

Regional Stage: Written Submission

Submission requirements for the regional stage, Mozilla Human Scale AI Buildathon India 2026.

S1 Scope and submission

S1.1 Submit one online entry form containing the eight fields specified in S2.

S1.2 Submit not later than 24 hours before the start of your regional event. Entries received after this time are not assessed.

S1.3 Observe the word cap on each field. Text beyond the cap is not read.

S1.4 Submit no attachments, appendices or supporting documents. Only the entry form is assessed.

S1.5 Do not submit a prototype, demonstration, screen recording or source code. Where a team has already built a working tool, state this in one sentence in field S2.8. It attracts no marks.

S1.6 Do not state projected adoption, accuracy or cost figures. Figures that cannot be sourced are marked down.

S1.7 Do not propose a solution requiring institutional-scale data, computing resources or infrastructure. The scope of this buildathon is low-cost, low-resource AI for a defined Indian context.

NOTE The word caps are short by design. A team with direct knowledge of a place and no design skills should be able to pass this stage; a team with a well-presented but thin problem should not.

S2 Field requirements

Complete all eight fields. The completed entry runs to approximately 600 words.

Clause	Field	Cap	Requirement
S2.1	The problem, in one sentence	40 words	State who is affected, where, and how often. Name the specific location. "Rural India" is not a location.
S2.2	How you know the problem is real	100 words	State what you observed, whom you spoke to, and what you counted. Give the source of any figure cited.
S2.3	The user	60 words	Describe one person or role: the language used, the device held, the level of familiarity with it. Do not describe a population.

Clause	Field	Cap	Requirement
S2.4	Current practice, and the case for AI	80 words	State how the problem is handled at present. State what the system must do that a form, register, rule or telephone call cannot. Where a non-AI method would work, say so and state what AI adds.
S2.5	The minimum version	100 words	State the single thing the team could build and place before a real user by the first week of February. Do not describe the full concept.
S2.6	Data and running cost	80 words	State what data exists, who owns it, what language it is in, whether consent is required, and the approximate monthly cost of operation at the scale described.
S2.7	Failure and harm	80 words	State who is harmed if the system is wrong, misused or withdrawn. State one measure the team would take.
S2.8	Team	60 words	List names, disciplines and responsibilities. Name a faculty mentor only where the role is defined and the team has consented to it.

S3 Guidance (informative)

NOTE 1 S2.4 is the clause most entries fail. Many sound problems have sound non-AI solutions. An entry that says so and then states precisely what a model adds scores higher than one treating AI as the premise.

NOTE 2 S2.2 cannot be completed from secondary sources. Assessors read many entries in sequence, and general statements about a community the team has not visited are readily distinguishable from an account of one afternoon with one person.

NOTE 3 Shortlisted teams have approximately 12 weeks to the finale. An entry naming one function for one user scores higher under S2.5 than one describing a platform of several modules.

NOTE 4 Drafting tools may be used. An entry containing no particular place or person cannot satisfy criterion 1 of Document E, and the questions put at the pitch under P3 are set to establish whether a team knows the content of its own entry.

Regional Stage: The Pitch

Pitch requirements for the regional stage, Mozilla Human Scale AI Buildathon India 2026.

P1 Format and conduct

P1.1 Each team is allotted 15 minutes: 9 minutes of presentation and 6 minutes of questions. Presentations are stopped at 9 minutes.

P1.2 Three members of the team shall speak. The division of speaking is by the work each member did, as set out in P2. Teams of four or five members use three speakers; remaining members answer questions under P3.

P1.3 Present six slides with the titles fixed in P2. Do not add, remove or reorder slides.

P1.4 Do not include a title slide carrying logos, a team photograph, or a closing slide. Introduce each speaker by first name only.

P1.5 Do not run a live demonstration, play a video of a working tool, or show a screen recording.

P1.6 One photograph or map taken by the team may appear on slide 1. Do not use stock imagery.

P1.7 Carry the slide file on a USB drive and email it to the centre coordinator on the morning of the event.

NOTE At 9 minutes, a title slide and a closing slide together cost a team roughly a quarter of its argument.

P2 Slides and allocation of speakers

Clause	Speaker	Slide	Minutes	Content
P2.1	The member who conducted the field visit	1. The problem and the place	1.5	State where you went, whom you spoke to, and what you observed.
P2.2	The same member	2. The person who has the problem	1.5	Describe the user as specified in S2.3. Quote the user directly where you have their words.
P2.3	The member who will build the system	3. Current practice and the proposed system	2	State how the problem is handled now and what the model does instead, including the non-AI alternative.
P2.4	The same	4. The minimum	1.5	Describe what exists by the first week of February as one screen, message or

Clause	Speaker	Slide	Minutes	Content
	member	version		interaction.
P2.5	The member who worked on constraints	5. Data, language and running cost	1.5	State the source and ownership of the data, its language, and the cost of operation.
P2.6	The same member	6. Principal risk	1	State the risk the team considers most serious and the measure it would take.

NOTE Slide 6 is assessed, not formal. A team naming a risk it has considered scores above a team offering a token one.

P3 Questions

P3.1 Assessors put at least one question to each of the three speakers, directed at the section that speaker delivered.

P3.2 The speaker addressed shall answer. Assessors are instructed not to accept an answer given by another member on that speaker's behalf.

P3.3 Where a team does not know an answer, say so. Do not give a figure the team cannot source. Assessors verify figures given.

Questions are drawn from these areas:

Speaker	Typical questions
P2.1 to P2.2	When did you last visit. Whom did you speak to. How many people did you meet. What did they say that you had not expected.
P2.3 to P2.4	What happens when the model is wrong. What did you decide not to build. What would you do if this proved not to require AI.
P2.5 to P2.6	Who owns this data. Did anyone consent to its use. What language is it in. What does this cost to run for a year.

NOTE Prepare by having each speaker answer the other two sections' questions in practice.

Where work has been divided only across the slide deck, the 6 minutes under P3 will establish it.