Singapore-India Hackathon 2026 names four winning ideas for a better future

The winners emerged from 20 teams which spent three days building and pitching their solutions to judges from industry, investors and founders from both countries

***SINGAPORE, 18 November 2026 (Wednesday)* -** From protecting hawkers and delivery riders against income lost to bad weather, to helping sales teams spot their next customer and farmers plan crops around buyer demand, youths from Singapore and India at the Singapore-India Hackathon (SIH) 2026 came up with practical solutions to everyday problems.

Built over 36 hours, the winning ideas emerged from 20 mixed-country teams comprising 120 tertiary students from Singapore and India yesterday evening (17 November). Each team tackled a real-world challenge set by Singtel; Income Insurance; Singapore's Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry (METI); or the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise (raiSE).

Their work brought the Hackathon's theme, 'Build a Better Future', to life through practical ideas addressing the needs of businesses and communities in both countries. The three-day programme held at Singapore Management University (SMU) from 15 to 17 November also connected participants with employers, entrepreneurs and investors, while a new scholarship created a pathway for eligible participants to continue their education at SMU.

Organised by SMU's Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the India Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, in collaboration with TiE Singapore, the fourth edition of SIH was held in consultation with Singapore's Ministry of Education, India's Ministry of Education and the High Commission of India in Singapore.

In his welcome remarks at the Gala Dinner where the winners were announced, Piyush Gupta, Chairman of the SMU Board of Trustees, said, "Economic corridors are not built by agreements alone – they are ultimately built by people. That is what makes the SIH so compelling. By bringing young innovators from Singapore and India together to combine different disciplines, cultures and ways of thinking around shared challenges, we are fostering the exact relationships on which the next chapter of the Singapore-India corridor can be built."

The four winning teams received a total of S$88,000 in prizes, comprising S$13,750 for the winner of each track and an S$8,350 merit award for each runner-up.

Four winning ideas for a better future

Income Insurance challenged teams in the 'FinTech and InsurTech' track to explore how data and AI could make protection against climate risks more accessible and affordable for vulnerable households and SMEs in Singapore. Track winner, POINT BLANK, developed Payung, which offers bad-weather income cover for Singapore's hawkers and automatically pays out when haze, heavy rain or extreme

heat disrupts business, with no claim form required. (Please refer to the Annex for details of the winning teams)

"For a challenge completed in just 36 hours, the quality of the submissions was highly encouraging. Many teams demonstrated a strong grasp of the problem they were solving, backed by well-structured pitches and thoughtful execution. It was equally inspiring to see students from Singapore and India collaborate so effectively. The blend of different perspectives and experiences strengthened the ideas presented and showed how innovation thrives when diverse minds work towards a common goal," said Dhiren Amin, Chief Customer Officer, Income Insurance.

Singtel challenged teams in the 'Emerging Technologies' track to explore how AI could help enterprise sales teams better understand and serve their customers. Track winner, Signal, developed an AI lead-qualification tool turns scattered business intelligence into actionable sales leads, using AI to surface high-potential accounts, warm introduction routes and ready-to-send outreach directly in Salesforce.

"AI is changing the nature of work and redefining the capabilities businesses need. The emerging workforce must come prepared to analyse complex problems, think critically, and exercise the judgement to succeed in an AI era. Hackathons like these give students an opportunity to tackle real business challenges, appreciate the thinking required to solve them, and develop essential skills for their future work environment. Singtel is pleased to share our experience and help these students bridge the gap between academic learning and business realities," said Gaurav Kathpalia, Head, Enterprise and Consumer, AIDA, Singtel Singapore.

METI challenged teams in the 'Sustainability and Climate Action' track to help Indian smallholder farmers improve the quality, consistency and reliability of their produce, enabling them to meet the needs of larger buyers, including Singapore importers. Track winner, Holy Crop, developed a digital platform that helps Farmer Producer Organisations turn buyer demand into coordinated crop plans, matching farmers and farmland to suitable crops while giving exporters greater visibility of expected supply.

raiSE challenged teams in the 'Social Innovation and Inclusive Development' track to find ways of supporting disadvantaged and lower-income seniors in Singapore and India to age well, improve their wellbeing, and remain active and engaged in their communities. Track winner, Kawan, developed a digital platform that connects seniors with meaningful, flexible work opportunities, helping them remain economically active and socially engaged.

"It was truly heartening to see the quality of submissions in the social innovation and inclusive development track. These teams brought together insights and context from both Singapore and India by working together online, and still produced solutions that understood local realities on both sides," said Albert Ho, Head of Venture Building at raiSE. "What impressed us most was that many of them went out onto the streets to test their ideas with the communities they hope to serve. That instinct to validate with real people, not just in theory, is what turns a good idea into real world impact. We're proud to support this generation of young innovators, and we hope to see many of these ideas carried forward."

Each team brought together students from different institutions, disciplines and countries, many of whom were meeting for the first time. In a 36-hour sprint meant they had to test not only their ideas but also their assumptions about the people and problems they hoped to serve.

Professor Yogesh Singh, Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), said, “Over four editions, the Singapore-India Hackathon has grown into an important platform for young people from our two countries to learn from one another while working together on challenges that matter to both our societies. Each edition creates new connections between our students, institutions and partners. That is the real value of this collaboration: not only the solutions developed during the Hackathon, but the relationships, understanding and opportunities it continues to build between India and Singapore.”

Beyond the final pitch

The Awards Ceremony concluded the competition, but participants’ engagement with industry and the wider entrepreneurial ecosystem began before the prizes were announced.

Participants met representatives from more than 10 companies operating across Singapore and India, including GIC, Singapore Airlines, Singtel and Temasek, to explore project, internship and career opportunities. They also attended TiECon 2026 at SMU, where founders, investors and business leaders shared lessons from building and scaling technology companies across Asia and beyond. Teams that decide to continue developing their ideas may explore mentoring, industry validation or support through SMU IIE, including its Business Innovations Generator (BIG), an award-winning equity-free incubator for early-stage start-ups.

"Bringing the SIH and TiECon together was about giving young innovators a window into what comes next. At the Hackathon they built and tested ideas; at TiECon they could hear directly from entrepreneurs and investors who know what it takes to turn an idea into a company and scale it. We hope those conversations give students the networks, confidence and perspective to keep building,” said Prantik Mazumdar, President of TiE Singapore.

The pathways created around this year’s Hackathon also extend into postgraduate education. At the opening ceremony on 15 November, Nupur Agarwala Bahadur and Amrish Bahadur, Patrons of the Singapore-India Hackathon 2026, launched the Nupur A. & Amrish Bahadur Scholarship.

Open to participants from the 2026 Hackathon and the two previous editions, regardless of nationality, the scholarship will support four outstanding members of the SIH community to pursue postgraduate studies at SMU. Eligible programmes include SMU’s Master of IT in Business, Master of Science in Business AI, and Master of Science in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

SIH was first proposed in 2018 by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Singapore’s then-Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. After its inaugural edition in Singapore, SIH moved to India for subsequent editions before returning to Singapore this year.

- End -

Enclosure:

- Annex: Singapore-India Hackathon 2026 Winners and Runners-Up

About SMU IIE
The Singapore Management University's Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE) empowers aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators to create positive change. It offers tailored training programmes, an equity-free incubator, and a vibrant community that connects innovators through events and networking opportunities, including the Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition. For more information, visit https://iie.smu.edu.sg.

About SMU
Established in 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) is renowned for its world-class research and innovative teaching. SMU's mission is to generate impactful research and cultivate creative, entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. Collaborating with global researchers, businesses and public-sector partners, SMU drives innovation with global relevance. For more information, visit https://www.smu.edu.sg.

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Annex: Singapore-India Hackathon 2026 Winners and Runners-Up

1. FinTech and InsurTech Track
Track Sponsor: Income Insurance

The challenge asked teams to explore how data and AI could make protection against climate risks more accessible and affordable for vulnerable households and SMEs in Singapore.

First place

Team: **POINT BLANK**
Solution: Payung is bad-weather income cover for Singapore's hawkers, offered as an add-on to Income's SmartBiz 360. When public NEA readings show haze, heavy rain or extreme heat near a stall, it automatically pays part of a fixed daily amount the same day by PayNow, with no claim form. Prices are set for each hawker centre using 10 years of NEA data.

- Devnavin Madeswaran (Singapore) - Singapore Management University, College of Integrative Studies
- Dewa Bratanusa Eka Satya (Singapore) - Singapore Management University, Information Systems
- Rafael Macam (Singapore) - Singapore Polytechnic, Information Technology
- Akash Singh (India) - Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering
- Bhoomi Agrawal (India) - Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering
- Deval Gupta (India) - Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering

Second place

Team: **Owlgorithms**
Solution: FairWeather is weather income cover for Singapore's 71,600 delivery riders and drivers, sold in the Income app. A worker pays a few cents per completed job. When the nearest NEA station records heavy rain, heat or haze during his working hours, he is paid automatically by PayNow, with no claim form. It joins a parametric trigger with micro-insurance pricing.

- Tan Zhen Hao Adalson (Singapore) - Singapore Institute of Technology, Computer Science
- Chai Pin Zheng (Singapore) - National University of Singapore, Computer Science
- Dutta Siddhant Shivshankar (Singapore) - Nanyang Technological University, Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science (AI and Neuroscience)
- Adwait Bhardwaj (India) - Manipal Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, Information Technology
- Anirban Bandyopadhyay (India) - Techno Main Salt Lake, Computer Science
- Muskan Paras Kasotiya (India) - Lokmanya Tilak College of Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering

2. Emerging Technologies Track
Track Sponsor: Singtel

The challenge asked teams to explore how AI could help enterprise sales teams better understand customers, identify opportunities and recommend the next best action.

First place

Team: **Signal**
Solution: Signal is an AI tool that combines news, filings, ownership and tender data from Singapore and overseas into one view of each account. Each morning, AI agents give sellers ten ready-to-contact accounts, each with a warm introduction route and a draft message to approve straight into Salesforce. In back-testing, it flagged 14 of 19 Singtel renewals a median of 6.5 months early.

- Bhavya Sangal (Singapore) - Nanyang Technological University, Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Ng Cai Yi Brandon (Singapore) - Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Common Engineering Programme
- Mohammed Rayhan (Singapore) - Singapore Polytechnic, Computer Engineering
- Darshith Arun Shetty (India) - Vishwakarma Institute of Information Technology, Pune, Computer Science Engineering
- Jashwanth Valurouthu (India) - Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Guntur, Computer Science and Engineering
- Saksham Tiwari (India) - Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Mining & AI

Second place

Team: **Catalyst**
Solution: Singtel Scout is an AI lead-qualification tool that brings together scattered public and internal signals, such as filings, news, tenders and CRM data. It ranks and explains every lead so account managers can win new business and grow existing accounts.

- Tay Yu Chen Arvin (Singapore) - Singapore Management University, Information Systems
- Crystal Chew Xin Yu (Singapore) - National University of Singapore, Business Administration
- Paari Amudhan (Singapore) - National University of Singapore, Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Devyansh Dingolia (India) - Netaji Subhas University of Technology, Computer Science and Engineering
- Nishanth Selvaraju (India) - Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bhopal, Computer Science and Engineering
- Priyanshu Sharma (India) - Acropolis Institute of Technology and Research, Indore, Computer Science and Engineering (Cybersecurity & AI)

3. Sustainability and Climate Action Track
Track partner: Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry

The challenge asked teams to help Indian smallholder farmers improve the quality, consistency and reliability of their produce to meet the needs of larger buyers, including Singapore importers.

First place

Team: **Holy Crop**
Solution: Farmora helps Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) turn buyer demand into coordinated crop plans. It helps plan land allocation across farms, match farmers to suitable crops using local weather and climate data, and track voluntary farmer responses and expected supply. Farmers can

access guidance in their preferred language, while exporters can view consented harvest outlooks to connect with FPOs.

- Ananya Redhu (Singapore) – Nanyang Technological University, Artificial Intelligence
- Tham Kei Lok (Singapore) – National University of Singapore, Computer Science
- Yashwardhan Singh Tomar (Singapore) – Nanyang Technological University, Computer Science
- Akshaya Gomathy Sankar (India) – Rathinam Technical Campus, Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Deepika Chandramohan (India) – Rathinam Technical Campus, Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Samarth Vijay Chaudhari (India) – MIT Academy of Engineering, Alandi, Computer Science / AI-ML Data Analytics

Second place

Team: **Meraki**
Solution: This platform helps smallholder farmer groups fulfil buyer orders through coordinated crop planning, shared quality checks and delivery tracking. It combines a quality-checking station with software to flag supply risks, trace produce batches and explain farmer payments, aiming to reduce rejection and spoilage while improving supply reliability and farmer incomes.

- Chin Kai Ze (Singapore) - Nanyang Technological University, Business
- Attili Kireeti Aditya Kumar (Singapore) - Nanyang Technological University, Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Yash Thakker (Singapore) - National University of Singapore, Computer Science
- Dev Soni (India) - National Institute of Technology Rourkela, Mechanical Engineering
- Jyoti Yadav (India) - Bundelkhand Institute of Engineering and Technology, B.Tech
- Keerthibalan Gnanasounder (India) - Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Electronics and Communication Engineering

4. Social Innovation and Inclusive Development Track
Track partner: Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise (raiSE)

The challenge asked teams to support disadvantaged and lower-income seniors in Singapore and India to age well, improve their wellbeing and remain active and engaged in their communities.

First place

Team: **Kawan**
Solution: Over 220 Active Ageing Centres exist, yet we found three gaps. They rely on paid staff and grants, so they are costly to scale. Programmes are mostly recreational and treat seniors as passive recipients, ignoring their life experience. Existing tools like Health365 only serve only narrow parts of the Clinical Frailty Scale, not the full spectrum. Our ecosystem solves three core issues: self-sustaining community models, seniors as active contributors, and support across the full frailty spectrum.

- Ke HY (Singapore) - Singapore Institute of Technology, Information Security
- Tan Yee Heng Lucas (Singapore) - Singapore Institute of Technology, Information Security

- Sania Bawa Amarnath (Singapore) - National University of Singapore, Computer Science
- Ansh Bajaj (India) - Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Information Technology and Engineering
- Shreya Prasad (India) - RV College of Engineering, Bengaluru, Computer Science
- Tarun Krishna Shastri (India) - Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Computer Engineering

"I think everyone would agree we all got really lucky with our teammates. We all love each other by now. When we got our teams, we started meeting online, so we'd already been working together by the time we got here. But man, once we met in person, there was so much collaboration, and we all took constructive criticism on board. Before we moved on to anything, we made sure we were all on the same page." - Tarun Shastri, Team Kawan

Second place

Team: **Kampong-lahh**
Solution: We are building a social enterprise that transforms senior citizens into an active talent pool by unlocking their knowledge, skills and lived experiences. Starting with conversational language exchange, we connect seniors with educational institutions, healthcare entities, and care aide agencies, helping to reduce dialect-based language barriers in care. At the same time, we create purpose, income and meaningful social participation for isolated seniors.

- Arpit Gupta (Singapore) - Nanyang Technological University, Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Second Major in Business
- Mihir Panchal (Singapore) - National University of Singapore, Masters of Computing in Artificial Intelligence
- Nathan Yong (Singapore) - Nanyang Technological University, Renaissance Engineering Programme
- Harsh Rajiv Jain (India) - Dwarkadas J. Sanghvi College of Engineering, Information Technology
- Om Sharma (India) - Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta Institute of Professional Studies, Computer Science
- Rishitha Burra (India) - Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Bachelor of Technology

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