

Press Release

Ahmedabad, March 30:

India's top scientist and Chairman of National Innovation Foundation, Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, said on Saturday he was amazed at the cutting edge research quality of the prized innovations put up at the Techpedia Award function at Ravi J. Mathai Center at IIM Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Stating that he made three trips to Europe in the past 20 days, Dr. Mashelkar asserted the 'beautiful technology' used by the young scientists and engineers studying in Indian institutions had no comparable match even in the West. The West continued to wallow in the old beliefs that India was full of corruption etc. The quality of scientific minds here, as emerging from the frontier innovative research, was indeed amazing.

National Research Professor and President of Global Research Alliance, Dr. Mashelkar noted the young students created excellence that was affordable and austere and thought out from the point of view of have-nots. People in the West talked of this and that world index and tried to show India somewhere in the bottom. But, he said, 'My India' had begun to adopt innovation as a way of life. It was unfortunate that the West had no idea of the excellence of the young minds.

Giving away this year's Gandhian Young Technological Innovation awards at the third National Innovation competition organized by Society for Research Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI), the National Research Professor pointed out that the young scientists and engineers' entire effort was to make life easier for their fellowmen. He assured them that every possible help would be given to them in their further research.

The top scientist particularly mentioned the technological innovations for near and remote diagnostics, for detecting pneumonia in infants, for identifying malignant tumor, for the safety and security for women, and for preventing stampedes as highlights of the innovations. In fact, he would be showcasing those innovations in his visits abroad to represent the high quality in which Indian students innovate.

Defining innovation as thinking differently to make a difference and to bring about a change, he stressed India had 1.2 billion thinking minds and innovation could happen anywhere, even in a jail. Telling an anecdote, Dr. Mashelkar narrated he was once invited to lay the foundation stone for a biogas plant in the famous Yerwada jail in Pune which housed 3500 inmates. One of the inmates there was not happy with the dough-making machine in the jail. This person eventually succeeded in redesigning the dough machine for making 10000 perfect chapattis for the inmates, and bagged a patent, too.

The top scientist noted that at the end of the day, the 'seed to food' and 'mind to market' transition was a long journey, but the young innovators should feel reassured about the necessary aid.

In all 13 awards and 27 letters of appreciation were given away to the young scientists and engineers who belonged to the premiere science, engineering and technology institutions of the country, including IITs, the IISC Bangalore, RV Engineering College, Bangalore, and Kongu and Eswari engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu.

Earlier, welcoming the chief guest, Prof Anil Gupta, Executive Vice-Chairman of NIF and founder of Honey Bee Network, noted the auspicious nature of the ceremony as it was being held on the eve of Dr. Mashelkar's receiving the Padma Vibhushan award.

He drew attention to the fact that health care was the top priority for the young scientists and engineers among the technologies selected for this year's awards. The effort to invent fuel cells from wastewater surpassed global standards of research, he pointed out.

Prof. Gupta announced that Germany had begun taking cognizance of the innovations in India and the European country would also get to know about Techpedia innovations real time.

Giving the background, the Professor said the Honey Bee Network had uncovered near 200,000 innovations, wherein the effort of the innovators had invariably been an emotional connect with small people of this country. The NIF (part of HBN) had signed a formal science and technology agreement with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Prof. Gupta asserted that such a data base of innovations as the one Honey Bee model had might not be available even with the world's foremost institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Most of the HBN innovations had been hidden until the network had brought them to light. It was during his discussions with the young engineer, Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta, that the Techpedia awards institution had emerged.

This year as many as 1400 nominations were received online and offline from all over the country for consideration under the Techpedia awards. There were efforts to bring in more mentors and more investors for reaching the innovations to users and market this year. In fact, an effort was made to create an innovator-investor platform.

Delivering the keynote address, Mr. Rajmohan, of ST Microelectronics, hoped that it would be tremendous synergy if the hi-tech talent were blended with the creative talent in rural India to produce great products. His own organization in Greater Noida, New Delhi, had organized a design contest and tech-fest on February 24.

Coming as it did from a technocrat belonging to one of the top 10 chip makers of the world, Mr. Rajmohan's offer would be appealing to all the concerned.

Mr. Kumar Iyer, of the JSW group, who was present on dais, said his group was in a churning process as regards innovations.

Mr. Rameshbhai Patel, of SRISTI, proposed the vote of thanks. The NIF Director, Dr. Vipin Kumar, was present on the occasion.

This year's Gandhian national awards for innovative student/faculty projects are in engineering, pharmacy, science and applied technologies. The awards come under three categories:

1. More from Less for Many (MLM) Award
2. SRISTI Socially Relevant Technological Innovation Award

3. Technological Edge / Strategic Innovation Award

The nominations were received from 313 Technology and Scientific Institutions from 24 States of the country. These entries were clustered in 54 Technology Fields. The Nominations were considered for the competition and after careful review by 150 Jury members from 60 Universities and MNC R&D Labs across India and Abroad, 40 entries were selected for recognition. The awardees are as follows.

More from Less for Many (MLM) Awards

1. Parichaya - A Low-Cost Medical Device to Increase Adherence among Tuberculosis Patients in Rural Assam- Himanshu Seth
2. Development of a Fuel Efficient Cookstove through a Participatory Bottom-Up Approach- Vijay Hanmant Honkalaskar

Technological Edge / Strategic Innovation Awards

1. Injectable Silk Fibroin Hydrogel for Tissue Engineering and Drug Delivery- Surojeet Das
2. Highly Stable Metallic Nanoparticle-Semiconductor Heterostructures via Click Chemistry for Photoelectro/Photocatalytic Applications- Arun Prakash Upadhyay
3. Biomimicked Polymer Surfaces Exhibiting Superhydrophobic and Anti-reflective Properties- SrinadhMattaparthi
4. Development and Pilot Testing of Nano-sized TiO₂ based Photocatalytic Oxidation Technology for Controlling VOCs- IndramaniDhada
5. Microfluidic Immunosensor- RamchanderChepyala
6. Paper and Pencil Microfluidic Device for Point of care Diagnostics- Ranabir Dey
7. Performance Enhancement of Microthruster using Nano-engineered MEMS Structure for Long Term Space Mission- PijusKundu

SRISTI Socially Relevant Technological Innovation Awards

1. A Low Cost Cardiovascular Diagnostic Instrument for Rural Healthcare- SushanthPoojary
2. Low-cost Diagnosis of Pneumonia- AbhishekKhanolkar
3. Laser Light Based Fully Computerized Automated Breast Cancer and Muscle Screening System Development- Samir Kumar Biswas
4. Development and Evaluation of Women Friendly Vaginal *In situ* Hydrogel for Sperm Immobilisation. - ParitaMoradiya

Appreciation (27)

Category: More from Less for Many

1. Touchpad for Malignant Tumor (epithelial) Detection and Imaging- SritamParashar Rout
2. Cost Effective Vegetable Chiller for Rural Small Farmers- Vishnu Padmanaban
3. Development of Microbial Fuel Cells with Improved Performance- JayeshManoharSonawane

4. A Transceiver for Satellite based Communication during Emergency using TV White Spaces- Rajan Kapoor
5. Adsorptive Removal of Phenolic Compounds using Cellulose Acetate Phthalate - Alumina Nanoparticle Mixed Matrix Membrane- Raka Mukherjee

Category: Technological Edge / Strategic Innovation

1. Inhalable Multiparticulate Carrier Systems for Sustained and Targeted Delivery of Isoniazid- Sanjay Tiwari
2. Concept of BBDP and its Application in Alzheimer Amyloid Disruption- Nadimpally Krishna Chaitanya
3. Fabrication of Organic Thin Film Transistor Using Single Drops of Organic or Hybrid Insulator, Conductor and Semiconductor Materials- Gunda Manideep
4. Paper-Pencil Based Self-Pumping and Self-Breathing Fuel Cell- Ravi Kumar Arun
5. Ultra-High Actuation in a Carbon Nanotube Actuator- Prarthana V.D.
6. Amsler Grid Test- Jagjeet Singh
7. 3D model generation from 2D X-Ray images- Vikas Dhruwdas Karade
8. Universal Multiple Angle Raman Spectroscopy: A New Tool to Explore Molecular Structure of Materials Hidden in Depth- Sanchita Sil
9. Fabrication of Stable Liquid Crystal Based Biosensor- Arun Prakash Upadhyay
10. Macrophage-Specific Targeting of Mannose-Functionalized Biodegradable Polymeric Nanoparticles of Some Anti-Leishmanial Drugs- Development, Optimization and Efficacy Evaluation- Pramila Chaubey

Category: Socially Relevant Technological Innovation

1. CareMother-Mobile Pregnancy Care- Shantanu Jayantrao Pathak
2. VoiceMail Architecture in Desktop and Mobile Devices for Blind People- Aakash Anuj
3. Wireless Communication and Security System Embedded Safety Helmet- Sivagurunathapandian. M
4. Integrated Circuit based Flexible Electronic Devices and Displays (ICFEDD)- Prakash Kodali
5. Microwave Coplanar Sensor System for Detecting Contamination in Food Products- Makkattary Shaji
6. Stampede Control using Image Analysis Technology- Vidya Sagar Sundararajan
7. Novel Algal Bioreactor for Wastewater Treatment and Biofuel (Lipid) Production- Durga Madhab Mahapatra
8. Jaivik Prakash (Biophotonics): A Simple Tool for Detection of Hazardous Materials and Sanitary Condition at Rural Level- Rajeev Ranjan
9. Synthesis and Design of Indigenous Polycentric Knee for Transfemoral Prosthesis- Anand TS
10. Voice Activated Safety App- Mithila Harish
11. Safe-Hands- Akhil Aggarwal
12. Identification of Safest Path using Crime Records- Puneet Singh .

For more information, the following may be contacted:

GYTI team (+91-8141989908)

Mr. Ramesh Patel, Secretary SRISTI 98250 61139

Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta, Coordinator Techpedia 99099 59336

<http://www.techpedia.in/award/>

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