Fostering the Next Generation of Innovators: Vishwakarma Awards 2024

Highlights:
- The Vishwakarma Awards successfully showcased the power of innovation in shaping a better tomorrow.
- Valuable insights on building a better India and empowering young Indians to lead in innovation were shared during the event by Mr. Amit Chandra, Founder, Bain Capital.
- Strategies for positioning India as the next global powerhouse were discussed, with key perspectives provided by Shri Ajai Chowdhry, Co-founder of Hindustan Computers Limited (HCL)

Hyderabad, Dec 23, 2024: The Vishwakarma Awards 2024, organized by iTIC Incubator at IIT Hyderabad (IITH) in partnership with Maker Bhavan Foundation (MBF), successfully concluded with a celebration of innovative ideas in Green Technology, Smart Mobility & Water & Sanitation.

About the Event:
Vishwakarma prize 2024 was a nationwide thematic challenge to encourage talented student teams to build innovative, deployable prototypes rapidly and with impact. The theme for 2024 is Green Technology, Smart Mobility & Water & Sanitation.

Its goal was to incentivize student teams to build innovative solutions to real world problems in the domain of Green Technology, Smart Mobility & Water & Sanitation. The Vishwakarma Awards spotlighted 18 exceptional teams, carefully selected from a vast pool of applicants across the nation. These innovators presented their impactful solutions, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and collaboration among academia, industry, and ecosystem partners.
- 528 teams applied from 276 colleges and the best 18 were shortlisted in the Grand Finale.
- Networking opportunities with leading stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem.
- Interactive sessions with industry leaders and fellow innovators.

Keynote Speakers **Shri Ajai Chowdhry**, Co-founder of Hindustan Computers Limited (HCL), and **Mr Amit Chandra**, Founder of Bain Capital, *shared their visionary insights on India's innovation future. Shri Chowdhry emphasized positioning India as a global innovation hub and fostering a culture of strategic advancements, while Mr Chandra focused on empowering young leaders and addressing India's unique challenges to unlock its innovation potential*.

Director of IITH, Prof B S Murty said "*The Vishwakarma Awards 2024 have shown how young innovators are addressing critical challenges in society. It's inspiring to see such enthusiasm and creativity in building solutions for a better future. IITH has been creating an ecosystem that nurtures "Inventing and Innovating Technology for Humanity (IITH)". This event gels well with the motto of IITH* ".

Dean of Innovation, Translation & Startups (ITS), IITH, Prof C Malla Reddy, *emphasized IITH's commitment to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship, with the Vishwakarma Awards acting as a key platform to recognize and support pioneering startup initiatives*.

Winning Teams:

Green Technology:
- Winner: Team BioCOM Structures from IIT Delhi, led by Kusum Saini.
- Runners-Up: Team BIOBULB MK ONE from Delhi Pharmaceutical Science and Research University, consisting of Aryan Anand, Chinmoy Dan, Ishika Roy, and Sudhanshu Kumar.

Smart Mobility:
- Winner: Team DeliDrone from Adamas University, West Bengal, with team members Sumanto Roy, Soumyadeep Das, Anurag Biswas, and Baibhab Adhikari.
- Runners-Up: Team RegenDrive from IIT Bombay, with team members Sanya Vishwakarma and Aishwarya Chourasiya.

Water & Sanitation:
- Winner: Team MOFXene for Dye Abatement from IIT Guwahati, consisting of Harish Kumar R, Mohammed Askkar Deen F, and Sulaiha Juvairiya.
- Runners-Up: Team Aqaufy Solution from Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar, with team members Harish Panda and Saraswat Das.

By recognizing these innovative projects, the Vishwakarma Awards aim to encourage young minds to develop solutions that drive India toward a sustainable and inclusive future.

About iTIC Incubator:

iTIC Incubator at IIT Hyderabad is a leading Technology Business Incubator, supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. Since 2015, iTIC has supported 192+ startups, facilitated INR 10+ crores in direct funding, and generated INR 1250 crores in revenue, creating over 1,100 jobs.

About Maker Bhavan Foundation (MBF):

MBF, established in 2019, focuses on modernizing STEM education in India by promoting active learning and a culture of making. The foundation collaborates with academic institutions, faculty, and students to develop innovative solutions for real-world problems, fostering an inventive mindset and lifelong learning.

About IIT Hyderabad:

IITH, established in 2008, as one of the second Generation IITs, has reached a respectable position in both academics, research, technology development and startups in the short span of 16 years. In the recent Indian National Ranking (NIRF-2024), IITH is placed at 3rd in Innovation and 8th among Engineering institutes in India. It has 320+ full-time faculty, 5,300+ students (PG + PhD students accounting for about 60%). The institute has a strong research focus with Rs. 1300+ Cr of R&D funding, 11,500+ publications, 420+ Patents, and about 260+ startups (that have generated 1100+ jobs and a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr). Follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Koo, and YouTube for the latest updates.

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