From Campus to National and State Glory: SPCE Students Outshine

Students of Sardar Patel College of Engineering (SPCE), Andheri West, have given the institute and the city plenty to cheer about by clinching top honours at both national and state-level competitions. Their achievements highlight not just academic excellence, but also SPCE's growing reputation as a hub of innovation, research, and practical problem-solving.

At the national level, an SPCE team emerged as **joint winners at the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025 Grand Finale** in the Hardware Category, held from **8 to 12 December 2025** at Lovely Professional University (LPU), Jalandhar, Punjab. The Smart India Hackathon, an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, is among the country's most prestigious innovation platforms, where students from across India compete to solve real-world problems posed by government bodies and industries.

Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025 Grand Finale

The winning team from SPCE, **Team SWACH**, presented an innovative project titled *"Waste Segregation Monitoring System for Urban Local Bodies"*. Their solution offers a scalable, hardware-based approach to tackle one of India's most pressing urban challenges—waste management. The team was led by **Ayushya Rajkumar Maurya**, with **Sachin Raju Shah, Shravani Vivek Kolekar, Vaishnavi Namdeo Ratnaparkhi, Samarth Sandip Rasane, and Agniv Pal** as members. Their journey to the top included clearing the Internal Hackathon at SPCE, qualifying at the nodal level, and finally emerging victorious at the national grand finale. **Prof. Vishal Dake**, played key role in organizing internal institute level hackathon and making students submissions ready for SIH 2025.

SPCE students also made their mark at the **state level** during the **18th Aavishkar Maharashtra State Inter-University Research Convention**, held from **28 to 31 January 2026** at Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani. Final-year B.Tech Electrical Engineering students **Ms. Diti Vishwakarma, Ms. Deepika Singh, and Ms. Bhakti Ghongate** won the **Gold Medal (First Rank)** in *Category 5: Engineering and Technology (UG Level)*.

Student Team for SIH 2025

Project entitled Adaptive Hybrid Static VAR Compensator (SVC) for Reactive power compensation. A laboratory-scale hardware prototype was designed and implemented using a microcontroller-based control scheme, and its performance was validated through experimental results and a detailed 20 MW cement plant case study. The analysis demonstrated significant power factor improvement, voltage regulation, elimination of penalty charges, and a payback period of less than one year, proving both technical and economic feasibility.

First Rank winners Ms. Diti Vishwakarma, Ms. Deepika Singh, and Ms. Bhakti Ghongate

The Aavishkar competition follows a rigorous multi-stage selection process, starting from inter-collegiate rounds and moving through zonal and district levels before reaching the state stage. At the final round, the SPCE team competed against undergraduate research teams from **26 universities across Maharashtra**, including reputed institutions such as COEP Technological University, Savitribai Phule Pune University, University of Mumbai, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere. Securing the top rank among such strong competition underlined the team's solid research work, technical strength, and innovative approach.

Group Photograph of 18th Aavishkar Maharashtra State Inter-University Research Convention at Vasantrao Naik Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani

The winning students were felicitated by **Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni**, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mumbai, along with **Dr. Ajay Bhamare**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and **Dr. Sunil Patil**, Director, Department of Student Development. The students were awarded trophies and certificates in recognition of their outstanding performance.

Felicitation by Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mumbai, Fort

Behind these successes was strong guidance from faculty and institutional leadership. **Prof. Prajakta Joshi and Dr. Santosh Rane**, student mentor, and **Dr. Megha Nagrale**, Teacher Coordinator, played key roles in mentoring the Aavishkar team. The institute's research environment has continuously encouraged collective efforts of students, mentors, and organizers in building a strong culture of innovation and research. Adding to the institute's pride, SPCE PhD scholars **Mrs. Gayatri Abhyankar** and **Mr. Chirag Kale** also advanced up to the Maharashtra State Level at Aavishkar, reflecting SPCE's research strength across different academic levels.

Together, these achievements at **Smart India Hackathon 2025** and **Aavishkar Maharashtra 2026** showcase SPCE's commitment to hands-on learning, applied research, and socially relevant innovation—firmly placing the institute among the leading contributors to India's academic and technological progress.