Workshop on Smart India Hackathon 2018 for New India

Mumbai, 12 January 2018: Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, envisages a Digital India to bridge the digital divide in our country and further promote digital literacy to make development a comprehensive mass movement and put governance within everyone's reach in India. Working towards PM's vision, MHRD, AICTE, i4C, and Persistent Systems are proud to propose the 2nd edition of this initiative – Smart India Hackathon 2018.More than 45 Union Ministries & Departments and 18 State Governments have provided various problem statements for finding solutions through the involvement of youth during Smart India Hackathon-2018. To create awareness about the Hackathon among the student community, 17 workshops are being conducted from 8ᵗʰ to 11ᵗʰ January, in various states of India.

A workshop on Smart India Hackathon 2018 was conducted for participating students at S.P. Mandali's Prin. L.N. Welingkar Institute of Management (WeSchool) campus recently. Dignitaries like **Dr Amit Dutta, Regional Officer, AICTE, WRO Mumbai, Mr Vivek Kulkarni, Chief Architect, Persistent Systems and Prof Dr Uday Salunkhe, Group Director, WeSchool** addressed the gathering of large number of students to create awareness about the importance of participating in this nation building activity.

While addressing the student community, **Dr. Amit Dutta, Regional Officer, AICTE, WRO Mumbai** said, "We as a regulator are mentoring institutions and students to make their campus life better and give them more exposure in the practical application of their education. It is our constant endeavor to create initiatives that will encourage the youth to come forward and become an integral part of nation building initiatives

Prof Dr Uday Salunkhe, Group Director, WeSchool said, "I would like to congratulate the students who have taken this huge step towards nation building. The purpose of this hackathon is to get innovative ideas from the young talent pool across India to solve real life problems faced by various ministries, departments at the center as well as state and we are certain that the knowledge, skill sets and team-work experience that you will gain through such initiatives will be a life changing experience and will help you in furthering your career in the times to come."

To provide guidance about the registration and participation, a detailed presentation was made by **Mr Vivek Kulkarni, Chief Architect, Persistent Systems** post which he

also answered queries posed by the students during a Q&A. He said, "It is a first and only kind of crowd sourcing platform that we have created, which is meant for Indians to solve Indian problems. The difference between the earlier Hackathon and this one is that the process doesn't end with winning the competition but actually begins as the workable prototypes created by the youth could be taken forward and turned into final products."

Last year, Smart India Hackathon 2017 (Software Competition) was initiated for the first time. Around 50 thousand talented students participated in the competition. The event was organized at 25 centers across country. Around 50 solutions, as an outcome of the event were recognized by Govt. of India.

Hardware Competition has being added in Smart India Hackathon-2018. The last date for Software competition is 15th January 2018 and Hardware competition 31st January, 2018. Students of Engineering, Management and MCA can participate in these competitions. The Software competition will be conducted for continuous 36 hours and Hardware competition will be for 5 days. 340 problems are available for Software competition and 68 problems for Hardware competition. The students can submit their Ideas on **https://innovate.mygov.in/**

Prizes for different categories at each center are: first prize Rs. 1 lac, first runner-up Rs. 75,000 and second runner-up Rs. 50,000. Around one lakh students are expected to participate this year in the event.

This is the golden opportunity for students to show-case their creativity and talent at a national platform, to contribute towards Society and their role in the development of new India.

WeSchool was privileged to be among the only two b-schools, in addition to the 24 Engineering institutes to be chosen for hosting this nationwide initiative last year. The 32 teams consisting of 237 young geeks from institutes across India that came together at WeSchool strived hard to find solutions to problem statements shared by Dept. of Atomic Energy in the 36-hour non-stop marathon of hacking. With creativity, innovations and entrepreneurship ingrained in the institutes DNA, two teams of young MBAs from WeSchool under the mentorship of faculty experts had taken off to Bhopal and Thiruvananatpuram to work on challenges shared by other Ministries.