

March 26, 2018

## **SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2018 - SOFTWARE EDITION GRAND FINALE, TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY AT 28 DIFFERENT NODAL CENTRES ACROSS INDIA<sup>1</sup>** *27 Union Ministries & 17 State governments part of this grand initiative*

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced that the much awaited Smart India Hackathon 2018 – is scheduled to be held on Mar 30 & 31, 2018 simultaneously at 28 different nodal centers across India. With 27 union Ministries and Departments and 17 State Governments having joined this grand initiative, SIH2018 is much bigger than its previous edition. Hyderabad is the nodal centre for Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which is a ‘Premier Partner’ in this initiative. **Shri Ajay Sawhney, Secretary, MeitY said that “Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2018 would give an opportunity to students to use their creative skills in solving some of the country’s real life problems and he hoped that outcome of SIH 2018 will result in innovative solutions which can be commercialized”**

Smart India Hackathon 2018 would be the second massive scale hackathon initiative in India following Smart India Hackathon 2017. It includes 2 sub-editions – Software edition, which is a 36-hr software product development competition and scheduled to be held on Mar 30 & 31, 2018. The Hardware edition, involving building of hardware solutions will be held later this year. During the software edition grand finale, teams of thousands of technology students will build innovative digital solutions for problems posed by different central govt. ministries/ departments. A total of 340 software problem statements are proposed for the above event. *Winners stand to get cash prizes and a chance to be part of the NASSCOM’s 10,000 Start-ups program.*

### **About Smart India Hackathon 2018**

Launched on Oct 16, 2017 in Pune, Smart India Hackathon 2018 harnesses creativity & expertise of students, builds funnel for ‘Startup India, Standup India’ campaign, crowdsources solutions for improving governance and quality of life, and provides opportunity to citizens to provide innovative solutions to India’s daunting problems. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and in collaboration with Inter Institutional Inclusive Innovations Center (**i4c**), MyGov, Persistent Systems, and Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini is organizing **Smart India Hackathon 2018**.

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1525838>

## PRESS RELEASE ON GST EXPORT RETURNS<sup>2</sup>

It has been noticed that at regular intervals, unverified estimates of pending GST refunds on account of exports are published in the print media or put forward by various trade bodies. These figures are highly speculative and mostly inaccurate. It is a fact that while a number of exporters have not been able to get the export refunds so far others have been granted refunds. In order to overcome the causes of the delay in sanctioning of refunds, Government has taken various steps, which includes amendments in the rules, changes in the business procedures of common portal and customs automated system to address the systemic issues. Many of the errors plaguing the claims for refunds are on account of inadequate familiarisation of the exporters with the GST laws and data entry errors in the various GSTRs / forms.

Government has carried out outreach programmes by issuing guidance circulars, advisories, FAQs, advertisements etc and also provided an alternative procedure involving manual interface where the errors could not be corrected online. The efforts are beginning to show positive results.

So far more than Rs 10, 000 Crore has already been sanctioned by CBEC and States. A standard operating procedure applicable to both Central and State GST has been put in place by virtue of various Circulars and clarifications issued with regard to processing of ITC refund.

GST Council, in its last meeting on 10th March 2018, has directed all States tax authorities to proactively clear refund claims. Exporting community is requested to take benefit of this fortnight and wholeheartedly come forward to get their errors rectified to enable sanction of refunds.

CBEC has taken an initiative to observe a special drive refund sanction fortnight from March 15-29, 2018 on an all India scale for which additional staff and infrastructure has been mobilised. Special refund cells manned by experienced staff is being put in place throughout the country.

Government wants to assure the exporting community that it is keen to see that all their eligible refund claims are considered and sanctioned at the earliest.

**Team ICSI**

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