1. **Event Name:** "***Reclaim Earth*** **Ideation Hackathon 2024**"

2. **Background:**

   a) Legacy/hazardous/other waste dumpsites pose significant environmental and health hazards thus remediation thereof is of utmost importance for the State of Himachal Pradesh. In line with the themes of World Environment Day 2024 i.e. accelerating land restoration, drought resilience & desertification progress, we propose organizing an Ideation Hackathon focused on reclaiming a legacy waste dump site in Himachal Pradesh, as part of the World Environment Day 2024 celebrations.

3. **Objectives:**

   a) To mobilize creative solutions and innovative ideas for the reclamation of the legacy/hazardous/other waste dump site in Himachal Pradesh and suggest ways for effective remediation.

   b) To engage participants in a collaborative effort to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable waste management practices.

   c) To raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and waste management on World Environment Day 2024.

4. **Event Overview:**

   b) The "***Reclaim Earth Ideation Hackathon 2024***" will bring together participants from diverse backgrounds, including students, professionals, researchers, and environmental enthusiasts. The exact target groups shall be identified soon. The event will feature innovative solutions for reclaiming the legacy waste dump site in Himachal Pradesh. The same shall be assessed by the external panel of experts.

5. **Problem statement:**

   "The remediation of all types of dumping sites involves the systematic clean-up and restoration of contaminated areas to mitigate environmental and health risks. This process typically includes removal of hazardous materials, soil treatment, and implementation of containment measures. Successful remediation efforts aim to restore ecosystems, prevent further contamination, and safeguard public health. Collaboration between government agencies, environmental experts, and local communities is essential for effective and sustainable remediation outcomes.

   Remediation of dumping sites is particularly crucial in mountainous areas like Himachal Pradesh due to their unique environmental sensitivity and the potential for cascading environmental impacts. In Himachal Pradesh, natural features like steep slopes and diverse ecosystems can exacerbate the spread of contaminants, leading to widespread ecological damage and water pollution downstream. Moreover, the State also serves as water catchment areas for Indus and Gangetic plains, making water quality a critical concern for both local communities and downstream states. Effective remediation of such waste sites in our terrain is therefore essential for preserving biodiversity, protecting water resources, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of fragile ecosystems and communities reliant on them."