

Uttarakhand Positions India for an AI-Driven Future Through Innovation Hackathon and Devbhoomi AI Summit

Uttarakhand launches a global innovation movement through the Innovation & Solutions Hackathon and Devbhoomi AI Summit 2026, empowering AI-driven growth.

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The Indian Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, long celebrated for its spiritual heritage, ecological diversity and resilient mountain communities, is now positioning itself at the forefront of a new transformation—one powered by innovation, artificial intelligence and citizen-centric governance. Through the launch of the [Uttarakhand Innovation and Solutions Hackathon](#) 2026 and the upcoming [Devbhoomi AI Summit 2026](#), the state is creating a model that combines



DevBhoomi AI SUMMIT Uttarakhand 2026

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Innovation must solve real-world challenges. Through the Uttarakhand Innovation & Solutions Hackathon and Devbhoomi AI Summit 2026, we are building an AI-powered, future-ready Himalayan state”

Pradeep Batra, Cabinet Minister, Information Technology, Uttarakhand

technology with sustainability, entrepreneurship with public service, and global expertise with local aspirations.

In an era when governments across the world are exploring the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve governance and accelerate economic growth, Uttarakhand has emerged with a distinctive vision: technology must serve people, strengthen institutions and preserve the environment. The twin initiatives—the state-wide Innovation and Solutions Hackathon and the Devbhoomi AI Summit—represent a strategic effort to create an innovation ecosystem capable of addressing real-world challenges in governance, disaster resilience, tourism, mobility, agriculture, healthcare and

environmental sustainability.

A New Innovation Story from the Himalayas

The Government of Uttarakhand has recognized that innovation is no longer confined to large metropolitan centres. With the rise of digital infrastructure, cloud technologies and AI-driven platforms, even mountain states can become hubs of global innovation.

The Uttarakhand Innovation and Solutions Hackathon 2026, organized by the [Information Technology Development Agency \(ITDA\)](#), has been conceived as a platform where students, startups, researchers, technology professionals and innovators can collaborate to solve practical governance and developmental challenges. The hackathon is expected to engage participants from major centres including Dehradun, Roorkee and Rudrapur, encouraging youth to create scalable digital solutions for public good.

Unlike conventional technology competitions, the Uttarakhand Hackathon focuses on problem-solving with measurable social impact. Themes under consideration include:

- * Disaster management and early warning systems
- * Smart mobility and traffic management
- * Tourism innovation and visitor safety
- * AI-powered governance solutions
- * Climate resilience and environmental monitoring
- * Agriculture and rural livelihoods
- * Healthcare accessibility in remote regions
- * Digital inclusion and multilingual AI



ITDA UTTARAKHAND



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Axolotl Emprise LLP organizing partner ITDA for Devbhoomi AI Summit 2026

For a Himalayan state vulnerable to floods, landslides and climate-related challenges, technology is not merely an economic opportunity—it is an instrument of resilience.

Pradeep Batra: Building an AI-Native Uttarakhand

Leading this transformation is Shri Pradeep Batra, Cabinet Minister for Information Technology, Government of Uttarakhand, who has articulated a clear vision for the state's digital future.

Speaking about the larger objective behind these initiatives, Shri Pradeep Batra said:

“Artificial Intelligence presents one of the greatest opportunities of our generation. Uttarakhand is committed to embracing this transformation responsibly by creating an ecosystem where innovation serves people, governance becomes more efficient, and economic growth remains inclusive and sustainable.”

He further emphasized:

“The Devbhoomi AI Summit 2026 reflects our vision of building an AI-native Uttarakhand that can emerge as a model for digital transformation, not only for India but for the world.”

This vision reflects an important shift in public policy. Rather than viewing technology solely through the lens of economic growth, Uttarakhand is integrating AI into governance, environmental protection and public welfare.

Under the leadership of the Information Technology Department and ITDA, the state is exploring innovative concepts such as AI-powered knowledge repositories for government departments, intelligent document management systems, predictive analytics for public service delivery, and integrated beneficiary databases to improve transparency and efficiency.

The Devbhoomi AI Summit 2026: A Global Platform in the Himalayas

Scheduled to be held on 9 October 2026 in Dehradun, the *Devbhoomi AI Summit 2026* represents Uttarakhand's ambition to create an international platform for dialogue on responsible artificial intelligence. The summit is expected to bring together policymakers, technology leaders, investors, researchers, startups, academic institutions and development organizations from India and abroad.

The summit's central theme—*Building an AI-Native Uttarakhand*—reflects a broader aspiration: creating governance systems that are intelligent, responsive and citizen-focused.

Its agenda is organized around five strategic pillars:

1. Governance
2. Mobility
3. Tourism
4. Public Safety
5. Sustainable Development

These priorities align closely with the needs of mountain economies around the world.

AI applications in governance could reduce administrative complexity and improve service delivery. Smart mobility systems can make transportation safer and more efficient. AI-driven tourism platforms can personalize visitor experiences while protecting fragile ecosystems. Public safety systems can strengthen disaster preparedness, while environmental monitoring tools can support climate adaptation strategies.

The summit also aims to foster partnerships between governments, academia, startups and investors, creating pathways for innovation to move from laboratories into practical implementation.

Pushkar Singh Dhami's Vision: Innovation as a Development Strategy

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has consistently emphasized that innovation and technology are central to Uttarakhand's development journey.

Under his leadership, the state has accelerated efforts in digital governance, startup promotion, investment facilitation and technology adoption.

Reflecting on the significance of innovation-led growth, the Chief Minister has emphasized that Uttarakhand must become a destination where young minds are encouraged to create solutions for the future while preserving the values of sustainability and inclusion. The Innovation and Solutions Hackathon and the Devbhoomi AI Summit embody this philosophy by connecting youth, industry and government on a common platform.

The Chief Minister's broader vision aligns with India's national digital transformation agenda and the objectives of the IndiaAI Mission, which seeks to position India as a global leader in artificial intelligence.

The Governor's Perspective: Technology with Human Values

Governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh (Retd.) has frequently highlighted the importance of balancing technological progress with ethical responsibility, environmental stewardship and human values.

In a state known globally as "Devbhoomi" or the "Land of the Gods," innovation is being

approached not merely as technological advancement, but as a means to improve lives, strengthen communities and protect nature.

This perspective is particularly important as governments worldwide grapple with questions surrounding AI ethics, transparency, privacy and trust.

Uttarakhand's approach offers a compelling model: AI should not replace human judgment; it should augment it. Technology should not deepen inequalities; it should expand opportunities.

Innovation for Mountain Economies

Mountain regions around the world face common challenges: difficult terrain, environmental vulnerability, limited connectivity and uneven access to services.

AI and digital technologies offer opportunities to address these constraints.

In Uttarakhand, possible applications include:

- * Satellite-based landslide prediction
- * Glacier monitoring systems
- * Forest fire detection
- * AI-assisted telemedicine
- * Smart irrigation
- * Tourism management platforms
- * Multilingual citizen services
- * Digital education tools

These technologies can improve public services while reducing costs and expanding accessibility.

The state's emphasis on hackathons and innovation challenges is particularly important because they create a pipeline of practical solutions developed by young innovators.

Startups and the Future Economy

The Devbhoomi AI Summit is expected to provide startups with opportunities to present solutions before investors, policymakers and industry leaders. This is crucial for emerging innovation ecosystems.

Globally, startups have become engines of economic transformation. They generate employment, attract investment and accelerate technology adoption.

For Uttarakhand, nurturing startups is not only an economic strategy—it is also a way to retain

talent and create opportunities closer to home.

The state's educational institutions, engineering colleges and universities can become important partners in this ecosystem, linking research with entrepreneurship and public policy.

Responsible AI: Uttarakhand's Distinctive Contribution

As AI adoption accelerates globally, concerns around ethics, bias, transparency and inclusion are becoming increasingly important.

Research increasingly suggests that AI ecosystems must balance innovation with fairness, cultural diversity and local context. This is particularly relevant in multilingual societies such as India.

Uttarakhand's emphasis on responsible AI therefore has significance beyond state boundaries.

The Devbhoomi AI Summit seeks to position the state not merely as a technology adopter, but as a contributor to global discussions on ethical and inclusive AI.

This is a notable ambition for a Himalayan state—and one that reflects confidence in the transformative power of innovation.

A New Chapter for the Himalayas

For centuries, the Himalayas have been symbols of spirituality, reflection and resilience.

Today, they are also becoming spaces of innovation.

The Uttarakhand Innovation and Solutions Hackathon and the Devbhoomi AI Summit 2026 represent more than events; they represent a new development philosophy—one where technology is aligned with human values, sustainability and inclusive growth.

Through these initiatives, Uttarakhand is demonstrating that geography is no longer a limitation. A mountain state can become a global innovation destination. A local challenge can inspire an international solution. And the future of AI can be shaped not only in major technology capitals, but also in the valleys and foothills of the Himalayas.

As Shri Pradeep Batra has emphasized, the objective is not merely digital transformation—it is the creation of an AI-native society where technology serves humanity.

If successful, Uttarakhand's model may offer lessons not only for India, but for mountain regions and emerging economies around the world.

The message from the Himalayas is becoming increasingly clear: innovation, when guided by responsibility and vision, can elevate societies, strengthen governance and create a more sustainable future for all.

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