

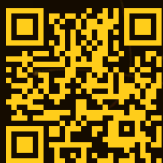
# BUILD NEXT 2026

India's Premier Sustainable  
AI Challenge

**WIN ₹7.5  
LAKHS.**

**DEFINE YOUR  
CAREER IN AI.**

- Prize Pool: ₹7,50,000
- Target: Next-Gen AI Applications
- Format: Hybrid (Online Qualifier + Grand Finale)



**APPLY BY:**  
**18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026**  
(See back for details)

# The Mission

## Are You Ready to Build the Future?

**The Build Next 2026**, hosted by **ZIROH LABS**, is not just another hackathon. It is a national-level invitation for India's brightest students and working professionals to redefine the limits of Artificial Intelligence.

We are challenging you to move beyond basic models and create **Next-Gen AI Applications** that solve real-world problems in Healthcare, Finance, Manufacturing, Telecom, Defense, and beyond.

## The Challenge:

### Build with Kompact AI

The future of AI is efficient, secure, and sustainable. The top 20 finalist teams will receive exclusive access to the **Kompact AI Runtime** — high-performance technology designed to run AI model inferences securely and efficiently at scale on CPUs.

#### Your Mission:

Build powerful AI agents, RAG systems, or predictive applications that are:

- 1. Smart:** High-performance capabilities.
- 2. Cost-Effective:** Efficient to develop and deploy.
- 3. Secure:** Built for enterprise standards.

# Prize Pool & Signature Awards

## Win Over 7 Lakhs & Named Awards

We are deeply privileged to announce three Signature Memorial Prizes, dedicated to the memory of three icons of Indian science and technology.

₹2.5 Lakhs

**The Pushpak Bhattacharya Memorial Award**

₹2.5 Lakhs

**The Priti Shankar Memorial Award**

₹2.5 Lakhs

**The Anup Kumar Gogoi Memorial Award**

(In addition to the cash prizes, winners and top performers get a direct pass to final-round interviews at ZIROH LABS)

## Honoring Our Icons



**Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharya:**

Godfather of Indian NLP

(July 1962 – October 2025)

- **The Pioneer:** Recognized by industry leaders as the pioneer who shaped the landscape of Natural Language Processing and AI in India.
- **Academic Leadership:** Served with distinction as the Director of IIT Patna (2015–2021) and was the first Indian to serve as President of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL).
- **Research Powerhouse:** Headed the Centre for Indian Language Technology (CFILT) at IIT Bombay, authoring the seminal textbook Machine Translation and over 350 research papers.
- **Global Visionary:** His groundbreaking work on IndoWordNet and Automatic Sarcasm Detection garnered coverage from MIT Technology Review and the Times (London).
- **Distinguished Recognition:** Recipient of the Abdul Kalam Technology National Fellowship and the Patwardhan Award.



**Prof Priti Shankar:**

A Trailblazer for Women in STEM  
(September 1947 – October 2011)

- **A STEM Trailblazer:** The historic first female graduate of IIT Delhi (1968), shattering glass ceilings for generations of Indian women in engineering.
- **The Compiler Architect:** A global authority on Compiler Construction and co-editor of the definitive The Compiler Design Handbook.
- **Mathematical Visionary:** Pioneered groundbreaking research in Algorithmic Coding Theory and Formal Language Theory, including advancements in BCH codes.
- **Distinguished Educator:** A legendary Professor at IISc Bangalore (CSA) and recipient of the Jaya Jayant Award for Teaching Excellence.
- **Award-Winning Legacy:** Recipient of the Vikram Sarabhai Award; her impact lives on through the eponymous memorial teaching award at IISc.



**Prof Anup Kumar Gogoi:**

A Founding Architect of EEE at IITG  
(March 1953 - March 2024)

- **Founding Architect:** One of the early faculty members to join IIT Guwahati (1997), playing a vital role in building the EEE Department into a premier research center.
- **Authority in Electromagnetics:** A PhD graduate from IIT Kanpur (1991) and a global expert in Electromagnetic Theory and Microwave Engineering.
- **Pioneer of SWB Antennas:** His research in Printed Monopole Antennas led to compact, high-efficiency Super-Wideband solutions critical for modern satellite systems.
- **Bridging VLSI & Wireless:** Made significant contributions to high-throughput hardware, including transceivers for global standards like IEEE 802.11ad.
- **Visionary Leader:** Served as Dean of Outreach Education Programme at IITG, shaping the higher education landscape of Northeast India.

# Roadmap to Victory

## 2-Phase Selection Process

### Phase 1

#### The Qualifier (Online)

- **Action:** Submit your best existing project or a new concept to prove your skills. (GitHub repo and demo video required).
- **Deadline:** **18th April, 2026**
- **Announcement:** Top 20 Finalists announced on social media by **24th April, 2026.**

### Phase 2

#### The Grand Finale (Hybrid)

- **Action:** The Top 20 teams gain access to the Kompact AI Runtime to build the ultimate Next-Gen Application.
- **Event Start Date:** Tentatively **26th April, 2026**
- **Venue:** Mix of offline and online (Venue to be announced).

#### Eligibility Criteria

- **Who:** Current Collegiate Students, Working Professionals, and Recent Graduates (Classes of 2023, 2024, 2025).
- **Team Composition:** 1 to 5 members per team.

# Registration & FAQ



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Kompact AI Runtime?

It is a technology by ZIROH LABS designed to inference AI models securely and efficiently on CPUs. Finalists must use this runtime for the final challenge.

### Is there a registration fee?

No. Participation is free.

### Is it online or offline?

Phase 1 (Project Submission) is online. Phase 2 (The Top 20 Finale starting tentatively on 26th April) will be a mix of offline and online. Venue TBA.

## Ready to Build Next?

Don't miss your chance to work with cutting-edge tech and win big.

Apply Online At:

[www.kompact.ai/buildnext](http://www.kompact.ai/buildnext)

Registration Deadline:

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2026**



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