NEW HORIZON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Silver Jubilee Year Celebrations
Smart Horizon: 48 Hour International Hackathon

Organized by,
Department of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning &
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

RULES & REGULATIONS

All participants are required to read, understand, and strictly adhere to the following Rules and Regulations throughout the duration of the hackathon.

1. **Eligibility & Team Composition**
   1.1. The hackathon is open to **Engineering Undergraduate (UG) students aged 18 years and above** from India and other countries, subject to applicable local and international laws.
   1.2. **Participants must belong to the same college/university, from the same state and country.** Cross-college, cross-state, or cross-country teams are **strictly not allowed**.
   1.3. Teams may consist of students from **the same or different departments** of the same institution.
   1.4. Each team must have **4 to 5 members**, **Mandatory to have at least one female participant**.
   1.5. All participants must possess **valid college/university ID cards** and **government-issued identity proof (Aadhaar for Indian participants / Passport for international participants)**.
   1.6. The Organizer reserves the right to **verify identity, eligibility, and institutional affiliation** at any stage of the event. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

2. **Registration & Fees**
   2.1. **All registrations must be completed exclusively through the official NHCE college website.**
      2.1.1.1. Registrations made through any other platform or mode shall be considered invalid.
   2.2. **Registration shall be completed in two mandatory stages:**
      2.2.1. Indian Participants
      2.2.1.1. **Stage 1 – Initial Registration:** A **non-refundable registration fee of ₹500 (INR Five Hundred only) per team** must be paid at the time of initial registration.
      2.2.1.2. **Stage 2 – Final Registration (Team Confirmation):** A **non-refundable final registration fee of ₹4,500 (INR Four Thousand Five Hundred only) per team** must be paid, if selected as finalist, through the NHCE website within the stipulated timeline.
      2.2.2. International Participants
      2.2.2.1. **Stage 1 – Initial Registration:** A **non-refundable registration fee of USD 50 (US Dollars 50 only) per team** must be paid at the time of initial registration.
      2.2.2.2. **Stage 2 – Final Registration (Team Confirmation):** A **non-refundable final registration fee of USD 50 (US Dollars 50 only) per team** must be paid, if selected as finalist, through the NHCE website to confirm participation.

   2.3. **Mode and Currency of Payment**
      2.3.1. Indian participants must make all payments **only in INR**.
      2.3.2. International participants may pay in **USD or INR equivalent**, as enabled on the website.

2.3.3. **All currency conversion charges, international transaction fees, payment gateway charges, bank charges, or taxes shall be borne solely by the participant/team.**

2.4. **Refund Policy**

    2.4.1. **All registration fees (initial and final) are strictly non-refundable under any circumstances**, including but not limited to:

        2.4.1.1. Withdrawal by the participant/team

        2.4.1.2. Disqualification

        2.4.1.3. Non-attendance

        2.4.1.4. Event postponement or cancellation

2.5. **Failure to Complete Final Registration**

    2.5.1. Teams that fail to complete the **final registration payment within the specified deadline** shall forfeit their participation slot.

    2.5.2. Any fees already paid shall stand forfeited without exception.

2.6. **Confirmation of Participation**

    2.6.1. Participation shall be deemed **confirmed only after successful completion of both stages of payment** and verification of eligibility by the Organizer.

3. **Hackathon Duration & Attendance**

    3.1. The hackathon will run continuously for **48 hours in offline mode** in NHCE campus.

    3.2. **All team members must be present throughout the hackathon duration.**

    3.3. **Teams are not permitted to change members once the offline hackathon begins.**

    3.4. If a team's allocated table/workstation is found **unattended or empty**, the team will be **immediately disqualified**.

    3.5. Participants **are not allowed to leave the campus** once the hackathon has commenced, except in case of a verified medical emergency with organizer approval.

4. **Facilities & Support**

    4.1. The following facilities will be provided by the Organizer:

        4.1.1. Continuous Wi-Fi and power supply

        4.1.2. Food and beverages

        4.1.3. Designated resting and sleeping areas

        4.1.4. Access to mentors for technical troubleshooting

        4.1.5. Emergency medical support

    4.2. Participants are responsible for:

        4.2.1. Their own laptops, chargers, peripherals, hardware, and software tools

        4.2.2. Carrying necessities for 48 hours (warm clothing, blankets, medicines, toiletries, etc.)

5. **Code of Conduct & Ethics**

    5.1. Participants must maintain **professional, respectful, and ethical behaviour** at all times.

    5.2. Any form of **plagiarism, offensive, discriminatory, abusive, or unlawful content** is strictly prohibited.

    5.3. **Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification.**

    5.4. Participants must:

        5.4.1. Respect venue rules and institutional property

        5.4.2. Collaborate ethically

        5.4.3. Maintain discipline and cleanliness on campus

    5.5. **Alcohol, drugs, narcotics, tobacco, or any banned substances/items are strictly prohibited** within the campus.

    5.6. Participants must adhere to the **semi-formal dress code (Polo T-shirts, Jeans, Formal Shirts, and Dresses)** throughout the event.

5.7. Any damage to property or facilities will be the **sole responsibility of the concerned participant/team**, and recovery costs may be imposed.

5.8. The Organizing Committee holds **sole authority** to disqualify participants involved in misconduct or misbehaviour of any kind.

6. **Project Development & Submission Rules**
    6.1. All solutions must be **developed during the hackathon duration only** and any updates insisted by the jury members must be incorporated fully.
    6.2. Reuse of previously developed projects, codebases, or prototypes is not allowed unless explicitly permitted.
    6.3. Submissions must be **original** and must not infringe any third-party intellectual property rights.
    6.4. Teams must submit:
        6.4.1. Complete Source code with all supporting files clearly mentioning tools used
        6.4.2. Documentation
        6.4.3. Presentation/demo as specified by the Organizer
    6.5. Late or incomplete submissions may lead to disqualification.

7. **Use of Third-Party Tools & Data**
    7.1. Participants may use third-party APIs, SDKs, frameworks, and datasets, provided they:
        7.1.1. Comply fully with respective licenses and terms of use
        7.1.2. Do not violate any applicable code of conduct; and
        7.1.3. Are used in a lawful and legally compliant manner
    7.2. NHCE and its Partners shall not be held liable for any violation of third-party licensing terms by participants.

8. **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) (Subject to approval)**
    8.1. All solutions developed during the hackathon shall be **jointly owned by NHCE and the Participant(s) in equal proportion**.
    8.2. Both parties may **use, publish, modify, or commercialize** the solution with due acknowledgment.
    8.3. Sponsors/Partners are granted a **non-exclusive, royalty-free license** for academic, research, and promotional purposes.
    8.4. Participants may file for **patents**, unless otherwise agreed in writing. NHCE/Partners may assist under mutual agreement.
    8.5. Submissions must not infringe copyrights, patents, trademarks, or trade secrets of any third party.

9. **Confidentiality**
    9.1. Any proprietary or confidential information shared by NHCE, sponsors, or partners must not be disclosed or misused.
    9.2. Participants must delete confidential data post-event if instructed by the Organizer or Partner.

10. **Judging & Prize Distribution**
    10.1. Winners will be decided based on **jury evaluation criteria** communicated during the event.
    10.2. **Decisions of the jury and organizers shall be final and binding.**

10.3. Prizes are **non-transferable**.

10.4. NHCE reserves the right to modify, substitute, or withhold prizes due to legal, regulatory, or technical constraints.

11. Travel Allowance (TA)

After successfully participating in the hackathon, the participants are eligible to claim travel allowance as per the policy given below:

11.1. **Indian Participants:** TA reimbursement capped at **₹10,000 per team**, subject to submission of original valid bills.

11.2. **International Participants:** Partial reimbursement based on international airfare, subject to submission of original valid bills and Organizer approval.

12. Publicity & Media Rights

12.1. By participating, participants grant NHCE the right to use:

12.1.1. Names

12.1.2. Photographs

12.1.3. Videos

12.1.4. Project details

for **marketing, academic, documentation, and promotional purposes**, without any compensation.

13. Data Protection & Privacy

13.1. NHCE will process personal data in compliance with:

13.1.1. **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (India)**

13.1.2. **GDPR**, where applicable

13.2. Data will be used solely for event management and communication and retained for a limited duration.

14. Liability Disclaimer

14.1. The Organizer, Sponsors, and Partners shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, theft, injury, or accident arising during participation.

14.2. Participants are solely responsible for ensuring legal compliance of their projects.

14.3. NHCE reserves the right to modify, postpone, or cancel the event due to unforeseen circumstances.

15. Governing Law & Jurisdiction

15.1. These rules shall be governed by the **laws of India**.

15.2. Any disputes shall fall under the **exclusive jurisdiction of courts in Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

16. Amendments

16.1. The Organizer reserves the right to **amend, modify, or update these rules** at any time.

16.2. All updates will be communicated through official channels and shall be binding upon participants.

17. Abbreviations used:

17.1. Aadhaar - Aadhaar (Unique Identification Number issued by the Government of India)

17.2. API - Application Programming Interface

17.3. DPDP Act, 2023 - Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

17.4. GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation

17.5. INR - Indian Rupee

17.6. IP - Intellectual Property

17.7. IPR - Intellectual Property Rights

17.8. NHCE - New Horizon College of Engineering

17.9. SDK - Software Development Kit

17.10. TA - Travel Allowance

17.11. UG - Undergraduate

17.12. USD - United States Dollar