

## **Coverage Report**

**Mphasis F1 Foundation and Plaksha University Empower Young Innovators  
through 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge'**

**December 02, 2025**

## Online

### **The New Indian Express EdexLive**

#### **[From coders to systems thinkers: The new Indian engineer is being trained for uncertainty](#)**

What happens when you blend the high-stakes world of Formula One with the untapped ingenuity of India's engineering campuses? The recently concluded TrackShift Innovation Challenge, hosted by Plaksha University in partnership with Mphasis F1 Foundation and the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team, set out to find the answer. The hackathon proved to be a pointed demonstration of how global motorsport standards are being transposed onto the Indian student engineering ecosystem, producing not only prototypes but, crucially, open-source tools intended for real-world deployment.

#### **From hackathon hype to tangible outcomes**

TrackShift was not designed as a performative coding sprint. Over 1,800 students from institutes ranging from IITs and BITS to tier-3 colleges applied, and only 50 teams were invited to the final 48-hour grind at Plaksha's Mohali campus. The prompt was direct: solve genuine motorsport problems like visual difference detection in images, resilient data transfer under poor connectivity, and live race strategy simulation, using advanced techniques in AI, data science, and simulation. But the underlying logic was to produce solutions that could leap across sectors, from racing to agriculture, logistics, and manufacturing, without being chained to one use case.

All tools and code emerging from the challenge are open-source, ensuring that the best work does not vanish behind a corporate firewall or be left to languish as code dumps on GitHub. In addition to receiving cash prizes, the top three teams also qualify for a structured internship at Mphasis designed to advance projects beyond the proof-of-concept stage.

Highlighting their commitment to ongoing support, Veda Iyer, CMO at Mphasis, explained, "We proactively take these solutions to customers, integrate them into our marketplace with AWS, Microsoft, Google, and seek direct industry adoption."

Select participants will further have the opportunity to visit the MoneyGram Haas F1 facility in the UK, experience the high-stakes environment of race-day problem solving, and see how precision engineering translates across sectors. This will embed them in live industry contexts where the real-world applicability of their code will be put to the test.

#### **The industry-academia feedback loop**

For Prof Rudra Pratap, Founding Vice Chancellor of Plaksha, the goal is not merely to host another student competition, but to signal a fundamental shift in how Indian campuses approach engineering education. He argues that today's complex, multi-dimensional problems cannot be addressed with the old, siloed model of training. "The past has been very, very siloed. You get training in a very narrow area, and then you expect that once you get to real life, maybe you will be able to do something based on what you have learned," he observes. Yet in practice, that approach is seldom enough.

At Plaksha, and in similar campuses now emerging across the country, students are explicitly trained to look beyond technical parameters, to evaluate social, humanistic, and sustainability dimensions alongside the engineering challenge.

The problems Indian students are being asked to solve, both through programmes like TrackShift and in their regular coursework, are fundamentally different from those that shaped engineering in the West. As Prof Pratap points out, India faces scale and complexity at an order developed countries have not encountered. The talent pool is vast, but the real difference is the ability to navigate uncertainty, and to “think on your feet” as Gary Foote, CIO of the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team, describes it, a trait now prized as much as technical expertise.

Industry leaders are no longer looking for coders alone. As Foote explains, the last decade has seen a pivot toward hiring engineers who can demonstrate not only deep domain knowledge but also soft skills like collaboration, adaptability, and communication, which determine whether a solution survives the jump from codebase to business-critical deployment.

### **Motorsport rigour, universal relevance**

Much of the learning, the organisers insist, was not in the problem statements but in the mode of engagement, which was time-boxed, collaborative, and designed to simulate the real-world pressures of racing, manufacturing, and logistics alike. Students learned to measure, quantify, and optimise for failure probabilities in both hardware and software, a skillset that translates directly to sectors like agriculture and infrastructure. Reliability, so crucial in motorsport, is reframed as scientific discipline.

This was also a testbed for mindset: a transition from students as coders to students as systems thinkers capable of synthesising knowledge from across engineering, business, and the humanities. The emphasis on AI and agentified solutions further positioned participants as future-proof technologists, able to adapt as AI shifts the contours of the job market.

### **What success looks like**

For the organisers, success is measured not by the immediate polish of a demo, but by the willingness of students to carry ideas forward, connect coursework to tangible solutions, and see their prototypes evolve into tools that can be adopted, extended, and commercialised. There is a cultural ambition as well, to build a broader Indian fanbase for motorsport, and embed collaboration as a professional norm for a new generation of engineers.

Innovation challenges like TrackShift are, by design, living experiments in how cross-border industry partnerships, open-source thinking, and educational reform can come together to grow not just employable graduates, but true innovators for India and beyond.

## The CSR Universe

### [Mphasis F1 Foundation and Plaksha University Host National 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge' to Promote Industry-Ready STEM Innovation](#)

The Mphasis F1 Foundation, in partnership with Plaksha University, concluded the two-day 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge', aimed at encouraging students to develop open-source, industry-focused technology solutions. Held on November 15–16 at the Plaksha University campus, the event brought together 150 students from 50 teams representing institutions across India.

The challenge encouraged STEM students to apply emerging technologies — such as AI, data science and simulation— to create practical solutions addressing mobility, infrastructure and manufacturing challenges. The initiative draws inspiration from Mphasis' role as the Official Digital Partner of the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team.

Veda Iyer, Global Chief Marketing Officer and Head of Hyperscalers & Strategic Partnerships, Mphasis, said, “The TrackShift Innovation Challenge reflects Mphasis Foundation’s vision to advance technology education, nurture young innovators, and promote inclusive pathways in STEM. By nurturing problem-solving and innovation in students, we are building a future-ready, inclusive talent ecosystem that serves both community and industry needs.”

Gary Foote, CIO of the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team, added, “It is inspiring to see Indian students create open tools for global industries, reflecting the true potential of collaborative innovation. By adopting an open-source model, the challenge has ensured that solutions shaped through motorsport-grade rigour can be adapted and applied to real-world needs at scale.”

Prof. Rudra Pratap, Vice Chancellor of Plaksha University, said, “This collaboration exemplifies our vision of applied, experiential education where students move beyond ideation to implementation. Through our partnership with Mphasis F1 Foundation, we are creating a living repository of applied innovation that is scalable and inclusive.”

The competition attracted over 1,800 applications nationwide, with 50 shortlisted teams working on three problem statements: a Visual Difference Engine, Smart File Transfer System and Competitive Mobility Simulator. The top three teams received cash prizes of ₹1,00,000, ₹50,000 and ₹25,000, respectively, along with internship opportunities at Mphasis.

To further strengthen learning outcomes, select participants will also visit the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team facility in the United Kingdom for an experiential technology immersion.

The TrackShift initiative will continue to support prototype development, piloting opportunities and student-led solutions, forming an open repository of applied innovations. The program complements ongoing collaborations between Mphasis F1 Foundation and Plaksha University, including support for inclusive infrastructure, research facilities and STEM scholarships.

The initiative also aligns with Mphasis Foundation’s broader CSR efforts, including the Girls and Women in STEM (GWIST) program, which aims to empower over 1,500 women in technology and entrepreneurship over the next four years.

## India Education Diary

### [Mphasis F1 Foundation and Plaksha University Empower Young Innovators through 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge'](#)

Plaksha University, in collaboration with the Mphasis F1 Foundation, hosted the TrackShift Innovation Challenge on November 15–16 at the Plaksha University Campus. The two-day national-level innovation challenge brought together over 150 students from 50 teams across India to co-create open-source, industry-ready solutions inspired by motorsport's precision, data-led problem solving, and engineering excellence.

The initiative, inspired by Mphasis, official Digital Partner of the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team, was aimed at students from STEM backgrounds to apply emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data science, and simulation to solve real-world challenges across mobility, infrastructure, and manufacturing. The resulting solutions will be made open source to foster collaboration between academia, research institutions, startups, and industry, ensuring that technology remains accessible and equitable.

"This collaboration exemplifies our vision of applied, experiential education where students move beyond ideation to implementation. Through our partnership with Mphasis F1 Foundation, we are creating a living repository of applied innovation that is scalable and inclusive," said Prof Rudra Pratap, Vice Chancellor of Plaksha University.

"The TrackShift Innovation Challenge reflects Mphasis Foundation's vision to advance technology education, nurture young innovators, and promote inclusive pathways in STEM. By nurturing problem-solving and innovation in students, we are building a future-ready, inclusive talent ecosystem that serves both community and industry needs. The initiative also strengthens collaboration between academia and industry and helps develop the next generation of engineers, data scientists, and AI talent for India's growing technology ecosystem," said Veda Iyer, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Head of Hyperscalers & Strategic Partnerships, and Head Sales – APAC, Mphasis.

MoneyGram Haas F1 Team's CIO, Gary Foote, who attended the Plaksha event and inspired the students across the two days with insights into technology innovation in motorsport, said, "It is inspiring to see Indian students create open tools for global industries, reflecting the true potential of collaborative innovation. The initiative reinforces how innovation can remain practical, accessible, and impactful. By adopting an open-source model, the challenge has ensured that solutions shaped through motorsport-grade rigour can be adapted and applied to real-world needs at scale".

The challenge received over 1,800 applications nationwide, from institutions including IITs, NITs, IIIT-Hyderabad, BITS Pilani, and several regional and tier-3 colleges. Fifty teams were shortlisted to compete in the final round at Plaksha University, working on three real-world problem statements:

- Visual Difference Engine – Detects and interprets small changes in images taken over time
- Smart File Transfer System – Enable fast, secure file sharing even in low-connectivity environments
- Competitive Mobility Simulator – Create a real-time simulator for vehicle movement and racing scenarios

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:

- First prize: LNM Institute of Information & Technology, Jaipur, for their work on the Competitive Mobility Systems Simulator
- Second prize: Sarhad College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Pune, for their work on the Smart File Transfer System
- Third prize: Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Gangtok, for their work on the Visual Difference Engine.

The selected participants will also undergo structured mentorship through Mphasis F1 Foundation's CSR initiatives, gaining exposure to AI-focused projects, applied learning, and entrepreneurship development. Some participants will additionally receive a fully sponsored two-day experiential visit to the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team facility in the United Kingdom, designed to deepen their understanding of precision engineering and technology in motion.

Beyond the competition, the TrackShift initiative is designed to create long-term impact—supporting prototype development, piloting opportunities, and student-led innovations that can evolve into social enterprises. The top innovations from the challenge will be openly accessible on its platform to foster collaboration, enhancement, and scale. This will build a growing repository of applied innovation that can be adapted and deployed across sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, and logistics.

This program aligns with the Foundation's ongoing work at Plaksha University, which includes support for inclusive infrastructure, research facilities, and scholarships for students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, including persons with disabilities. It also complements Mphasis Foundation's flagship Girls and Women in STEM (GWIST) initiative, which aims to engage over 1,500 women in STEM education and entrepreneurship over the next four years.

Earlier this year, the DS Brar Center for Girls and Women in STEM was launched at Plaksha University with support from Mphasis F1 Foundation — an important milestone in building a gender-inclusive innovation ecosystem in India.

## The Tribune

### [Plaksha varsity to host 2-day innovation challenge](#)

A motorsport-based national innovation challenge co-designed by Plaksha University, the Mphasis F1 Foundation and the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team will be held at the Mohali campus on November 15 and 16. The event will bring together some of India's brightest young minds to reimagine the future of mobility, AI and sustainability.

Titled 'Trackshift', the challenge has drawn participation from over 1,800 students across premier institutions, including IITs, IIIT Hyderabad and NITs, of which 50 teams have been shortlisted for the on-campus sprint.

Around 150 top student innovators are set to participate in the final round, where they will tackle real-world problems inspired by the data, simulation and design challenges of Formula 1.

The winners stand to receive internships at Mphasis, a sponsored visit to the MoneyGram Haas F1 facility in the UK, and a cash prize of Rs 1.75 lakh. According to organisers, Trackshift blends technology and speed in a unique way—combining the precision of F1 engineering with cutting-edge innovation in AI and sustainable systems. The initiative is supported by the DS Brar Centre for Girls & Women in STEM, aiming to foster inclusivity and gender diversity in emerging tech fields.

## MSN

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The initiative, inspired by Mphasis, official Digital Partner of the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team, was aimed at students from STEM backgrounds to apply emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data science, and simulation to solve real-world challenges across mobility, infrastructure, and manufacturing. The resulting solutions will be made open source to foster collaboration between academia, research institutions, startups, and industry, ensuring that technology remains accessible and equitable.

"This collaboration exemplifies our vision of applied, experiential education where students move beyond ideation to implementation. Through our partnership with Mphasis F1 Foundation, we are creating a living repository of applied innovation that is scalable and inclusive," said Prof Rudra Pratap, Vice Chancellor of Plaksha University.

"The TrackShift Innovation Challenge reflects Mphasis Foundation's vision to advance technology education, nurture young innovators, and promote inclusive pathways in STEM. By nurturing problem-solving and innovation in students, we are building a future-ready, inclusive talent ecosystem that serves both community and industry needs. The initiative also strengthens collaboration between academia and industry and helps develop the next generation of engineers, data scientists, and AI talent for India's growing technology ecosystem," said Veda Iyer, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Head of Hyperscalers & Strategic Partnerships, and Head Sales - APAC, Mphasis.

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## MF News Daily

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Print

The Indian Express

## TrackShift Innovation Challenge

PLAKSHA UNIVERSITY, in partnership with the Mphasis F1 Foundation, hosted a two-day national TrackShift Innovation Challenge, bringing together more than 150 young innovators from 50 teams across India. The event aimed to nurture industry-ready, open-source solutions inspired by the precision, analytical depth, and engineering excellence of motorsports. STEM students were encouraged to apply emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, data science and advanced simulations to address real-world challenges in mobility, infra and manufacturing. ENS

# प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय में देशभर के युवा नवप्रवर्तक सम्मानित

जागरण संवाददाता, मोहाली : प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय ने एमफैसिस एफा फ्रंटडेशन के सहयोग से दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय स्तर की ट्रेकिंग इन्वेंशन चैलेंज का सफल आयोजन किया।

विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में हुई इस प्रतियोगिता में देशभर की 50 टीमों के 150 से अधिक छात्रों ने भाग लिया। प्रतियोगिता का उद्देश्य मोटरस्पोर्ट्स की सटीकता, डेटा आधारित समस्या-समाधान और इंजीनियरिंग उत्कृष्टता से प्रेरित ओपन-सोर्स, उद्योग उन्मुख समाधान विकसित करना था। यह पहल एमफैसिस द्वारा प्रेरित है, जो मनीग्राम हास एफा टीम का आधिकारिक डिजिटल पार्टनर है। चुनौती का लक्ष्य एसटीईएम पृष्ठभूमि वाले छात्रों को नई तकनीकों जैसे



विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में हुई प्रतियोगिता में विजेता छात्रों को सम्मानित किया गया।

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता, डेटा विज्ञान और सिमुलेशन—के माध्यम से मोबिलिटी, अवसर-संचना और विनिर्माण से जुड़े वास्तविक समस्याओं का समाधान तैयार करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना था। तैयार किए गए सभी समाधान

ओपन-सोर्स किए जाएंगे ताकि शिक्षाविदों, स्टार्टअप्स, शोध संस्थानों और उद्योग के बीच सहयोग को बढ़ावा मिल सके। कुलपति प्रो. रुद्र प्रताप ने कहा कि यह साझेदारी विश्वविद्यालय के अनुभव-आधारित

शिक्षा मॉडल को मजबूत करती है, जहां विद्यार्थी विचारों को व्यवहारिक रूप देते हैं और उपयोगी नवाचारों का निर्माण करते हैं। देशभर से 1,800 से अधिक आवेदन आए थे, जिनमें आइआईटी, एनआईटी,

दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय स्तर की ट्रेकिंग इन्वेंशन चैलेंज का आयोजन, 50 टीमों के 150 से अधिक छात्रों ने भाग लिया

आइआईआईटी हैदराबाद, बिट्स पिलानी सहित कई संस्थान शामिल थे। 50 टीमों ने किजुअल डिफरेंस इंजन, स्मार्ट फाइल ट्रांसफर सिस्टम और कम्पिटिव मोबिलिटी सिमुलेटर जैसे तीन वास्तविक कार्य विशेषों पर समाधान प्रस्तुत किए। प्रतियोगिता में एलएनएमआईआईटी जयपुर ने प्रथम, सरहद महाविद्यालय पुणे ने द्वितीय और सिक्रम मणिपाल प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान ने तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त किया।

## Tribune

### **Plaksha varsity to host 2-day innovation challenge**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

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Tribune

## **NATIONAL-LEVEL INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

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## Punjab Express

### **Plaksha University empowers young innovators through 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge'**

**CHANDIGARH:** Plaksha University, in collaboration with the Mphasis F1 Foundation, hosted the TrackShift Innovation Challenge at the Plaksha University Campus. The two-day national-level innovation challenge brought together over 150 students from 50 teams across India to co-create open-source, industry-ready solutions inspired by motorsport's precision, data-led problem solving, and engineering excellence. This collaboration exemplifies our vision of applied, experiential education where students move beyond ideation to implementation. Through our partnership with Mphasis F1 Foundation, we are creating a living repository of applied innovation that is scalable and inclusive," said Prof Rudra Pratap, Vice Chancellor of Plaksha University. **BPE**

## Aaj Samaj

### प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय ने ट्रैकशिफ्ट इनोवेशन चैलेंज के माध्यम से युवा नवप्रवर्तकों को सशक्त बनाया



मोहाली - प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय ने एमफैसिस एफ1 फाउंडेशन के सहयोग से प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में ट्रैकशिफ्ट इनोवेशन चैलेंज की मेजबानी की। दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय स्तर की इस इनोवेशन चैलेंज में देशभर की 50 टीमों के 150 से अधिक छात्रों ने भाग लिया। इस चुनौती का उद्देश्य मोटरस्पोर्ट्स की सटीकता, डेटा-आधारित समस्या समाधान और इंजीनियरिंग उत्कृष्टता से प्रेरित ओपन-सोर्स, उद्योग-उन्मुख समाधानों का सह-निर्माण करना था। यह पहल, जो मनीग्राम हास एफ1 टीम के आधिकारिक डिजिटल पार्टनर एमफैसिस द्वारा प्रेरित है, एसटीईएम पृष्ठभूमि वाले छात्रों के लिए बनाई गई थी ताकि वे कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता, डेटा विज्ञान और सिमुलेशन जैसी उभरती तकनीकों का उपयोग करके मोबिलिटी, अवसंरचना और विनिर्माण से जुड़े वास्तविक चुनौतियों का समाधान विकसित कर सकें। तैयार किए गए समाधान ओपन सोर्स किए जाएंगे ताकि शिक्षाविदों, अनुसंधान संस्थानों, स्टार्टअप्स और उद्योग के बीच सहयोग को बढ़ावा मिले और तकनीक सुलभ और न्यायसंगत बनी रहे। प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रोफेसर रुद्र प्रताप ने कहा कि यह सहयोग हमारे उस दृष्टिकोण का उत्तम उदाहरण है जिसमें शिक्षा व्यवहारिक और अनुभव आधारित हो, जहाँ विद्यार्थी केवल सोच-विचार तक सीमित न रहकर उसे कार्य रूप में बदलते हैं। एमफैसिस एफएचएन फाउंडेशन के साथ हमारी साझेदारी के माध्यम से हम व्यवहारिक नवाचार का एक जीवंत संग्रह बना रहे हैं, जो फैलाया जा सकने वाला और सबको साथ लेकर चलने वाला है। इस चुनौती को देशभर से एक हजार आठ सौ से अधिक आवेदन प्राप्त हुए, जिनमें भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानदहैदराबाद, बिट्स पिलानी तथा कई क्षेत्रीय और तृतीय श्रेणी के महाविद्यालय शामिल थे। पचास दलों को अंतिम चरण में प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय में प्रतिस्पर्धा करने के लिए चुना गया, जहाँ उन्होंने तीन वास्तविक जीवन से जुड़े कार्य विषयों पर काम किया।

Online		
Date	Publication/ Portal	Headline
November 28, 2025	The New Indian Express EdexLive	<a href="#">From coders to systems thinkers: The new Indian engineer is being trained for uncertainty</a>
November 17, 2025	The CSR Universe	<a href="#">Mphasis F1 Foundation and Plaksha University Host National 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge' to Promote Industry-Ready STEM Innovation</a>
November 17, 2025	India Education Diary	<a href="#">Mphasis F1 Foundation and Plaksha University Empower Young Innovators through 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge'</a>
November 14, 2025	The Tribune	<a href="#">Plaksha varsity to host 2-day innovation challenge</a>
November 17, 2025	MSN	<a href="#">Mphasis F1 Foundation and Plaksha University Empower Young Innovators through 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge'</a>
November 18, 2025	MF News Daily	<a href="#">Mphasis F1 Foundation and Plaksha University Empower Young Innovators through 'TrackShift Innovation Challenge'</a>

Print			
Date	Publication	Edition	Headline
November 18, 2025	The Indian Express	Chandigarh	TrackShift Innovation Challenge
November 18, 2025	Dainik Jagran	Chandigarh	प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय में देशभर के युवा नवप्रवर्तक सम्मानित
November 14, 2025	Tribune	Chandigarh	Plaksha varsity to host 2 day innovation challenge
November 23, 2025	Tribune	Chandigarh	National-level innovation challenge
November 18, 2025	Punjab Express	Chandigarh	Plaksha University empowers young innovators through TrackShift Innovation Challenge
November 18, 2025	Aaj Samaj	Chandigarh	प्लक्षा विश्वविद्यालय ने ट्रैकशिफ्ट इनोवेशन चैलेंज के माध्यम से युवा नवप्रवर्तकों को सशक्त बनाया