

STOCK ACCELERATOR

A Live Stock Market Trading Simulation

Background Guide

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Event Introduction

The Stock Accelerator is a dynamic and immersive live trading simulation designed to recreate the pace, pressure, and excitement of a real stock market environment. It challenges participants to think like traders — rapidly processing information, assessing risk, and making high-stakes financial decisions in real time.

Unlike conventional academic exercises, the Stock Accelerator places participants directly in a simulated marketplace where conditions shift without warning, news breaks mid-session, and portfolios rise or fall on the quality of decisions made under pressure. It is not just a game — it is a window into the real world of financial markets.

This event is part of the Founder's Forum ecosystem at Quest 2026. Participation and starting capital are directly linked to a delegation's performance in the Bidding War — making strategic resource management across events a key dimension of the overall competition.

What Sets This Event Apart

The Stock Accelerator goes beyond textbook finance. It rewards analytical thinking, composure under uncertainty, and the ability to read a market in motion — the same skills that define the world's best traders and investment professionals.

Starting Capital

The Stock Accelerator does not operate with a fixed or equal starting budget for all teams. Instead, each delegation's starting capital is determined by how much of their Bidding War budget they have left unspent.

How Your Starting Capital Is Calculated

Every delegation begins the Founder's Forum with a Bidding War budget of **₹5,00,000 (Rs. 5 Lakhs)**. The amount spent acquiring an industry in the Bidding War is deducted from this total. Whatever remains becomes the delegation's starting capital for the Stock Accelerator.

Example: If Delegation X spent ₹1,00,000 in the Bidding War, their Stock Accelerator team begins with ₹4,00,000.

Strategic Implication

Delegations that bid conservatively in the Bidding War will enter the Stock Accelerator with a larger capital base and a structural advantage. This creates a meaningful strategic decision across events — spend to secure a preferred industry, or preserve capital for the trading floor.

Event Proceedings

The Stock Accelerator will be conducted as a single continuous live trading session lasting between one and one and a half hours. There are no preliminary rounds — every participating team enters the simulation simultaneously, and the market opens for all at the same time.

The Simulation

Participants will be placed in a live market simulation that replicates the environment of a real trading floor. The simulation is fast-paced, information-dense, and deliberately designed to put decision-making under pressure.

Element	Details
Duration	1 to 1.5 hours of continuous live trading.
Format	All teams trade simultaneously in a shared simulated market.
Starting Point	Each team begins with their remaining Bidding War capital (see Starting Capital section).
Stocks	A curated list of simulated stocks across sectors will be available to trade.
News Events	Breaking news and market events will be introduced at intervals, shifting prices and conditions.
Objective	Build the highest-performing portfolio by the close of the trading session.
Winner	The team with the highest total portfolio value at session close is declared the winner.

How It Works

The Stock Accelerator simulates the core mechanics of a live stock market. Teams must manage a portfolio of simulated stocks over the course of the session, making continuous buy, sell, and hold decisions as market conditions evolve.

Trading Mechanics

- Teams begin the session with their allocated starting capital in virtual currency.
- A selection of stocks across different sectors will be available to buy and sell throughout the session.
- Teams may buy, sell, or hold stocks at any point during the trading window.
- Stock prices will fluctuate in response to simulated market forces and news events introduced by the moderators.
- Teams must track their own portfolio value and adjust their strategy as conditions change.

Breaking News and Market Events

At intervals during the session, the moderators will introduce breaking news updates and market events that directly affect stock prices. These may include:

- Corporate announcements — earnings results, leadership changes, mergers.
- Macroeconomic developments — interest rate signals, inflation data, GDP figures.
- Sectoral shocks — regulatory changes, supply chain disruptions, technological breakthroughs.
- Geopolitical events — trade disputes, sanctions, commodity price swings.

Teams must interpret these events quickly and decide whether to buy, sell, or hold affected stocks. The ability to read news and translate it into a trading decision — under time pressure — is the central skill this event rewards.

The Core Challenge

Information in the Stock Accelerator arrives faster than it can be fully processed. Teams must learn to act on incomplete information, manage risk across a portfolio, and resist the psychological pressure of watching prices move against them. This is what makes the simulation a genuine reflection of real markets.

Participant Guidelines

The Stock Accelerator is a team-based event. Participation rules are designed to ensure fair competition and a level playing field for all delegations.

Team Composition

- ▶ Each delegation will field a team for the Stock Accelerator drawn from its delegates.
- ▶ Team members must collaborate on trading decisions — all trades are team decisions, not individual ones.
- ▶ Teamwork, communication, and the ability to divide analytical responsibilities under pressure will be decisive.

Expected Conduct

Participants are expected to uphold the values of integrity and sportsmanship throughout the simulation:

- ▶ Follow all rules and instructions issued by the moderators during the session.
- ▶ Maintain discipline and professionalism at all times.
- ▶ Refrain from using any external financial tools, calculators, or research assistance during the simulation.
- ▶ All trades must be executed through the designated simulation platform or system as instructed by the organising team.

Important Notice

The decisions of the moderators and the organising team will be final and binding on all participants. No disputes regarding trade execution, price movements, or portfolio valuation will be entertained after the session has concluded.

Preparation Guide

The Stock Accelerator rewards prior knowledge as well as in-the-moment judgement. Participants who arrive with a strong foundation in market concepts will be better equipped to interpret news events and make faster, sounder decisions under pressure.

1. Stock Market Fundamentals

- ▶ How stock exchanges work — the role of buyers, sellers, and market makers.
- ▶ Reading stock prices — bid, ask, volume, and price movement.
- ▶ Bull and bear markets — what drives them and how to trade in each.
- ▶ The role of indices — Sensex, Nifty, and what movements in them signal.

2. Corporate and Sectoral Awareness

- ▶ How to read a corporate announcement and assess its market impact.
- ▶ Key sectors in the Indian economy — IT, banking, pharma, energy, FMCG, auto.
- ▶ How earnings reports, dividend announcements, and guidance statements move stock prices.

3. Macroeconomic Signals

- ▶ How interest rate changes by the RBI affect equity markets.
- ▶ The relationship between inflation, GDP growth, and stock market performance.
- ▶ How global events — oil prices, US Fed decisions, geopolitical tensions — affect Indian markets.

4. Trading Strategy

- ▶ The difference between value investing, momentum trading, and defensive positioning.
- ▶ Risk management — how to size positions and avoid overexposure to a single stock or sector.
- ▶ When to hold, when to cut losses, and when to take profits.

Preparation Tip

The best preparation for the Stock Accelerator is practice with real market data. Follow a business news channel or newspaper daily in the weeks before the event. Track a small portfolio of stocks — even on paper — and practice making buy and sell decisions based on news. The simulation will feel far more intuitive if you have already been thinking like a trader.

Learning Outcomes

The Stock Accelerator is designed to develop skills that extend well beyond the trading floor. Participants who engage seriously with the simulation will come away with a tangible improvement in the following areas:

Outcome	What You Develop
Market Behaviour	An intuitive understanding of how stock prices move in response to news, sentiment, and macroeconomic signals — knowledge that is directly applicable to real-world investing.
Analytical Thinking	The ability to process multiple streams of information simultaneously and extract the signals that matter, discarding noise under time pressure.
Decision-Making Under Uncertainty	The confidence to make consequential decisions without complete information — a skill central to both financial markets and entrepreneurship.
Team Collaboration	The experience of dividing complex analytical tasks within a team, communicating rapidly, and arriving at shared decisions under pressure.
Strategic Risk-Taking	An understanding of how to calibrate risk — when to be aggressive, when to be defensive, and how to protect a portfolio while still competing to win.

Conclusion

The Stock Accelerator is more than a competition — it is an immersive experience that transforms abstract financial concepts into live, consequential decisions. Participants will leave with a deeper appreciation of how markets work, why they move the way they do, and what it actually feels like to have capital at risk.

The simulation is designed to be fast, unpredictable, and genuinely challenging. The teams that perform best will not necessarily be those who knew the most going in — they will be the ones who adapted fastest, communicated most clearly, and kept their composure when the market moved against them.

That is what the Stock Accelerator is ultimately about: not knowledge alone, but the application of knowledge under pressure. And that is a skill that will serve you well far beyond this event.

The market does not wait. Neither should you.

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