

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700 091

No. 62-ACS-HED/2026

Date: 14.10.2026.

From: Binod Kumar, IAS.
Additional Chief Secretary
Higher Education Department.

To: The Principals
[All Colleges]

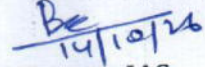
Subject: Participation in State Level Conclave and Organization of Regional/District Conclaves under the **Sewa First Innovation Challenge** as part of Sewa Sankalp Maha Abhiyan.
Ref : No. 53-ACS-HED/2026 Dated 11.09.2026.

Sir/ Madam,

In reference to the above I would like to inform that

- 1) A dedicated portal for registration of intending participants has been operationalized. I would request to give wide publicity of the same among the students, start-ups, scholars and encourage them to register in large numbers. The last date of registration is 30th October 2026.
- 2) In each district of the state '**District Conclave**' will be organised either on 2nd or 3rd November. Selected participants will have a chance to showcase their innovations in the conclaves.
- 3) In first half of December a Zonal Conference will be organised involving participants from West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand. The dates will be notified in due course.
- 4) The details about the program can be seen from the enclosed presentation.
- 5) A high resolution creative can be downloaded from the link-
<https://mullenlowe.egnyte.com/fl/x3m6xVP6t3mg> using Password 2t3mcJ58xMTT which may be used for publicity in social media as well as in hard prints.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,


Binod Kumar, IAS.
Additional Chief Secretary

No. 62/1(1)-ACS-HED/2026

Copy to Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge. Higher Education Department,
Government of West Bengal.

Date: 14.10.2026.

Special Commissioner



**SEVA FIRST
INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

EASTERN REGION
[Under Seva Sankalp Abhiyan]

Bihar • Jharkhand • West Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Department of Science and Technology and Biotechnology

Seva First Innovation Challenge 2026

Eastern Zone

Review Meeting of Stakeholder Departments & District Magistrates

7th October 2026

sficeast.wb.gov.in

LAUNCH OF THE CHALLENGE

Inaugurated on 19 September 2026

- The Challenge and the portal sficeast.wb.gov.in were formally launched at the IIT Kharagpur Research Park, New Town, Kolkata.
- Hon'ble Ministers in Charge and Ministers of State, a Hon'ble Member of Parliament, and Vice-Chancellors and Directors of State and Central institutions were present.
- Bihar and Jharkhand joined the proceedings online, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar being present. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's address at the Rozgar Mela was telecast live.
- More than 550 participants attended, comprising students of schools, colleges and universities, start-ups and independent innovators.



Venue for the Launch and portal inauguration, IIT Kharagpur Research Park, New Town, Kolkata.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Progress till date

Date	Activity
9 September 2026	First Coordination Meeting of the Department
14 September 2026	Second Coordination Meeting
17 September 2026	Third Coordination Meeting
19 September 2026	Launch of the Challenge and inauguration of the portal
19 September onwards	Publicity through institutions, social media, print media, clubs and public places
1 October 2026	Fourth Coordination Meeting, chaired by the Hon'ble Minister in Charge

Submissions received through the portal

270

West Bengal

240

Bihar

16

Jharkhand

526

Total

Position as on 6 October 2026. The portal remains open for submissions until 30 October 2026.

DISTRICT LEVEL PROGRAMMES

Nodal Institutes and dates of the District Conclaves

2 and 3 December 2026

District	Nodal Institute
Nadia	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya
North 24 Parganas	IISER Kolkata
South 24 Parganas	Jadavpur University
Howrah	IEST Shibpur
Hooghly	Hooghly Mohsin College
Jhargram	Sadhu Ramchand Murmu University
Purba Medinipore	Mahishadal Raj College
Paschim Medinipore	IIT Kharagpur
Purba Bardhaman	The University of Burdwan
Paschim Bardhaman	NIT Durgapur
Bankura	Bankura University
Murshidabad	Murshidabad Maharaja K N University

4 and 5 December 2026

District	Nodal Institute
Malda	Gour Banga University
Dakshin Dinajpur	Dakshin Dinajpur University
Uttar Dinajpur	Raiganj University
Jalpaiguri	North Bengal University
Darjeeling	Darjeeling Government College
Kalimpong	Kalimpong Science Centre
Alipurduar	Alipurduar University
Cooch Behar	Coochbehar Panchanan Barma University
Purulia	Sidho Kanho Birsha University
Birbhum	Visva-Bharati
Kolkata	University of Calcutta

The District Magistrate, South 24 Pgs will organise the Conclaves of both South 24 Parganas and Kolkata, held on separate dates.

CALENDAR

Schedule of forthcoming activities

Period	Activity
30 October 2026	Closure of submissions on the portal
November 2026	Screening and evaluation of submissions against the scoring chart
2 and 3 December 2026	District Conclaves, first group of districts
4 and 5 December 2026	District Conclaves, second group of districts
First half of December 2026	Zonal Conclave for West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand

- The venue of the Zonal Conclave will be announced in due course.
- District Conclaves may ordinarily be held at the premises of the district Anchor Institute, or at such other place within the district as the District Magistrate may decide in consultation with the Institute.

STRUCTURE OF THE CHALLENGE

Two tiers of evaluation

District Conclave

- Held in every district on 2/3 December or 4/5 December 2026.
- Two categories: Junior and Open.
- Every submission crossing the minimum threshold is presented before the district jury.



Zonal Conclave

- Held in the first half of December 2026 for West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand together.
- A single Open category.
- Participants drawn from the District Conclaves of all three States.

Basis of selection

- Selection is on merit alone. The **Scoring Chart** enumerating the **Minimum Threshold** will be provided to the District shortly.
- Jadavpur University is the State-level Anchor Institute, while IIT Kharagpur and IEST Shibpur are the Zonal Anchor Institutes. With their support, the scoring methodology for selection at the Zonal Conclave will be finalised.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles in conducting the Challenge

District Magistrate

- To coordinate with the State Nodal Officer and constitute a District-level Committee for the Challenge.
- The District-level Committee will comprise the DM as the Chair, ADM Education, Head of the Nodal Institute, the representative of the HE Dept and DSTBT, and any other member as may be decided by the District Magistrate.
- To decide the venue in consultation with the District-level Nodal Institute, Higher Education, as well as the Science & Technology & Biotechnology Department.
- To liaise with the district jury members, District Anchor Institute and HE Dept. & DSTBT for shortlisting and selection at the district level.
- To organise the District Conclave as per the given schedule.

District-level Nodal Institutes & State / Zonal Anchor Institutes

- IIT Kharagpur and IEST Shibpur to act as the Zonal Anchor Institutes.
- Jadavpur University to act as the State-level Anchor Institute.
- To advise on the scoring methodology and selection for the Zonal Conclave.
- District Nodal Institutes will assist the District Magistrate in conducting the Conclave.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles in conducting the Challenge

Participating Departments

- **Higher Education Department:** To liaise with the District units, undertake wide publicity across the State and organise campaigns and interactive sessions at various higher educational institutes;
- **School Education Department:** To undertake wide publicity across the State and organise camps and exhibitions at various schools;
- **Technical Education & Training & Skill Development Department:** To liaise with the district-level polytechnics, vocational training institutes and ensure wide publicity among students and innovators;
- **MSME Department:** To liaise with District Industries Centres to ensure participation from the district-level entrepreneurs and StartUps;
- **Information Technology & Electronics Department** – To liaise with their entrepreneurs, StartUps and innovators working in various IT Parks and engaged with different Incubation Units for organising workshops and exhibitions to ensure wider participation;
- **Youth Affairs & Sports Department** – To ensure that youths engaged with various clubs, training institutes, etc. across the State are well apprised to participate through display of banners/hoardings;
- **Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department** – To liaise with their Industrial Parks for wide publicity and promotion as well as to attract budding entrepreneurs to participate in the Challenge.

RECOGNITION

Proposed Prizes for the Challenge

Level	Category	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
District Conclave	Open	Rs. 3,00,000	Rs. 2,00,000	Rs. 1,00,000
District Conclave	Junior	Rs. 2,00,000	Rs. 1,00,000	Rs. 50,000
Zonal Conclave	Open	Rs. 50,00,000	Rs. 25,00,000	Rs. 10,00,000

Support beyond the prize

- Selected innovators will receive mentorship and technical guidance, support for prototype development and piloting, incubation, and assistance in taking proven solutions towards adoption by various Departments, local bodies and industry, following due diligence.

Prizes at the District Conclave are awarded in each district.
The Zonal Conclave carries a single Open category for participants from all three States.