

**Seventh Edition of Smart India Hackathon Launched by Secretary, Higher Education**  
**202 Problem Statements by Ministries and State Governments Unveiled**

**New Delhi, August 8, 2024**

The seventh edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 is officially launched today by the Hon'ble Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, through video conferencing at AICTE Headquarters, New Delhi. The event was attended by AICTE Chairman, Prof. (Dr.) T. G. Sitharam, and Vice Chairman, Dr. Abhay Jere.

In his address, Shri Sanjay Murthy underscored the pivotal role that the Smart India Hackathon plays in realizing the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP). He highlighted the hackathon's contribution towards fostering experiential learning and enhancing industry-academia collaborations. Emphasizing the significance of sustainability, Shri Murthy called upon participants to develop innovative solutions that would contribute to building a more sustainable future.

Prof. (Dr.) T. G. Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, spoke on the significance of the hackathon as a powerful platform for youth empowerment and innovation. He encouraged the participants to extend their creative boundaries and actively contribute to the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.

AICTE Vice Chairman, Dr. Abhay Jere, elaborated on the evolution of SIH into the world's largest open innovation platform. He emphasized how SIH has been instrumental in nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset and driving a cultural shift towards innovation across the country.

The seventh edition of SIH 2024 introduces a diverse and challenging array of 202 problem statements, contributed by 20 Central Ministries, 5 State Governments, 3 Public Sector Undertakings, and 3 Private Organizations. This widespread participation underscores the significance of the open innovation model and the collaborative efforts necessary to address the nation's most pressing challenges. Notably, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. has emerged as one of the key sponsor partners for this year's edition.

The registration and idea submission portals are now open for students from Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) across India, with the deadline set for September 12, 2024. Interested students are encouraged to register at the official website: [www.sih.gov.in](http://www.sih.gov.in).

**About Smart India Hackathon (SIH):**

The Smart India Hackathon, organized by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and AICTE, is the world's largest open innovation model. Since its inception in 2017, SIH has become a global leader in fostering creative problem-solving and practical solution development among students, consistently setting high standards for innovation and entrepreneurship.