Digital Catalyst Programme

Empowering the Next Generation of Rural Tech Leaders in Uttarakhand

KALPAVRIKSHA
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

A Message of Purpose

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In Uttarakhand's villages, nestled in the Himalayas, people face many challenges. Remote locations, youth migration, climate threats, and limited access to technology have held back progress. Yet, beneath these challenges lies great untapped talent. The young people here don't just dream of living, they dream of transforming their homeland. They want to mix traditional wisdom with new ideas to bring real, sustainable change to their communities.
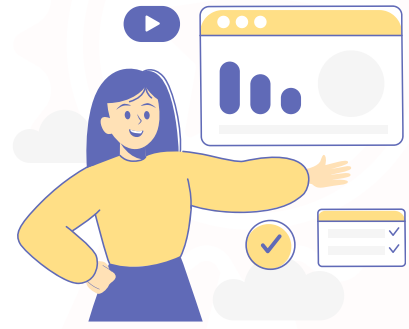
The Digital Catalyst Programme was born from a simple truth: solutions to Uttarakhand's challenges already live in the hearts of its people. We find bright young minds in remote villages—students who know their land's pain points intimately—and give them the tools to turn ideas into action. Through hands-on tech training, mentorship from seasoned innovators, and a focus on blending tradition with modern tools, we empower them to tackle problems their way. Imagine a student in Chamoli using simple apps to warn farmers about landslides. Picture a young woman in Bageshwar turning her grandmother's herbal remedies into a sustainable village enterprise. Envision youth teams reviving eco-tourism by sharing Himalayan stories with the world through videos and social media. This isn't just skill-building—it's community-building. Our goal? To create a future where Uttarakhand's youth no longer flee to cities but stay to lead. Where technology doesn't erase traditions but strengthens them. Where villages thrive as hubs of innovation, not just survival.

The mountains teach us patience, but our people have waited long enough. It's time to rise—rooted in heritage, armed with tools, and united by purpose.

Join us. Let's build a digital Uttarakhand, together.

About the Programme

The Digital Catalyst Programme is a fully funded, year-round initiative for high-achieving students from rural Uttarakhand. It bridges the digital skills gap by combining advanced technology training with leadership development, mentorship, and community-driven problem-solving. Students gain access to a lifelong network of peers and mentors to support their academic and career growth.

Vision

To create a generation of digitally empowered rural youth who can leverage technology to transform their lives and uplift their communities, driving sustainable development in Uttarakhand and beyond.

Mission

To bridge the digital skills divide for rural Uttarakhand's academically bright students by equipping them with advanced technological skills and fostering a spirit of innovation and leadership—laying the foundation for a future where our program grows to inspire change across the nation.

A Snapshot Of The Student Journey

Your journey to becoming a digital changemaker begins with the Digital Catalyst Program. Experience a 14-day intensive bootcamp at Maya Devi University, followed by a year of personalized mentorship. This fully funded program removes financial obstacles, providing transportation, accommodation, state-of-the-art facilities, and meals. Unlock access to advanced digital courses, valuable resources, and countless professional development opportunities, all designed to empower you to make a difference.

Stage 1
Foundational Excellence

As a top performer in the Uttarakhand State Board exams with a strong aptitude in math and science, you have already shown academic brilliance and leadership potential. Whether you've organized school events or resolved peer conflicts, your achievements set the stage for the program. Your strong academics and interpersonal skills make you the ideal candidate for the Digital Catalyst Program

Stage 2
Skill Acquisition

Once admitted, you will embark on an intensive bootcamp where you master essential digital skills such as Python, AI, Data Science, and web development. Alongside technical training, you will engage in workshops focused on design thinking, conflict resolution, and ethical leadership.

Stage 3
Community Integration

In this phase, you'll join a vibrant network of over 100 students from across Uttarakhand, supported by industry experts, educators, and social entrepreneurs. Through regular meetups, group activities, and access to resources like WhatsApp support groups and digital libraries, you'll build lasting relationships that guide your academic and professional journey.

Stage 4
Mentorship and Opportunities

In this stage, you unlock advanced training and career opportunities. You'll attend specialized workshops and earn certifications in fields like data science and cybersecurity. With access to internships and grant funding for community projects, you'll refine your ideas and career goals through monthly mentoring sessions. This phase prepares you for national innovation challenges and further professional growth.

Stage 5
Public Recognition & Impact

Your innovative work will gain the spotlight through presentations at state-level showcases and public events. This recognition validates your efforts and inspires both you and your community, highlighting the real-world impact of your projects.
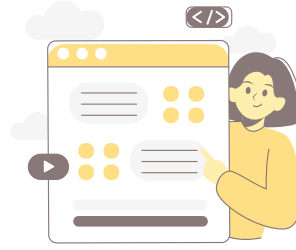
Stage 6
Scaling & Legacy Building

Finally, you will have the opportunity to expand your innovative prototypes into scalable initiatives that benefit multiple villages in Uttarakhand. You'll be encouraged to share your success by mentoring peers and, over time, transition into an alumni role where you help guide future cohorts.

Programme Structure

Yoga and Meditation (14 Hours)

Description: Daily early morning sessions designed to build mental clarity, reduce stress, and enhance physical well-being. These sessions help participants maintain focus and balance during intensive learning

Impact: Improved concentration, reduced anxiety, and enhanced overall resilience, setting a strong foundation for the program.
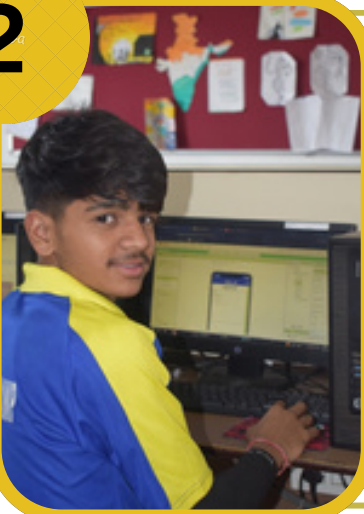
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Digital Skills Training (60 Hours)

Description : A rigorous, hands-on training module covering key digital domains including Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Web Development, SQL, and Graphic Design. Aligned with CBSE vocational standards, this training emphasizes practical applications and real-world projects.

Impact: Participants acquire advanced technical skills, enabling them to become proficient digital creators and innovative problem-solvers.

2

Changemaker Skills Workshop (18 Hours)

Description: Interactive sessions focused on developing empathy, design thinking, innovation, and ethical leadership. Through group discussions, community mapping, and problem-solving exercises, students learn to identify and address local challenges.

Impact: Cultivates a mindset geared towards community impact and social change, empowering students to drive sustainable development.

3

4

The Future Forward Seminars (15 Hours)

Description: Expert-led seminars and interactive sessions with industry leaders, academicians, and researchers. These seminars provide insights into future technological trends, entrepreneurial strategies, and community leadership.

Impact: Inspires forward-thinking, broadens participants' perspectives, and helps build valuable professional networks.

Talent Showcasing (14 Hours)

Description: Daily sessions that offer participants a platform to display their non-digital talents, such as music, art, drama, or any other creative skill.

Impact: Enhances self-expression, builds confidence, and nurtures cultural pride while reinforcing a well-rounded skill set.

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6

Creative Recharge (14 Hours)

Description: These sessions provide a flexible, open environment where participants choose how to unwind. Whether you prefer playing sports, drawing, singing, or engaging in other creative activities, the Recreation time is yours to enjoy. It's a free space to relax, have fun, and express your unique interests outside the academic schedule.

Impact: Promotes overall well-being, strengthens social bonds, and encourages self-expression while offering a healthy break from intensive training.

Group Project & Showcase (10 Hours)

Description: A dedicated period for practical application of learned skills, where students collaborate on a group project addressing a real-world community challenge and present their work.

Impact: Reinforces technical and leadership skills through hands-on project work, fosters collaboration, and offers an opportunity for public recognition.

7

8

Sustained Mentorship (12 Months)

Description: A continuous mentorship phase following the bootcamp, where students are grouped into teams (typically five per group) and paired with experienced mentors. This phase supports the refinement of community projects, ongoing digital skills development, and guidance on academic and career pathways.

Impact: Provides long-term support, facilitates continuous learning, and helps build a network of professionals and peers dedicated to driving lasting community impact.

The Digital Catalyst Programme is more than a bootcamp—it's a transformative journey. With advanced digital training, holistic activities (yoga, changemaker workshops, talent showcases, and recreational sessions) and year-long mentorship, we empower rural Uttarakhand's youth to become leaders driving sustainable change.

Did You Know?

This brochure was designed by the talented participants **(Vasu Sharma, Anant Badoni, Saurabh Negi and Hemant Negi)** of our ASCEND Bootcamp. Class 10 students from GIC Badasi and GIC Dwara mastered graphic design tool Canva and transformed their design skills into this brochure.

How to Apply?

1. Eligibility:

- Passed Class 10 (UBSE Board, 2025) with 80%+ marks

- Currently in a Govt, Govt-Aided, or UBSE-affiliated Private School

- Preference for students from:
  - Marginalized backgrounds (EWS, SC/ST/OBC)
  - First-generation learners

- One student per block (exceptions for outstanding profiles)

- 40% seats reserved for girls

2. Submit your Application Online

Application Open : 21 April 2025

Application Close : 15 May 2025

3. Telephonic Interview

For Shortlisted Students : Mid May (Tentative)

4. Selection and Campus Experience

Shortlist: Mid Week of May 2025
Bootcamp Experience at Maya Devi University, Selakui, Dehradun
1st June - 16th June 2025

Contact Information:

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APPLY NOW!

SCAN OR TAP THE QR CODE