

HACK-A-THON 1.0 – Backup Plan (Without FORGE)

Purpose: To ensure smooth and cost-efficient execution of the hackathon in case we discontinue partnership with FORGE.

Key Areas Affected by FORGE Withdrawal:

1. Platform for Ideathon and Coding Contest
2. Registration Desk Management
3. Judges and Evaluation System

1. Alternative Platforms:

Instead of using FORGE's paid platform, we can switch to free or low-cost alternatives: - Devfolio (popular among Indian hackathons, free for student organizers) - Hack2skill (offers full platform and mentorship at zero cost through partnerships) - Google Forms + GitHub + Discord (manual management setup) - HackerEarth / HackerRank Education Plans (discounted for colleges)

2. Registration Desk Setup:

We will manage registrations internally using Google Forms and Sheets. Each team will receive a unique Team ID generated via spreadsheet. QR-based check-ins will be implemented using free online QR code generators. Volunteers from Hospitality and Logistics departments will handle on-ground management.

3. Judges and Evaluation Process:

Judging will be done in 3 rounds – Ideation, Prototype, and Final Pitch. Internal faculty from CSE, IT, and ECE can serve as first-level judges. For final rounds, we can invite industry professionals, alumni, or startup mentors (virtual or physical) without additional cost.

4. Revised Budget Allocation (Post-FORGE):

Area	Suggested Amount (INR)	Purpose
Prizes & Certificates	50,000	Winner/Runner-Up rewards
Refreshments & Hospitality	40,000	Participants + Judges
Stage Setup & Logistics	30,000	Venue, Sound, Banners
Swag (T-shirts, ID cards, Goodies)	30,000	Branding & Souvenirs
Media & Photography	15,000	Event coverage
Contingency	10,000	Miscellaneous expenses

Total	1,75,000	—
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5. Branding and Promotion:

Our internal teams (Creative, PR, and Social Media) can design materials using Canva and manage online visibility through college and club handles. We can also approach local sponsors (cafes, startups, tech hubs) for small monetary or in-kind contributions.

6. Optional Collaborations:

We can collaborate with Hack2skill, MLSA, Google Developer Student Clubs (GDSC), or IEEE Hyderabad Section for tech support and mentorship — many offer this at no cost.

Conclusion:

By leveraging in-house resources, free online tools, and academic-community collaborations, we can successfully execute the hackathon without FORGE while saving costs and maintaining professional quality.