

IIGP honours 20 innovators, tier 2 cities on radar

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PATNA: Twenty innovators from across the country received cash prize of ₹1 lakh each at the Patna technology expo, organised under the aegis of the India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP), here on Thursday.

Launched in 2007, IIGP this year received over 1000 applications, out of which 50 were selected for upscaling.

The India Innovation Growth Programme is a joint initiative of the department of science and technology, government of India; Lockheed Martin Corporation; Indo-US Science and Technology Forum, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Stanford Graduate School of Business and the IC2 Institute at the University of Texas.

Secretary, technology development board, DST, government of India, Harkesh Mittal, said it was important to nurture innovations happening across the country. "Innovators are not confined to metros only.

They come from next level towns and cities. And this is exactly what has brought us to Bihar, as the state has done well in the recent past," he said, adding, the IIGP was a unique initiative to nurture innovations for the market and the results had started showing with several collaborations reaching the global market.

Mittal said more than 70 incubators had so far been set up to nurture innovations. "After all, why don't we excel in our homeland despite having abundant talent, which gets reflected in Silicon Valley and other countries. The reason is lack of ecosystem, which includes culture,



Innovators being given prizes at the IIGP and (right) participants at the Patna Technology Expo on Thursday.

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and upscale them. That is the reason we have brought about change in the concept during the 12th plan.

Instead of calling it mainstreaming of the underprivileged sections, we call it broad-streaming," he said, elaborating the role of state innovation council and district innovation forums in identifying innovations.

Nirankar Saxena, senior director, FICCI, said, India was among the few nations, which could withstand recession. "Few years ago, we were a \$1 trillion economy and the growth was 9-10%. Today we are a \$2 trillion economy and the growth has come down to 5-6%, but despite the slump we continue on the right path. There are issues, which need to be addressed. Our strength is human resource that needs to be upgraded to the next level not just in big cities, but even in tier-2 cities," he added.

The welcome address was presented by Shaileendra Porwal, FICCI co-chairman for science & technology and innovation.

AWARDED INNOVATORS AND THEIR INNOVATIONS

- Mandar Vivek Tulankar (Mobile shoe charger)
- Srinath Mallikarjunan (unmanned dynamics)
- Rajeev Gupta (Clean energy generation)
- Manu Chaudhary (herbal formulation for arthritis)
- Das Ajeet Kamath (multi-fuel IC engine)
- Ramesh S Ve (ocular digital adaptor)
- Arupratan Ghosh (..)
- Raghuvansh P Lohar (Vajra device for labourers)
- MS Rao (Plant growth promoter)
- K Perumal (simple soil nutrient analysis)
- Bapusaheb Patil (filtration system)
- Venu Kandadai (Universal Multifunction Accelerator)
- Durekha S Bhalerao
- (Thalassemia detection kit)
- Ramdas MR Pillai (Photo dynamic therapy laser system)
- TJ David (solar-powered crop harvester)
- Vikram Kole (Business Intelligence with 1KEY)
- BK Murali (Cloud-based SaaS application for hospital)
- Mahabaleshwar Hegde (Omega-3 egg)

more. And another big thing is our low tolerance to failure, not realizing that only those who try different things, will also taste failure," he added.

Regional technology manager, India-Lockheed Martin Cooperation, Shaikh Tarapore said the programme was aimed building a perfect

proper grooming.

Sid Burback, director, IC Square Institute, University of Texas at Austin, said it was an occasion to celebrate the success of innovative individuals.

"Mentorship plays a key role in it. But the job is unfinished, as a lot remains to be done," said Burback. James K Vance, director, IC Square

identify those useful innovations