

## **Smart India Hackathon: Students join hands to resolve nation's problems**

*Students come up with innovative solutions to solve problems of social importance in the 36 hour long, world's largest Hackathon*

**Mumbai, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018:** The grand finale of **SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2018** saw the unfolding of new age digital solutions to problem statements shared by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** devised in the **36-hours** of Hackathon at **S.P. Mandali's Prin .L.N. Welingkar Institute of Management Development & Research (WeSchool)**, the only nodal centre for Smart India Hackathon 2018, in Mumbai. **Chief Guest Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Mr. K. R Sekhar, Managing Director, Bayer Vapi Pvt. Ltd. the Guest of Honour** at the valedictory function gave away the prizes to the winning teams. **Mr. Rakesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Executive Director, Food Corporation of India, Dept. of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Mr. Prakash Nevatia, Dy Secretary, Dept of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Dr. Amit Dutta, Regional Officer, WRO, AICTE; Mr. Salil Seth, Dept of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Mr. Prashant Gulalkari, President- Strategic Business Development, Persistent Systems Ltd.** along with other dignitaries were present at the valedictory function.

Hon'ble **Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi** inspired the young geeks through video conferencing on the eve of grand finale day two, Smart India Hackathon 2018. He motivated and urged students to contribute for the vision of New India. He stated that that over half the projects selected during last year's Hackathon have been completed and more are nearing completion.

Students arduously worked for 36 hours to invent novel and executable software solutions for problems stated by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** at **S.P. Mandali's Prin L. N. Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research (WeSchool)**.

Congratulating the participating students **Chief Guest Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha** said, "Smart India Hackathon provides a unique opportunity for the young talent in our country to understand the governance issues. It uses their creativity to find out solutions to the issues that are being faced by the Government. Governance is not something that can be outsourced to the Government; it is something that requires active participation from the members of the society. Students from one part of the nation are finding solutions to problems faced by another part of the nation; therefore I believe this platform truly builds national integration."

Guest of Honour, **Mr. K. R Sekhar, Managing Director, Bayer Vapi Pvt. Ltd.** said, “As India accelerates its pace to catch up with the rest of the developed world, Smart India Hackathon 2018 provides the right direction, energy and encouragement for young students to demonstrate their problem solving abilities. The Hackathon will usher in a new era of problem solving as it enhances the point of collaborative innovation. Students should not be afraid of failure as this will halt innovation, experimentation and progress. Therefore, I urge you all to not fear failures and continue experimentation. That’s how our passion for finding new solutions will bear fruit.”

The first winning team from Ministry of Commerce and Industry is Team Vision, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Ettimadai, Tamil Nadu. This team worked to design solutions for export cost indicator and trade route map problems. The first winning team from Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under Ministry of Commerce and Industry is Simplifiers, Pune Institute of Computer Technology, Pune, for creating solutions for Startup Impact Evaluator. The first winning team mentored by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is Electro Passion, Sri Sairam College of Engineering, Bangalore; for developing solution for integration with moisture meter. Awards from AICTE were presented to Code Squade, Government College of Engineering and Research Awasari, Mancher, Pune and Oxygen, Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore for projects on mess food wastage saver and waste deducing box. There were several other runner-up awards too. WeSchool Protsahan Awards added cheer to the participating student spirit.

### **About WeSchool**

Among India’s top business schools, WeSchool is a pioneering management education institution with emphasis on design-led innovative management education for shaping vision and mission of global citizen leadership. WeSchool strongly believe in integrating the philosophy of ‘leadership’ and ‘innovation’, and nurtures students with a holistic view on the socio-economic-political matters with a coherent and strategic approach towards problem solving. Keeping design and innovation its core, WeSchool endeavors to provide newer avenues to students towards achieving excellence in all sphere of life and nurture them to become Global Citizen Leaders.

The CII-AICTE National award for ‘Best Management Institute for Industry Institute Linkage’, 2015 has been awarded to WeSchool. Also, the “Best Innovative Institute” award at the ASSOCHAM 9th Higher Education Summit, National Excellence Awards at the hands of Union HRD Minister of State, Prof Dr. Ram Shankar Katheria was awarded to WeSchool this year. WeSchool has collaborated with MIT Media Lab, Stanford Design School, IDEO, and Center for Creative Leadership among others. WeSchool

partners with several leading universities globally on an array of areas. And among its collaborations with foreign Universities: Mälardalen University (Sweden), Curtin University (Australia), Unitec Institute (New Zealand), Grant McEwan (Canada), Copenhagen University (Denmark), Otto Fredrich Universitat (Germany), Audencia Nantes(France), Stuggart Media University (Germany). Tel-Aviv University, IDC Herzliya, and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Israel).

WeSchool's philosophy is about using the collective wisdom of "WE" to nurture insightful thinking and inspire action based leadership.