Guidelines for MSME Idea hackathon 5.0

1. What is MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0?

MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0 is a prestigious initiative hosted by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) on World MSME Day, designed to foster innovation and promote the adoption of advanced technologies within the MSME sector. Multiple Host Institutions (HI) across India, including leading educational institutions like Rajkiya Engineering College, Kannauj (Govt. Engineering College in Uttar Pradesh), have been selected to facilitate and mentor participants. This national-level event provides a platform for innovators to present their breakthrough ideas, receive mentorship, and access significant financial support to develop their ideas into functional prototypes through incubation support.

2. Who Can Participate in MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0?

The MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0 is open to a diverse range of participants, ensuring that no creative potential is left untapped. Here's a breakdown of who can apply:

i. Innovators of Indian Origin

Any individual of Indian origin with a valid email and mobile number aged 18 to 60 years is eligible to participate in the hackathon. This open eligibility criterion allows innovators from across the country to present their ideas and contribute to the growth of MSMEs in India.

ii. Categories for Registration

Participants can apply under the following three categories:

- **MSME Category:** Registered MSMEs can participate by submitting their Udyam Registration Number. The Udyam Registration is essential for MSMEs to access benefits and financial support during the hackathon. You can register for Udyam if you haven't done so to ensure your eligibility.
- **Student Category:** Students who wish to participate must submit a valid Student Identity Card for the academic year 2025-2026. This category encourages the participation of young, dynamic minds with fresh and creative ideas that can reshape the MSME landscape.
- **Others Category:** This category is open to individual innovators who may not be part of an MSME or a student institution but have innovative ideas that could bring value to the MSME sector. Whether you are a freelancer, researcher, or an independent innovator, you can apply under this category.

3. Role of Host Institutions in MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0

Host Institutions (HI) play a critical role in the MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0 by providing innovators with the necessary mentorship, guidance, and resources to develop their ideas into functional prototypes. While there are several Host Institutions across India, Rajkiya Engineering College, Kannauj is one of the leading institutions supporting participants in this journey. However, applicants are free to register through any Host Institution of their choice. Each HI provides access to cutting-edge infrastructure and expert mentors to assist in the prototyping and development process.

Key Roles of a Host Institution:
- **Mentorship and Guidance:** Host Institutions provide expert mentorship to help innovators refine their ideas, ensuring they align with MSME sector needs.
- **Access to Resources:** Innovators can leverage the technical resources, labs, and research facilities available at their chosen Host Institution to prototype their ideas effectively.
- **Financial Support Distribution:** Each HI, including REC Kannauj, plays a vital role in distributing the financial assistance provided by the MSME scheme. This ensures that participants receive the necessary funds to continue developing their ideas.

4. Financial Assistance for Idea Development

The MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0 offers generous financial assistance to help innovators bring their ideas to life. Approved ideas can receive up to Rs. 15 lakh in financial support, which is provided to the selected Host Institution to assist with developing the idea into a working prototype.

This financial support covers:
- Prototyping and product development
- Research and development (R&D) expenses
- Materials and technology required for execution

Host Institutions, like REC Kannauj are responsible for nurturing these ideas and helping participants navigate the development process by providing the resources and technical assistance needed.

5. Objectives of the MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0

The MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0 is designed to fulfill several important objectives:
- **Promoting Untapped Creativity:** The hackathon encourages individuals and MSMEs to bring forward new and unique ideas that can add value to the MSME sector.
- **Driving Technological Adoption:** The hackathon is focused on encouraging MSMEs to adopt advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain, Automation, Internet of Things (IoT), etc.

- **Validating Ideas at Proof-of-Concept Level:** The MSME Idea Hackathon helps innovators validate their ideas by developing them to the proof-of-concept level, which is essential before a product can enter the market.
- **Encouraging Entrepreneurship:** The hackathon fosters entrepreneurship by providing participants with financial assistance and expert guidance, enabling them to transform their ideas into viable businesses.

6. How to Apply for MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0?

To participate in the MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0, interested innovators must follow the simple registration process through their chosen Host Institution (HI). Here's how to get started:
Steps to Apply:
1. **Select a Host Institution:** Choose your preferred Host Institution from the list of registered HIs. This could be Rajkiya Engineering College Kannauj or any other institution that aligns with your needs.
2. **Choose Your Category:** Decide under which category you will register—MSME, Student, or Others. Ensure you have the necessary documents like Udyam Registration Number or Student ID Card before applying.
3. **Submit Your Idea:** Once registered, submit your idea through the MSME Hackathon portal. Make sure to clearly articulate the problem your idea addresses and how it can benefit MSMEs.
4. **Evaluation Process:** Submitted ideas will be evaluated by a panel of experts, and selected ideas will receive financial and mentorship support.

7. Themes for MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0?

There are 05 themes to create innovation for smart and sustainable MSME ecosystem this year which are listed below:

1. Low-carbon footprint solutions/technologies :
MSMEs are ideal for decentralized low-carbon footprint solutions as the energy demand is usually small and distributed, and renewable power can often be cheaper than an unreliable grid connection or diesel back-up power. Efficient integration into low-carbon pathways is usually hindered by the low technological base and typically rural, and semi-urban location of most MSME units. A major priority of innovations across the board is to protect, preserve and scale these low-carbon footprint industries.

2. Stealth, Surveillance, and Cyber Defense Technologies:
Aligned with India's national security priorities, this theme invites innovations in stealth UAVs, low-observable materials, electronic warfare, and cyber defense frameworks. Solutions could also include AR/VR-based combat training systems and AI-enabled surveillance tools. The aim is to strengthen defense capabilities and explore dual-use civilian applications.

3. Innovation in Adoption of Industry 4.0 & 5.0 in MSME ecosystem:

Enable MSMEs to adopt advanced technologies and leverage infrastructure created under industrial corridors and other initiatives with key focus areas -Automation and robotics Cyber-physical systems, Human-centric innovation (Industry 5.0), Infrastructure mapping and access, to name a few. Categories like Plug-and-play automation kits for MSMEs to retrofit existing machinery, Digital twin platforms for predictive maintenance and process optimization, Collaborative robotics (cobots) for small-scale assembly lines, GIS based tools to help MSMEs locate and utilize nearby industrial corridor facilities like logistics hubs, testing centres, and common facility centres.

4. Innovation for business upliftment and sustainability in coastal and hilly areas:

Promote inclusive growth by addressing the unique challenges and opportunities faced by MSMEs in geographically sensitive and underserved regions like coastal belts and hilly terrains. Participants are invited to design innovative systems that improve India's capacity to handle climate-related disruptions and emergencies. Potential areas include but not limited to AI-powered risk forecasting, decentralized supply chains, disaster-ready infrastructure, and community-based early warning systems. The emphasis is on scalable and affordable solutions that protect lives, assets, and livelihoods. Key focus areas include- climate-resilient business models, local resource-based entrepreneurship, disaster-resilient infrastructure and logistics, and digital and physical connectivity solutions etc.

5. Smart and Resilient Supply Chains:

To strengthen MSME supply chains by making them more agile, transparent, and data driven with key focus areas like Logistics optimization, Inventory management, Supplier-buyer matchmaking and Risk mitigation and forecasting. Categories like AI-based demand forecasting tools for MSMEs to reduce overproduction and stockouts, Collaborative supply chain platforms that connect MSMEs with logistics providers and raw material suppliers, Digital twin models to simulate and optimize supply chain operations, IoT-enabled smart warehousing solutions for real-time inventory tracking, etc.

The MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0 is an unparalleled opportunity for innovators, MSMEs, and students to showcase their creative ideas, access financial support, and receive expert mentorship. While REC Kannauj is one of the many Host Institutions available, innovators are free to choose any institution to assist them in their innovation journey.

By participating, you not only stand a chance to win up to Rs. 15 lakh in financial assistance but also contribute to the advancement of the MSME sector in India. Whether you are an MSME, student, or independent innovator, this hackathon provides a platform for you to transform your ideas into marketable solutions.

The last day to apply is 14 July 2025 (23:59 hrs).

Apply Now – https://my.msme.gov.in/inc/Hackathon_Reg.aspx
For more details, call us @ +91-8318152875 or WhatsApp