SciHi 2025 – Interim Progress Report

Organized by:
Dayalbagh Educational Institute (DEI) in collaboration with Systems Society of India (SSI)
*Under the 48th (Inter)National Systems Conference (NSC 2025)

Theme:
Sustainable Systems for the Future

1. Background

SciHi 2025 is a pre-conference national-level virtual hackathon launched with the aim of engaging students from Classes 9–12 in designing innovative, systems-driven solutions to real-world challenges. The initiative emphasizes early exposure to problem-solving through empathy, sustainability, and technology.

2. Participation

The program received registrations from 100+ students across 30+ cities, with notable participation from tribal and rural areas including Timarni (24 students) and Rajaborari (9 students) making up nearly 30% of the total cohort.

3. Activities Completed (14–28 June)

Date	Activity	Details
14 June	Inaugural Ceremony & Keynote	Speakers: *Prof. Prem Kumar Kalra*, President, SSI *Prof. C. Patvardhan*, Director, DEI *Prof. K. Soami Daya*, Secretary, SSI
	Keynote Talk	*Prof. Manish Jain* (IIT Gandhinagar, CCL) on "The Joy of Learning."
	Domain Problem Orientation	Real-world challenges introduced by: *Mr. Puneet Chaudhary* – Agroecology *Mr. Prakhar Mehra* – Gaushala systems *Prof. Ajay Saxena* – Renewable energy *Prof. Anita Lakhani* – Air & water quality *Prof. C.M. Markan* – Surveillance systems *Mr. D. Sumir* – Tribal & rural development
15 June	Innovation Tools Workshop	Conducted by *Mr. Hardik Chadda*: covered empathy mapping, SCAMPER, HMW technique, ChatGPT for ideation
21 June	Design Thinking & Pitching Workshop	Conducted by *Dr. Zeeshan*: focused on problem framing, user-centric thinking, and pitch clarity
22 June	Idea Pitch Round	Students presented their initial project ideas to mentors and peers

Date	Activity	Details
28 June	Expert Talk & Team Formation	*Prof. P. V. Madhusudhan Rao,* IIT Delhi, on "Design Thinking and Innovation."

4. Current Status

- 9 student teams have been formed, each addressing a specific challenge aligned with the expert domains.
- Students are currently in the prototyping phase, working collaboratively to refine and develop their proposed solutions.
- Faculty mentors are guiding each team in design iteration, feasibility analysis, and community feedback.

5. Upcoming Activities

- Prototype development and reviews (29 June - 15 July)
- Final pitch preparation and design documentation (19 - 20 July)
- Final Showcase during NSC 2025 (15-17 September)

6. Conclusion

SciHi 2025 has successfully laid the foundation for student-driven systems innovation by combining expert-led challenges, hands-on tools, and guided mentorship. The program has received enthusiastic participation and continues to foster creative confidence among school students across India.