

## FAQS – INDIA PLASTIC CHALLENGE- HACKATHON 2021

### **1.What is India Plastic Challenge Hackathon 2021?**

India Plastic Challenge-Hackathon 2021 is a part of the awareness program launched by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC), Govt. of India, to eliminate Single Use Plastics (SUPs). This challenge will provide a platform for students, startups, and young innovators with clearly defined ideas for digital solutions for plastic waste and the elimination of SUPs. This challenge will bridge gaps between industry and innovators for the effective implementation of the solutions. With one-on-one mentoring sessions with industry experts, participants can build better business cases. Selected participants will showcase their solutions in final pitch session where their ideas will get more visibility and opportunity to pilot their solutions.

This challenge is being organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India to find innovative solutions to effectively track and monitor plastic waste, provide affordable alternatives and reduce dependency on SUPs.

### **2. What are the objectives of this challenge?**

- Foster innovation and entrepreneurship in students, innovators, and startups and help them fine-tune their business cases.
- To bridge the gaps between innovators and industry
- Give innovators greater visibility across the relevant stakeholders.

### **3.What can this challenge do for me?**

India Plastic Challenge-Hackathon 2021 will provide a platform for students and young innovators to put forth their ideas or showcase solutions to lead the nation towards a circular economy. The challenge offers -

- Coaching webinars to develop business cases
- One-on-one mentoring sessions with industry executives to get better insight
- Opportunity to pitch in front of relevant stakeholders
- Cash awards for winners

### **4. Who can apply for the challenge?**

- Open for students and startups
- Applicants should have a clearly defined solution

For Students –

- Students currently pursuing Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate course from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of India

*Please note: No student enrolled in an academic programme will be considered as a startup*

For Startups:

- the startup must be registered under the Startup India Scheme by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

**5. I am a startup, but not registered under the Startup India Scheme by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), can I apply for the challenge?**

All startups need to be registered before applying for the Hackathon. In case, a startup does not have a DPIIT registration at the time of making an application, they should register themselves before 5th August, 2021. Applications which do not have a DPIIT registration as a Startup, beyond the compliance period, shall not be considered under the India Plastic Challenge-Hackathon 2021. After you submit your application form, we will be circulating an additional form to collect this updated registration information.

**6. If I am a student, but registered under the Startup India Scheme by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), can I apply as a startup?**

No, if you are a student currently pursuing Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate course from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of India, you are not eligible to apply as a startup even if you are registered under the Startup India Scheme by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

**7. How can I apply to the challenge?**

The applications for India Plastic Challenge-Hackathon 2021 open on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021. You can apply for the track your solution is best suited for. To apply click here: [Link](#)

**8. What are the two tracks?**

The challenge seeks to identify and support innovations under two tracks:

- **Plastic Digital Solutions**
  - Identification of sources and assessment of plastic waste collection, management and disposal
  - Integration of informal waste sectors
  - Innovative circular economy approaches
  - Transparent data relay and connecting to national database on plastics
- **Elimination of Single Use Plastics**
  - Alternatives to SUP items- cutlery, packaging etc.,
  - Design for Environment: reduction of material use in packaging
  - Decentralized recycling technologies
  - SUP waste to resources

### **9. Can I apply for both the tracks?**

Yes, you can apply for both tracks if your solution fits. In case your idea is fit for both tracks, please apply separately for each track. (Apply twice)

### **10. How many participants will be selected for each track?**

We will make that call based on the number and quality of applications we receive.

### **11. On what basis will the idea be selected?**

The ideas will be evaluated by the jury based on the following categories:

- Innovation potential of the solution
- Impact potential of the solution
- Strength of the team/founder
- Quality of the application

### **12. What happens once I apply for the India Plastic Challenge-Hackathon?**

After submission, the applications will be evaluated by the jury members. If your application is shortlisted, the jury may request for a remote interview should they think they need to understand you as an entrepreneur/your startup in greater detail. Once selected, you will be invited to join the challenge.

### **13. Does Climate Collective or MOEFCC provide any commitment or promise of funding?**

No

### **14. When do the applications close?**

Last date to apply is 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021, 11:59 PM IST.

### **15. We are not yet a company, but a passionate team. Can we apply?**

- If you are a student, yes you can apply.
- If you are not a student, you can apply but you need to register under the Startup India Scheme by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) before the selection process starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021.

### **16. I am an individual. Can I apply?**

Yes. But you need a pre-defined idea in place which fits into either one or both the track.

You also need to register under the Startup India Scheme by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) before the selection process starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021.

### **17. How is IP that is developed prior to or during the program treated by the Ministry and other program partners?**

Any IP that is developed prior to or during the program remains the sole property of the applicant team (or team members, as the case may be). If you feel any information is sensitive or confidential, we

recommend NOT sharing the same during the application process. We seek no rights over IP, nor represent to facilitate any assistance in any IP-related matters when dealing with any engagements or opportunities

**18. Is there any equity or fee that MOEFCC collects from the participants?**

No

**19. Does India Plastic Challenge Hackathon provide funding or other expenses related reimbursements?**

No. However since the program is entirely virtual/remote, expenses may be negligible.

**20. How will my confidential information be protected?**

We will treat all application data as confidential information; however, we will share such data with our jury members and program partners for obvious reasons of evaluation and assessment. In your application, please do not disclose any information that you consider proprietary.

**21. Will the events be affected by Covid-19?**

In order to protect the health and safety of all the participants and considering the current situations of Covid-19, this event will be entirely virtual. The quality of the program would not be affected.

**22. In what language will the program be conducted?**

English

**23. What are the prizes for the winners?**

Student Category:

Top 3 winners get INR 1 lakh each

Startup Category:

Top 3 winners get INR 5 lakh each

**24. If I am selected for the program, do I need to attend all online sessions?**

There will be 1 bootcamp, 4 coaching webinars and 1 pitch prep session. These sessions are mandatory.

We also have one-on-one mentoring sessions and industry connects. These are not mandatory and left up to the discretion of the applicant

**25. What happens in the pitching session?**

You will get an opportunity to pitch your solution in a pre-defined template provided. This pitching session will be attended by jury members, who will evaluate your pitches to select winners. Apart from this, the session would give you great visibility as it will be well attended by corporates, government

representatives

and

investors.

**26. Whom should I reach out to in case of any other queries?**

For any further queries, please mail us at [plastics-mefcc@gov.in](mailto:plastics-mefcc@gov.in)