



March 3, 2025

Dear Saikiran Katapally,

We are pleased to officially welcome you to the NASA International Space Apps Challenge community as the official **Local Lead of NASA Space Apps Pahalgam** in India. Since the inception of the NASA Space Apps Challenge in 2012, we have relied on leaders like you to bring each year's hackathon to communities worldwide. You were chosen for this prestigious role due to your clear demonstration of leadership in running a successful event, collaboration, and service to your local community.

As you know, this year's NASA Space Apps Challenge is scheduled to take place on October 4-5, 2025. This hackathon invites a global community of technologists, citizen scientists, students, engineers, creators, and other innovators to come together and build project solutions to challenges using NASA's open data. Last year, 93,520 people from around the world registered to address 20 challenges on Earth and in space. With over 15,444 teams from 163 countries and 9,996 submitted projects, the NASA Space Apps Challenge proves to inspire collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking that fosters interest in Earth and space science. Our mission is to leverage this interest to encourage the growth of the next generation of scientists, technologists, designers, and storytellers.

Experts from across NASA will carefully craft challenges for this year's teams. As the Local Lead, your efforts to gather and nurture a passionate community of local problem-solvers will help us approach these challenges together with unique perspectives. We look forward to engaging with you and your local participants as we prepare for this year's event.

Congratulations! We are thrilled to have you join this year's event as a NASA International Space Apps Challenge 2025 Local Lead!

Sincerely,  
Allison James

*Allison James*

Global Community Manager  
NASA Space Apps Global Organizing Team (GO Team)