

9th BRICS YOUNG INNOVATORS PRIZE

Terms and Conditions

Bengaluru, India | 2–6 November 2026

1. The Prize

The **9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize (YIP)** is being organized in conjunction with the **11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum (YSF)** and will take place from **2nd to 6th November 2026 in Bengaluru, India**, under the Indian BRICS Presidency.

The 9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize is being organized by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India**, in thematic partnership with the **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru**.

The BRICS Young Innovators Prize seeks to recognize and reward outstanding achievements in **research, development and innovation** that exemplify technological advancement and contribute to the science, technology and innovation sectors of BRICS countries.

The Prize specifically recognizes young, talented entrepreneurs and researchers whose exceptional innovations have the potential to contribute significantly to addressing contemporary socio-economic, developmental and environmental challenges and improving the quality of life within BRICS societies.

The Prize aims to provide a platform for the next generation of innovators from BRICS countries to showcase their technological solutions, exchange ideas and contribute to strengthening innovation-led cooperation among BRICS countries.

2. Requirements

2.1. Requirements for the Projects

The submitted projects must be **innovative** and demonstrate a clear technological or innovation component.

Projects must be at the **pre-market stage**, meaning that they are not available for widespread consumer acquisition and are not offered to the public, including in local markets. Projects that are in the phases of limited product testing, non-serial production, certification or preparation for market launch may be considered.

The BRICS Young Innovators Prize focuses on projects that have the potential to generate significant impact in their respective sectors/industries and contribute to addressing contemporary challenges faced by BRICS societies.

For the 9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize, the thematic areas of the competition are:

1. AI with Near-Zero Carbon Footprint

Innovative approaches for developing and deploying artificial intelligence with substantially reduced energy consumption and environmental impact, including energy-efficient AI hardware, algorithms and models, green data centres, low-carbon computing, efficient AI inference and other solutions contributing to sustainable AI.

2. Critical Minerals: From Mine to Circular Economy

Innovative technologies and solutions across the critical-minerals value chain, including exploration, extraction, processing, recovery, recycling, substitution, material efficiency and circular-economy approaches, with the objective of enhancing resource security and sustainability.

3. Affordable Diagnostics and Preventive Healthcare

Innovative, accessible and scalable technologies, products and services for affordable diagnostics, early detection, disease prevention, screening, monitoring and preventive healthcare, particularly solutions with potential to improve health outcomes and access in BRICS societies.

Projects submitted under any of the above thematic areas should address significant **social, economic, developmental or environmental challenges** and offer innovative solutions with potential to improve the quality of life in contemporary BRICS societies.

Projects must be clearly dedicated to one or more of the above-mentioned thematic areas and scope. Projects falling outside the specified themes and scope will not be considered.

Corporate innovations are not accepted, including projects developed solely by employees of a technology company. Projects should not be merged with another technology company and should not be in the process of being merged at the time of participation in the Prize.

By participating in the BRICS Young Innovators Prize, participants agree that the Terms and Conditions outlined herein are binding upon them.

2.2. Requirements for Participants

Requirement	Details
Age Limit	Candidates must be under the age of forty (40) as on 31 December 2026 .
Affiliation	Candidates must be affiliated with a BRICS country by nationality (born or naturalized) or residency (permanent residency visa).
Project Submission	Only one project may be submitted per candidate.
Authorship	Candidates must be the original/initial authors of the submitted project.
Nominations per Country	Each BRICS country may nominate three (3) innovators and one (1) independent jury member .
National Selection Process	Each BRICS Member State may select candidates competitively or through nomination.

2.3. Requirements for the Submissions

The projects must be submitted by the respective BRICS Ministries responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation or equivalent national institution leading the official BRICS STI cooperation by the deadline communicated by the organizers.

The submission should contain the following documents:

- Application Form, duly completed, signed and dated;
- Nominee's Curriculum Vitae/Biography;
- Photograph of the nominee; and
- Information and research data pertaining to the submitted innovative project, which may be provided in various formats, including Microsoft Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, photographs and video materials.

The Application Form must contain the following information:

- Nominee's details/information;
- Nomination Statement of up to 300 words;
- Innovative Project Statement of up to 300 words; and
- Information on participation in innovation awards/competitions and other relevant achievements.

All personal and project information must be submitted in **English**.

The Application Form cannot be changed in its substantive contents after it has been formally submitted to the relevant national Ministry/equivalent institution responsible for official BRICS STI cooperation.

3. Evaluation

3.1. Pre-selection

A project that does not meet the requirements of these Terms and Conditions, whether in terms of format, content, thematic area, submitted documentation or any other criterion that prevents proper evaluation, including examination for plagiarism, may be disqualified at any stage of the competition.

The organizers of the BRICS Young Innovators Prize reserve the right to reject submissions without notice, including cases involving false registration information and/or non-compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the BRICS Young Innovators Prize.

There shall be no legal recourse against a decision of disqualification. The decisions of the adjudicators, including those relating to procedure and evaluation, shall be final and shall not be open to contest or review.

The selected projects will be presented to an Adjudication Panel during the 9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize, which will select the winners based on the established evaluation criteria.

3.2. Presentation of Applications to the Adjudication Panel

The participants will be required to present their projects to an expert panel comprising jury members designated by the BRICS Member States.

Each BRICS Member State shall nominate one independent expert to serve on the Jury, with the objective of ensuring balance, fairness and transparency in the adjudication process.

The final presentation submitted by each participant shall be provided to the organizers by noon on November 1st and shall not be changed after the stipulated deadline.

The presentation of each project shall be limited to 10 minutes. A clock will be available for monitoring the presentation time.

At the end of the 10-minute presentation slot, the presentation must be concluded and no additional time shall be granted.

The presentation shall be made individually by the nominated innovator. Only one person shall be permitted to make each presentation. Participation of other delegates in the presentation shall not be permitted.

The Jury shall have up to 10 minutes for Questions and Answers (Q&A) following each presentation.

All information provided during the presentation and Q&A shall be in English. The use of translation devices or translation services shall not be permitted.

The use of paper/electronic notes or cues during the presentation shall be permitted.

Projects may be demonstrated through photographs, videos or in-person demonstrations, at the discretion of the participant. All such formats shall be accepted and no particular format shall have an inherent advantage in evaluation. The absence of a demonstration shall be permitted but may affect the score under the criterion relating to the consistency of technical information presented, particularly the demonstration of procedures supporting the technical functionality of the product, process or solution.

Each Jury member shall receive a scorecard and provide an independent evaluation of each presentation.

The organizers shall designate a Secretary/ Secretariat for compilation and computation of the scores submitted by the Jury members. A consolidated table containing the final scores and placement of the candidates shall be submitted to the Adjudication Panel.

The Adjudication Panel shall select three (3) Prize winners. The classification/ ranking of the other candidates shall not be disclosed.

Candidates may be disqualified by the Adjudication Panel at any stage of the final evaluation. The Jury may decide not to award the Prize if, in its judgment, there are no projects meeting the required standards.

The final evaluation of the projects shall be conducted in person from 2nd to 6th November 2026 in Bengaluru, India, during the 11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and 9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize.

3.3. Winner Selection

Each project will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Points	Description
Innovative Impact	10	Novelty, originality, technological advancement, social impact and relevance to contemporary challenges in BRICS societies.
Short-Term Applicability	5	Current demand, relevance and potential for near-term application/deployment.
Long-Term Applicability	5	Prospective demand, scalability and relevance in the future.
Technical Feasibility	5	Accessibility of implementation, technical maturity and understanding of the technology.
Market Feasibility	5	Business model, competitiveness, scalability and applicability in relevant markets.
Quality of Presentation	5	Clarity, consistency of information, communication, methodology and effectiveness of presentation.
Consistency: Written vs. Presented Project	5	Logic, persuasiveness, clarity, structure, strength of arguments and supporting evidence.
Consistency: Technical Information	10	Theoretical foundation, technical evidence and procedures demonstrating technical functionality.
Vision	5	Long-term planning, scalability and potential future influence of the project.
Project Team	5	Expertise, competencies and complementary capabilities of the project team members.
MAXIMUM TOTAL	60	

After completion of all presentations, the Adjudication Panel shall meet to review and finalize the scores before announcement of the winners. The decision of the Adjudication Panel shall be final and irreversible. The winners shall be announced during the Closing Ceremony of the 11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum/9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize.

4. Prizes

Successful participants shall receive the following prizes after applicable verification and subject to compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the BRICS Young Innovators Prize:

- **First Prize:** Twenty-five thousand dollars (USD 25,000);
- **Second Prize:** Fifteen thousand dollars (USD 15,000); and
- **Third Prize:** Ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000).

All candidates must provide a bank account before the competition with the following information: (SWIFT number, IBAN, IFSC, Name of the Bank, Address of the bank, account

number, full name of the candidate, copy of passport). Prize payment will be made by deposit on personal Bank Accounts informed.

The prize payment may take a few weeks to process, depending upon applicable banking, foreign exchange and administrative procedures.

5. Intellectual Property Rights

Each contestant shall be solely responsible for taking the necessary actions to protect their intellectual property rights before submitting an application to the BRICS Young Innovators Prize. Such actions may include obtaining appropriate legal advice or professional assistance from an attorney or other professional experienced in intellectual property law.

These Terms and Conditions do not prescribe any specific course of action or strategy, including filing for patents, trademarks or other forms of intellectual property protection, as such decisions remain the responsibility of the contestant.

The organizers of the BRICS Young Innovators Prize shall not be responsible for taking any action to protect the intellectual property rights of any contestant.

Participants are accordingly advised to assess and, where appropriate, secure their intellectual property protection before disclosure of confidential technical or commercial information through the Prize application or public presentation.

6. General Information

By entering the BRICS Young Innovators Prize, the contestant agrees that:

- The organizers of the competition shall have no duty of confidentiality concerning the materials submitted. The participant acknowledges that filing a submission and participating in a public presentation may constitute disclosure/publication of their invention or innovation.
- The organizers of the competition may publicly disclose or reproduce any part or all of the contestant's submission and/or presentation materials for purposes related to the BRICS Young Innovators Prize, including communication, documentation, dissemination and reporting.
- If the contestant becomes a finalist, they shall not enforce any intellectual property rights that they own or control against any person who uses the solution for personal/non-commercial use, to the extent permitted under applicable law.
- The contestant agrees to the use of materials submitted in connection with the BRICS Young Innovators Prize for documentation, communication and dissemination purposes.
- The organizers of the BRICS Young Innovators Prize may use the contestant's place of residence, image and likeness in publications and promotional materials relating to the Prize and BRICS STI activities.
- The contestant may use the description "**BRICS Young Innovators Prize**" in publications relating to the competition. However, the contestant shall not use the official BRICS or Government of India logos without prior authorization, nor state or imply that the organizers endorse the contestant or the contestant's project.
- The organizers may photograph and/or create video, visual or audio-visual works of all or any part of the presentations, Q&A sessions, related activities and awarding of prizes and may use, reuse, publish, republish, display and reproduce such materials, in whole or in part, with or without alteration or modification, for non-commercial or official communication purposes.
- The contestant shall not acquire any ownership or other rights in images or creative works produced by the organizers in connection with the Prize, except as may be provided under applicable law.

- Projects and documents submitted for the Prize shall not be returned to the candidate and shall not automatically be considered for future editions of the BRICS Young Innovators Prize.
- The national Ministries or equivalent institutions shall not be responsible for proposals not received due to technical problems, network congestion or other transmission-related difficulties.

By submitting their registration, candidates acknowledge and accept these Terms and Conditions and assume full responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information provided.

The participants authorize the BRICS Young Innovators Prize organizers to use their names, photographs and images in connection with the Prize and its official communication and dissemination activities.

The organizers of the Prize shall not participate in any profits obtained from the project.

The authors of awarded projects shall retain the right to present their projects in exhibitions, meetings, conferences and congresses and to permit their dissemination by the press or other media, with or without commercial purposes, subject to applicable intellectual property rights and other applicable laws.

Any omissions, ambiguities, disputes concerning interpretation, or situations not expressly provided for in these Terms and Conditions shall be considered and decided by the organizers of the BRICS Young Innovators Prize and/or the Adjudication Panel, as appropriate.