

Coverage Report

Mphasis and Plaksha University Build Future-Ready Talent through Second Edition of 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge'

September 17, 2026

Online

The Hindu

[News from the world of Education: September 16, 2026](#)

Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, won first prize in the second edition of the TrackShift Innovation Challenge hosted by Plaksha University, in collaboration with Mphasis. **Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering (YCCE), Nagpur**, and **Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi**, were second and third respectively.

Shiksha

[Plaksha University and Mphasis Reward Top Student Innovators in TrackShift Innovation Challenge 2026](#)

Annual TrackShift Innovation Challenge 2026 concluded successfully at the Plaksha University flagship event campus. Organised alongside Mphasis STEM innovation teams, the hackathon challenged 180 students to solve intense F1 racing problems.

Plaksha University successfully hosted the second edition of its hackathon, the TrackShift Innovation Challenge 2026. This event was organised in partnership with Mphasis to boost STEM education in India. The 24-hour applied innovation challenge was held from September 12 to September 13 on the university campus. More than 180 undergraduate and postgraduate students travelled from different parts of the country to participate in the challenge. Over 3,600 applications from top-tier institutions like the IITs, NITs, BITS Pilani, and various regional colleges were received for participation.

Interestingly, female tech students were one-third of the total applications. The event challenged young minds. Students worked in the fields of artificial intelligence, advanced mobility, and intelligent systems. The problem statements were directly inspired by real-world technical issues faced during the actual 2026 motorsport racing season.

The event featured three complex engineering problem statements drawn from real-world motorsport problems. The first area was Energy and Overtake Intelligence. Teams had to build a live decision engine to recommend perfect energy modes during live races. The second challenge was Track Limits Detection. Students used advanced computer vision tools and car telemetry data to spot racing violations instantly. The third area was Tyre Degradation Intelligence. Participants created mathematical models to remove background noise from practice sessions.

The CSR Universe

[Mphasis, Plaksha University Host TrackShift Innovation Challenge](#)

Bengaluru | September 15, 2026: Mphasis Foundation, in partnership with Plaksha University, hosted the second edition of the **TrackShift Innovation Challenge** on September 12–13, bringing together more than 180 undergraduate and postgraduate students from across India to work on applications of artificial intelligence, mobility and intelligent systems.

Held at the Plaksha University campus, the 24-hour applied innovation challenge was developed as part of Mphasis' multi-year association with the **TGR Haas F1 Team**. Students used computer vision, data science and predictive modelling to develop proofs of concept based on engineering challenges from elite motorsport.

The initiative received more than **3,600 applications**, including students from IITs, NITs, IIIT-Hyderabad, BITS Pilani and regional and tier 2–3 institutions. About one-third of applicants were female students.

This year's challenge featured three problem statements: Energy & Overtake Intelligence, focused on real-time energy deployment and overtake decisions; Track Limits Detection, involving AI-based identification of violations using computer vision and car telemetry; and Tyre Degradation Intelligence, aimed at predicting tyre performance while accounting for external variables.

"Motorsport brings together some of the most complex challenges in engineering, data and technology, and TrackShift allows students to engage with these challenges from a practical perspective. By working on problems inspired by the realities of motorsport, participants were able to apply their technical knowledge, explore new approaches and develop solutions that have relevance beyond the track. It was particularly interesting to observe how the students approached this year's challenges and the fresh perspectives they brought to these complex engineering problems," said **Jason Kew, Head of Information, TGR Haas F1 Team**.

"The TGR Haas F1 Team partnership gives TrackShift something rare: engineering problems with real stakes and real complexity. What excites me is that students from IITs and from tier 2 colleges across India are sitting in the same room, working on the same hard problems that professionals at the frontier of motorsport technology deal with every day. That is exactly the kind of talent pipeline India's technology industry needs and the kind Mphasis is committed to building," said **Veda Iyer, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Head of Hyperscalers & Strategic Partnerships, and Head Sales- APAC, Mphasis**.

"Engineers are shaped by the problems they are given. TrackShift puts that belief to the test every year, and this edition, with its focus on overtake intelligence, track limit detection and tyre degradation intelligence, pushed students into the kind of complexity our industry partners deal with daily. That is the standard we want our graduates to be ready for," said **Prof. M. Balakrishnan, Distinguished Visiting Professor, Plaksha University**.

The winning teams were **Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore**, which secured first place; **Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering (YCCE), Nagpur**, which won second place; and **Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi**, which secured third place. The teams received cash prizes of ₹1 lakh, ₹50,000 and ₹25,000, respectively, along with mentorship-based internships at Mphasis.

The top three teams will also receive a fully sponsored visit to the TGR Haas F1 Team facility in the UK. Selected participants will undertake internships of up to two months at Mphasis, receiving mentoring while working on live AI and innovation projects. Solutions developed during the challenge will be made available through an open repository on the TrackShift website.

CXO Today

[Mphasis and Plaksha University Build Future-Ready Talent through Second Edition of 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge'](#)

Mphasis Foundation, in partnership with Plaksha University, hosted the second edition of the TrackShift Innovation Challenge on September 12–13, 2026, at the Plaksha University campus. The 24-hour applied innovation challenge brought together more than 180 undergraduate and postgraduate student innovators from across India to develop scalable proofs of concept at the intersection of artificial intelligence, mobility and intelligent systems.

Developed as part of Mphasis' multi-year association with the TGR Haas F1 Team, TrackShift 2026 challenged students to apply emerging technologies including computer vision, data science and predictive modelling to engineering problems drawn directly from the realities of elite motorsport. This year's edition placed a sharper focus on applied engineering rigour, with problem statements inspired by the technical constraints and decision-making scenarios of the 2026 racing season.

The challenge drew over 3600 applications from students across India, including those from IITs, NITs, IIIT-Hyderabad, BITS Pilani, and a significant number of regional and tier 2 – 3 institutions. Approximately one-third of applicants were female students, a reflection of the initiative's commitment to women in STEM education and broadening participation in high-complexity technology challenges.

This year's challenge featured three problem statements:

- **Energy & Overtake Intelligence:** Build a real-time decision engine that recommends optimal energy deployment modes and evaluates the risk-reward ratio of overtake windows.
- **Track Limits Detection:** Develop an AI-powered video analysis system to detect track-limit violations using computer vision and car telemetry.
- **Tyre Degradation Intelligence:** Create a predictive model that strips external noise from practice sessions to generate clean tyre performance degradation curves.

Solutions developed during the challenge will be made available through an open repository on the TrackShift website, accessible to industry partners, academia, startups and research labs ensuring that promising ideas can continue to evolve beyond the challenge itself.

"Motorsport brings together some of the most complex challenges in engineering, data and technology, and TrackShift allows students to engage with these challenges from a practical perspective. By working on problems inspired by the realities of motorsport, participants were able to apply their technical knowledge, explore new approaches and develop solutions that have relevance beyond the track. It was particularly interesting to observe how the students approached this year's challenges and the fresh perspectives they brought to these complex engineering problems," said Jason Kew, Head of Information, TGR Haas F1 Team.

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The top three winning teams received cash prizes of ₹1,00,000, ₹50,000, and ₹25,000, respectively, along with mentorship-based internships at Mphasis. The winning teams are:

- 1st prize: Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore
- 2nd Prize: Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering (YCCE), Nagpur
- 3rd prize: Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi

The top three teams will receive a share of the cash prize, along with a fully sponsored visit to the TGR Haas F1 Team facility in the United Kingdom. Selected participants will receive mentoring during their internship (up to two months) at Mphasis, working on live AI and innovation projects. Participants will receive innovation kits and certificates, meet industry experts, academic leaders and the TGR Haas F1 Team, along with networking opportunities with global technology leaders.

Mphasis Foundation, a CSR arm of Mphasis, reflects the company’s belief that technology excellence and purposeful innovation can drive meaningful social impact.

India Education Diary

[180 students solve Motorsport challenges at TrackShift Innovation Challenge, an annual flagship event by Plaksha University and Mphasis](#)

Student innovators develop scalable proofs of concept addressing real-world challenges in AI, mobility and intelligent systems

Top three teams to earn a fully sponsored visit to the TGR Haas F1 Team facility in the United Kingdom
Plaksha University, in collaboration with the Mphasis as part of its commitment to promoting inclusive education and innovation in STEM hosted the second edition of the 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge' on September 12–13, 2026, at the Plaksha University campus. The 24-hour applied innovation challenge brought together more than 180 undergraduate and postgraduate student innovators from across India to develop scalable proofs of concept at the intersection of artificial intelligence, mobility and intelligent systems.

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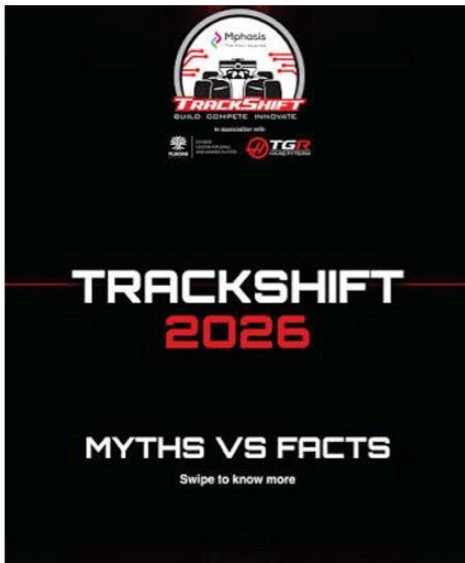
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Print

Dainik Maha Majha



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