



## IIT Hyderabad hosted Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2024 on the theme of Agriculture

### Highlights :

- *The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) proudly inaugurated the grand finale of the 7th edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) - Software Edition on the theme of Agriculture.*
- *Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacted with young innovators at the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2024 consisting of 17 themes via video conferencing. The event consisting of 17 themes was inaugurated virtually by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Honourable Union Minister for Education.*
- *Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM graced the event on the theme of "Agriculture" as the Chief Guest at IITH.*
- *IIT Hyderabad hosted the SIH Grand Finale, for the first time, on the theme of "Agriculture"*

**Hyderabad, 11th December 2024:** The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) proudly inaugurated the grand finale of the **7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) - Software Edition** on the theme of "Agriculture" under the aegis of the Union **Ministry of Education and AICTE, Government of India on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024**. This year, the prestigious SIH consisting of 17 themes is being conducted simultaneously across 51 nodal centers nationwide, with IITH serving as a host for the first time and will be concluded on **12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi**, addressed the gathering on the occasion and interacted with young innovators at the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2024 consisting of 17 themes on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 4:30 PM, via video conferencing. The event consisting of 17 themes was virtually inaugurated by **Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, and the local inaugural ceremony on the theme of "Agriculture" at IITH was graced by **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM**, Hyderabad as the Chief Guest and **Dr. Shreenivas Desai**, Professor and Nodal Officer, PPMC & ICAR, UAS Dharwad, and SPOC, University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad, participated as the Guest of Honour.

IITH has proudly hosted the SIH Grand Finale, for the first time, on the theme of "**Agriculture**". By prioritizing innovative solutions in agriculture, SIH 2024 empowers young minds to address real-world agricultural challenges, driving sustainable advancements that have the potential to transform India's rural economy and strengthen its food systems. Four winning teams will be honored with a cash prize of one lakh rupees each, which will be awarded by the Chief Guest during the valedictory function on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Participants will tackle four key problem statements:

1. **Mobile App for Direct Market Access for Farmers**
2. **AI-Driven Crop Disease Prediction and Management System**
3. **Sustainable Fertilizer Usage Optimizer for Higher Yield**
4. **Assured Contract Farming System for Stable Market Access**

This year's hackathon is focused on solving real-world challenges, with **IITH's theme being "Agriculture"**, aligning with the national agenda of innovation in critical sectors. The event brings

together **26 teams, comprising about 200 participants and mentors** from across the nation, who will work intensively to deliver innovative solutions over the two-day finale.

The program was led by Prof. B.S. Murty, Director of IIT Hyderabad, along with Prof. C. Malla Reddy, Dean of Innovation, Translation, and Startups & Dr Phanindra Varma Jampana, FIC, E-Cell, IIT Hyderabad reflecting IITH's commitment to fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

**Highlighting the significance of the event, Prof. B.S. Murty remarked:** *"The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) is a transformative initiative by the Government of India that aligns the aspirations of India's youth with the nation's vision for Viksit Bharat 2047. With Agriculture as its central theme at IITH, this platform empowers participants to develop innovative solutions for a sector that is crucial to India's economy and food security. SIH transcends being just a competition—it is a dynamic ecosystem fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and creative problem-solving, essential for advancing education, industry, and sustainable development."*

By tackling critical agricultural challenges, the hackathon not only addresses key issues but also accelerates the journey toward a self-reliant and prosperous India, reinforcing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

**Chief Guest, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM, emphasized the importance of the agriculture sector, stating:** *"Agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy. The fruits of technology and innovation must reach this sector to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat. The SIH event is a platform to inspire our youth to innovate for the Agricultural sector and contribute to this ambition."*

**Guest of Honour, Dr. Shreenivas Desai, from the University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad (UAS), highlighted the role of youth and technology, saying:** *"For the rapid development of our country, it is essential to harness the potential of our youth and leverage technology. SIH provides an excellent platform for this. The Agriculture theme at IITH is especially significant as it inspires students to address challenges in this vital sector, which is essential for our economy. UAS Dharwad has identified key challenges in Agriculture, including plant disease management, sustainable crop breeding, and precision farming."*

**Dr Phanindra Varma Jampana, FIC, E-Cell, SIH-IITH Nodal Incharge, expressed his gratitude and said** *"It is an honour to welcome all participants to IITH. I am confident that their efforts over the next 36 hours will not only contribute to the growth of the agriculture sector but also serve as a foundation for their future aspirations to drive the nation's progress through technology and innovation."*

### **Day 1 Highlights (11th December 2024):**

- **Morning Sessions:**
  - The inaugural event commenced at 8:00 AM with the lamp-lighting ceremony, welcome address, and felicitation of dignitaries.
  - The central inauguration by **Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** followed at 9:00 AM, connecting all 51 nodal centers nationwide.
- **Hackathon Begins:**
  - Teams started coding at 9:30 AM, with their efforts interspersed by mentoring sessions conducted by experts, ensuring valuable guidance and feedback.
  - **Honourable Prime Minister's Interaction with participants: Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi**, interacted with young innovators at the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2024 on 11th December 2024, at 4:30 PM.
- **Evening Evaluations:**
  - The first round of evaluation commenced in the evening, with participants presenting their solutions to a panel of judges.

IITH looks forward to witnessing innovative breakthroughs and celebrating the spirit of innovation as the grand finale continues on 12th December 2024 with the valedictory function.

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**About Smart India Hackathon:**

The 7th edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) will concurrently begin at 51 nodal centres nationwide on 11th December 2024. The Software Edition will run nonstop for 36 hours, while the Hardware Edition will continue from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Like past editions, the student teams have been working on either the problem statements given by Ministries or Departments or Industries or submit their ideas in Student Innovation Category against any of the 17 themes linked to sectors of national importance. These sectors are - Healthcare, Supply chain and Logistics, Smart Technologies, Heritage and Culture, Sustainability, Education and Skill Development, Water, Agriculture and Food, Emerging Technologies, and Disaster Management.

Some of the interesting problem statements of this year's edition include ‘Enhancing Images of Darker Regions on the Moon’ presented by ISRO, ‘Developing a real-time Ganga Water Quality Monitoring system using AI, satellite data, IoT, and dynamic models’ presented by Ministry of Jal Shakti, and ‘Developing a Smart Yoga Mat integrated with AI’ presented by Ministry of AYUSH.

This year, more than 250 problem statements have been submitted by 54 Ministries, Departments, State Governments, PSUs, and Industries. A 150% increase has been recorded in internal hackathons at the institute level, growing from over 900 in SIH 2023 to around 2,247 in SIH 2024, making this the largest edition so far. More than 86,000 teams have participated in SIH 2024 at the institute level and around 49,000 student teams (each consisting of 6 students and 2 mentors) have been recommended by these institutes for the national level round.

For More Information:

<https://www.sih.gov.in/>  
<https://alumni.mic.gov.in/>





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**About IIT Hyderabad:**

IITH, established in 2008, as one of the second Generation IITs, has reached a respectable position in both academics, research, technology development and startups in the short span of 16 years. In the recent Indian National Ranking (NIRF-2024), IITH is placed at 3<sup>rd</sup> in Innovation and 8<sup>th</sup> among Engineering institutes in India.

It has 320+ full-time faculty, 5,300+ students (PG + PhD students accounting for about 60%). The institute has a strong research focus with Rs. 1300+ Cr of R&D funding, 11,000+ publications, 420+ Patents, and about 260+ startups (that have generated 1100+ jobs and a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr). Follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Koo](#), and [YouTube](#) for the latest updates.

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