadmap

Upload Options

- Google Drive (set access to *Anyone with the link can view*)
- YouTube (set visibility to *Unlisted*)

💡 **Tip:**
Always test your video link in incognito/private mode before submitting to ensure accessibility.

4.4 Live Deployment Link (Optional but Recommended)

If your solution is deployed, teams are encouraged to share the **live deployment link**.

Examples include:

- Website or web application
- Mobile application (APK / TestFlight)
- API endpoint with basic documentation

Recommended platforms:
Vercel, Netlify, Render, GitHub Pages, Railway

🚀 Live deployment is not mandatory, but it adds significant value and strengthens your submission.

5. Guidance for Beginners

INNOVIT 2026 recognizes that many participants may be **first-time hackathon attendees or early-stage developers**. This competition is designed to be a **learning-oriented innovation platform**, and beginners are strongly encouraged to participate with confidence.

5.1 Focus on Strong Foundations

Begin with a clear and well-researched problem definition:

- Identify who faces the problem and why it matters
- Understand existing solutions and their limitations

- Clearly define the impact your solution aims to create

A strong understanding of the problem often matters more than advanced technology.

5.2 Define User Journey & Use Cases

Clearly explain how users will interact with your solution:

- Entry point and onboarding
- Core actions users perform
- How and when value is delivered

Simple, realistic use cases help judges understand real-world applicability.

5.3 Make Your Architecture Clear

Convert your idea into concrete system components:

- Frontend / User Interface
- Backend / Business Logic
- Data storage
- Integrations and communication flow

Use diagrams or flowcharts wherever possible. Even simple visuals significantly improve clarity.

5.4 Choose Technologies Wisely

Select technologies based on:

- Problem requirements
- Team familiarity
- Time constraints
- Scalability potential

Avoid unnecessary complexity. Using simpler tools effectively is better than struggling with advanced frameworks.

5.5 Implementation Strategy

Focus on **core functionality first**:

- Implement must-have features that define your solution
- Build modular components that can be expanded later

- Accept simplifications such as mock data, basic UI, or limited features

Partial but working implementations are strongly preferred over untested ideas.

5.6 Present Progress Transparently

Make your work visible and honest:

- Maintain a clear README
- Explain what works, what is incomplete, and what is planned
- Use screenshots, demo videos, and live walkthroughs where possible

Judges appreciate honesty, clarity, and learning effort.

5.7 Innovation & Scalability Thinking

Innovation does not require complex technology:

- Improving accessibility
- Simplifying workflows
- Combining tools creatively
- Addressing underserved users

You do not need to implement scalability now—just demonstrate awareness of how the solution could grow.

5.8 Final Note for Beginners

Remember these principles:

- **Clarity over complexity**
- **Progress over perfection**
- **Learning over prior expertise**
- **Effort over experience**

Your Phase 2 submission should clearly show:

1. Deep problem understanding
2. Genuine technical progress
3. A realistic completion plan
4. Growth and learning through the process

INNOVIT 2026 values **intent, execution, and improvement**—not just final outcomes.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Teams will be evaluated based on:

Criteria	Weight	What Judges Look For
Innovation & Originality	20%	Novel ideas, creative features
Problem Understanding	20%	Depth, relevance, impact
Feasibility	15%	Realistic scope & tech choices
Technical Clarity & Architecture	15%	Structured design & flow
Prototype Progress	15%	Tangible implementation
Presentation Quality	10%	Clear & professional delivery
Completion Capability	5%	Realistic planning

⚠️ *Phase 2 is decisive for final round qualification.*

7. Shortlisting for Finale

- Teams compete within their selected theme
- 3–5 teams per theme will be shortlisted
- Final selection is based on judges' evaluation and discretion

8. Google Form Submission Structure

The submission form will include:

- Team and theme details
- Updated PPT (PDF)
- GitHub repository link
- Demo video link
- Live deployment link (if available)
- Written explanation of progress and future plan
- Declaration of originality

📧 *Submissions must be made using the **Team Leader's registered email ID**.*

9. Pre-Submission Checklist

Before submitting, ensure:

☐ Team Leader's email is used

☐ PPT uploaded (≤25 MB)

☐ GitHub repository is public

☐ Demo video link works

☐ Live link works (if provided)

☐ All mandatory fields filled

☐ Declaration checked

💡 *Keep a screenshot of the submission confirmation.*

10. Support and Assistance

Teams facing difficulties related to:

- Presentation updates
- Deployment
- Demo video creation
- Technical challenges

are encouraged to reach out to the INNOVIT organizing team for guidance and support.

11. Important Links & Contact Information

- **Official Website:**
  👉 Visit the INNOVIT 2026 website
- **Phase 2 Submission Form:**
  👉 Open the Phase 2 submission form
- **INNOVIT'26 WhatsApp Community:**
  👉 Join the official WhatsApp community

Contact for Queries:

- **Mrityunjay Singh** – +91 9555410587
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12. Closing Note

INNOVIT 2026 is **not just a competition**, but a learning platform that prepares students for **national-level hackathons** such as the **Smart India Hackathon (SIH)**.

Participants are encouraged to focus on: clarity, innovation, and consistent progress.

✨ **We wish all participating teams the very best for Phase 2 and beyond.**