



Innovation Hub, Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Technical University

AKTU Student Startup Award 2026
Guidelines

APPLICATIONS FOR AKTU STUDENT STARTUP AWARD 2026

The Awardee will be felicitated by Honorable Governor of Uttar Pradesh

The AKTU Student Startup Award -2026 aims to recognize, reward, promote and support student startups.

These student startups are driving sustainable transformation in Uttar Pradesh. The theme for the awards for this year is “Student Innovation for Sustainable and Self-Reliant Uttar Pradesh”. These student startups are the ambassadors for spreading the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in their institute.

Eligible Categories for Student Startups

Select a suitable category to begin your application for the AKTU Student Startup Awards 2026.

For each category, a separate application is required.

- Agriculture and Agri-Tech Student Startup Award
- Deep Tech Student Startup Award
- Sustainable and Green Energy Student Startup Award
- Tech-Innovation Student Startup Award
- Women-Led Student Startup Award

Categories of Awards One Student startup in each of the categories would be declared the winner.

S.No	Student Startup Category	Award Focus Area
1	Agriculture and Agri-Tech Student Startup Award	This can include technologies or practices related to precision farming, smart irrigation, soil and crop monitoring, farm mechanisation, agri-robotics, post-harvest management, agri-supply chain, farmer advisory, or sustainable farming practices. The startup must address agricultural challenges and create value for farmers, producers, or rural communities.
2	Deep Tech Student Startup Award	Startups developing solutions based on advanced scientific research, engineering innovation, or complex technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, IoT, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Drones, AR/VR, Quantum Technology, Semiconductors, Advanced Manufacturing, or similar emerging domains. The startup must demonstrate strong technical depth, innovation potential, scalability, and the ability to solve complex real-world problems.

3	Sustainable and Green Energy Student Startup Award	Startups working in clean energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric mobility, waste-to-energy, carbon reduction, sustainable materials, climate tech, or environmentally friendly solutions. The startup must demonstrate a measurable contribution towards sustainability, resource conservation, pollution reduction, or promotion of green energy adoption.
4	Tech-Innovation Student Startup Award	Startups using technology to create innovative, scalable, and market-oriented products or services. This category focuses on startups that apply digital tools, software, platforms, automation, apps, biotech, or technology-enabled business models to solve customer problems, improve efficiency, or create market disruption.
5	Women-Led Student Startup Award	Startups led by at least one woman founder/co-founder/director having 26% or more ownership, leadership role, and active involvement in business decision-making. The startup must demonstrate entrepreneurial initiative, innovation, market potential, and contribution towards encouraging women participation in the startup ecosystem.

Eligibility Criteria of AKTU Student Startup Awards 2026 are as follows:

- The startup founder/co-founder should be pursuing a degree from an AKTU-affiliated institution.
- The startup should be a DPIIT-recognised startup. The entity must submit its certificate of recognition.
- The entity must submit either the Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs or the Certificate of Registration from the Registrar of Firms of the respective state.
- In case of nominating for Women Led Startup Category the women founder/co-founder must hold 26% or more stake in the company.
- The entity must have a hardware or software product or a process solution that is present in the market.
- There should not have been any default in the last three years (FY 2023-24, 24-25, 25-26) by the entity, any of its promoters, or any of their group entities.
- The entity must submit audited financial statements (balance sheet, profit & loss account) for the last financial year (FY 2024-26).
- The entity should not be completing 10 years of incorporation on or before March 31st, 2026.

The following rules will be followed

- The award application form is to be filled in English only.
- One startup can nominate itself in a maximum of 2 categories.
- By participating in the AKTU Student Startup Awards, the startups agree to allow AKTU and Innovation Hub to use their name, URL, photos, and videos for promotional purposes on its website and other promotional material.

- Any false information provided within the context of AKTU Student Startup Awards by any entity concerning identity, mailing address, telephone number, email address, ownership of rights, or non-compliance with these rules or any terms and conditions or the like may result in the immediate elimination of the entity from the awards process.
- The decisions of the jury and the evaluation committee shall be final and binding.
- Allowances shall not be paid to any entity for travel or presentation before the jury.

Instructions for filling the form (A step-by-step guide to participate in AKTU Student Startup Awards 2026)

- **Step 1:** Go to the ‘AKTU Student Startup Awards’ tab on the AKTU Website-www.ihubup.ac.in or at <https://bit.ly/Student-StartupAward26>
- **Step 2:** Fill in the details as mentioned in the application form
- **Step 3:** Ensure to keep the following documents ready for upload:
 - Certificate of Recognition issued by DPIIT
 - Certificate of Incorporation/Certificate from the Registrar of Firms
 - StartinUP Recognition certificate
 - Memorandum of Association, Partnership deed or other government accepted proof as proof for a woman founder, equity split proof (if applicable)
 - PAN card of Startup
 - PAN card for founder/ co-founder
 - Aadhar card for founder/ co – founder
 - Startup Pitch Deck (Not more than 10 slides)
 - Proof of Patent, IPR (if applicable)
 - Audited financial statements for the past 1 years (Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Income Tax Return) or Provisional financial statements issued by a Chartered Accountant, in case of non availability of audited financials for FY 2025-26.
 - Proof of admission into academic institution or proof of student of any AKTU Affiliated institution.
 - Recommendation letter on the letterhead on AKTU Affiliated institution incubation centre.
 - 120 seconds video explaining your product or service (this video cannot be a YouTube link; it has to be made for application to AKTU Student Startup Awards). The video should cover – business model, scalability, innovation, social & economic impact on environment
- **Step 6:** Ensure that all the uploads required comply with the size requirement as mentioned
- **Step 7:** Submit Final Application before 20th June 2026