Event Report

Smart India Hackathon 2024 – Software Edition

11-12 December 2024

Event Overview

The **Smart India Hackathon 2024 – Software Edition**, organized by AICTE and the Ministry of Education, Government of India, was hosted by Gujarat Technological University (GTU) from **11th to 12th December 2024**. This grand finale brought together **300 participants from 60 institutions across**

India for an intensive **36-hour coding marathon**, fostering innovation and collaboration to solve real-world challenges.

Key Highlights

1. **Participation**: Over 300 innovators, mentors, and dignitaries participated, showcasing technological ingenuity and commitment.

2. **Duration**: The event spanned 36 hours of relentless coding, mentoring, and evaluations.

3. **Collaborative Effort**: Supported by various ministries, organizations, and technical experts who acted as mentors and evaluators.

4. **Hon'ble Prime Minister sir's interaction**: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction during the Smart India Hackathon 2024 Grand Finale celebrated the innovation and problem-solving spirit of India's youth. He emphasized that these hackathons provide effective solutions to national challenges and inspire entrepreneurship, with many participants launching successful startups. PM Modi highlighted India's transition into a global leader in technology and innovation, guided by the mantra of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, and Jai Anusandhan." He urged young innovators to focus on self-reliance, particularly in key sectors like defense,

semiconductor technology, and renewable energy. Stressing the importance of this "Amrit Kaal," he encouraged participants to aim for scalable, sustainable solutions to both national and global challenges. He linked India's advancements, such as the UPI system and the Chandrayaan mission, to the innovative contributions of young minds, reinforcing the country's growing global reputation for low-cost, high-quality solutions. He concluded by urging participants to leverage this unique moment to build a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047.

Day 0: 10th December 2024

- **Registration**: Teams and mentors completed the mandatory registration process.
- **Preparations**: Equipment and consumables were rechecked, and the audio-video setup was tested for smooth proceedings.

Day 1: 11th December 2024

- **Inauguration Ceremony**:

  The event commenced with **Saraswati Vandana** and a formal **felicitation of dignitaries**, followed by impactful speeches:

- ○ **Dr. K. N. Kher**, Registrar, GTU: Highlighted GTU's commitment to fostering innovation.
- ○ **Shri Pranav Pandya**, Chairman, GESIA: Discussed Gujarat's role in the tech ecosystem.
- ○ **Dr. Neetu Bhagat**, Deputy Director, AICTE: Shared insights on the significance of hackathons in nurturing skills.
- ○ **Dr. Nilesh Desai**, Director, SAC-ISRO: Spoke about the integration of space technology in solving societal challenges.
- ○ **Param Pujya Swami (Dr.) Paramatmanand Saraswatiji**, Sivananda Ashram: Emphasized the ethical and spiritual dimensions of innovation.
- ○ **Dr. Rajul K. Gajjar**, Vice Chancellor, GTU: Addressed GTU's role as a hub for technological and educational advancements.

- **Coding Marathon Begins**: Participants initiated their innovative problem-solving journey at 9:30 AM.

- **Mentoring Sessions**: Teams received feedback and guidance from industry experts.

- **Evaluation**: The first round of evaluation assessed the feasibility and creativity of the proposed solutions.

Day 2: 12th December 2024

- **Midnight Activities**: Recreational activities such as karaoke and Zumba helped maintain participant energy levels during the overnight coding phase.

- **Yoga Session**: Early morning yoga rejuvenated participants for the final stretch.
- **Final Mentoring & Evaluation**: Teams presented their enhanced solutions, which were assessed on implementation and innovation.
- **Valedictory Session**:
    - **Results Announcement**: Judges finalized and announced the winners.
    - **Prize Distribution**: Awards were presented to the winning teams by dignitaries.
    - **Concluding Remarks**: The session concluded with the national anthem and a celebration of innovation.

Outcomes and Impact

1. **Innovative Solutions**: Over 50 unique solutions were presented to tackle real-world problems in diverse sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and smart cities.
2. **Skill Development**: Participants enhanced their technical skills, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities through mentorship and intensive work.
3. **Industry Engagement**: Industry experts and ministry professionals identified potential projects for further development and commercialization.
4. **Networking Opportunities**: Students interacted with industry leaders, fostering collaborations for internships, research, and startups.
5. **Recognition**: Winning teams gained national visibility, with opportunities to implement their solutions with support from ministries and organizations.
6. **Community Building**: The event strengthened the innovation ecosystem, encouraging the next generation of problem-solvers to contribute to India's growth story.

Acknowledgments

This event was made possible by the dedicated efforts of:

- **Participants**: For their hard work and creativity.
- **Mentors and Evaluators**: For their invaluable guidance.
- **Organizers**: AICTE, Ministry of Education, and GTU, for providing an enabling platform for innovation.

The Smart India Hackathon 2024 left a lasting impact on participants and the broader innovation ecosystem, proving to be a significant milestone in fostering creativity and collaboration across India.