

NASSCOM Foundation and Mphasis give 40 Lakh Rupees in Grants to Social Innovations

- *Winners for the 10th edition of the NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum announced*
- *Grants to be given to the chosen winners the categories of Education and Accessibility*
- *All the winners to receive mentorship worth over 20 lakh Rupees*

Hyderabad, 21st, February 2018: NASSCOM Foundation, in collaboration with industry leaders Mphasis, today announced the winners of the **tenth edition** of the **NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum (NSIF)** - a platform that fosters innovative use of technology to create sustained social impact.

The announcement was made at the World Congress on Information Technology – The Olympics of the global ICT Industry. The winners were felicitated by **Shri K.T. Ramarao, Cabinet Minister for IT E&C, MAUD, Industries & Commerce, Mines & Geology, Public Enterprises and NRI Affairs, Government of Telangana.**

NSIF - The Largest Social Innovation Honours run in India, received over 1900 applications this year out of which, the winners were chosen after going through a rigorous two-level jury shortlist process in the categories of **Education, Accessibility, Healthcare, Financial Inclusion, Environment and other socially relevant areas.**

With support from **Mphasis**, the Forum will award total **catalytic grants of INR 40 Lakhs** to four of the winning innovations in the categories of Education and Accessibility.

All the winners, will also be provided with a twelve month ‘Support to Scale’ mentoring from experts and leaders in the industry worth over 20 lakh rupees.

The NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum 2018 winners are:

Category	Organization	Innovation
Education	Pi Jam Foundation*	A low cost pocket sized computer for students to solve real world problems
	Saajha*	Enabling parental and community participation in schools to improve learning
Accessibility	Blank Solutions*	Sparsh, a portable braille board that converts digital text content to its equivalent braille output.

NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum 2018

A NASSCOM Foundation Initiative in partnership with Mphasis

Total Grants available: INR 40 Lakhs + Mentoring Support worth over 20 Lakh
Funding Partners: Mphasis

10th Edition, One of India's oldest and most trusted social innovation ecosystem support programs

Total applications received: 1900+
Winners selected in categories of:

- Financial Inclusion
- Healthcare
- Environment
- Education
- Accessibility
- Other Social issues

	Thinkerbell Labs*	Annie, an audio-tactile device that makes self-learning and classroom teaching of Braille possible.
Healthcare	Empathy Design Labs Pvt. Ltd.	IOT based wearable patch for pregnant mothers to screen and monitor pregnancy.
	EPOCARE Pvt. Ltd.	Wound Healing Analytics & Prediction (WHAP) device
Financial Inclusion	Danamojo	India's first widget for customizable donation platform designed specifically for NGOs
	DonateKart	India's first crowdsourcing platform where people can donate in kind to charities instead of money
Environment	StrataEnviro Pvt. Ltd	A IOT ready device to control outdoor air pollution
Other Social issues	Schemopedia (Karma Online Ventures LLP)	A one stop online platform for searching, applying and accessing all Government and Non-government schemes and benefits

*** The winners who will be receiving INR 10 Lakh each as catalytic grants.**

The jury that selected the winners comprised of many renowned industry stalwarts including **Debjani Ghosh**, President Designate, NASSCOM; **Padmaja Ruparel**, President, Indian Angel Network; **Srikanth Karra**, CHRO, Mphasis, **P. Balaji**, Director---Regulatory, External Affairs and CSR, Vodafone India and **Deepak Maheshwari**, Director --- Government Affairs, India & ASEAN, Symantec.

Mphasis has been a constant supporter for enabling Technology for social Good. Commenting on the occasion, **Srikanth Karra, CHRO, Mphasis, said**, "Two areas that I am passionate about are accessibility and innovation. The sweet spot of social innovation is more encouraging and invigorating than ever before. T. The quality of innovation we saw from across the country is phenomenal and I am proud of Mphasis' association with NASSCOM Foundation on this. I am delighted to see the NSIF award becoming an aspirational one for the technology innovators in social space".

Reflecting on this amazing journey, **Shrikant Sinha, CEO, NASSCOM Foundation**, said, "For the last ten years, NSIF has been the corner stone of Tech4Good in India. It has seen ideas take shape into industries, people change to adapt to new innovative technologies, and technologies create impact to change economies. Growing from strength to strength, NSIF today is an ecosystem of 2000+ social innovations, awarded 80+ social innovation projects, helped mentor 20+ innovations through its support to scale program and already given over INR 1 Crore in catalytic grants. This is just a start and we hope that our journey inspires development of new frugal innovations to fulfil our ultimate goal of creating a truly Inclusive India using technology for good. We are glad to share this dream with a lot of our partners through the years and would like to thank our long standing partners Mphasis for all the support they have given us".

Talking about this year's entries and the winners he added, "It is great to see that social innovators are not shying away from the new technologies but instead are embracing them. Most of the entries we received this year were using new age technologies like Internet of Things, wearables, predictive analysis and self-learning algorithms. Each chosen winning innovation today has a promise to create a country wide sustainable impact and we hope that NSIF can help them make this happen."

Through the collaborative force of social impact through ICT created in the last 10 years by NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum, NASSCOM Foundation hopes add momentum to the technology wave across the country.

About NASSCOM Foundation:

NASSCOM Foundation is a leading non-profit organization driving technology for good. The Foundation's work is just as expansive and evolutionary as the potential that technology and corporate India entail. Drawing strength from its parent body NASSCOM, the Foundation works closely with four major stakeholders: NASSCOM member companies, NGOs, emerging social enterprises and Government to foster a strategic relationship between technology and development. NASSCOM Foundation's core initiatives include working for Persons with Disabilities, fostering innovative solutions for social good, creating unique skilling models for underserved communities, and digital literacy where it is the industry partner to the Govt. of India's National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM / DiSHA)

For more information, visit www.nasscomfoundation.org

About Mphasis

Mphasis (BSE: 526299; NSE: MPHASIS) enables customers to reimagine their digital future by applying a unique formula of integrated cloud and cognitive technology. Mphasis [X2C²_{TM}](#) formula for success, (anything to cloud powered by cognitive), drives multi-dimensions of business value with an integrated consumer-centric [Front to Back Digital TransformationTM](#), enabling Business Operations and Technology Transformation. Mphasis applies advancements in cognitive and cloud to traditional application and infrastructure services to bring much needed efficiency and cost effectiveness. Mphasis' core reference architectures and tools, combined with domain expertise and hyper specialization are the foundation for building strong relationships with marquee clients. Click [here](#) to know more.

Detailed description of winning innovations:

Mphasis Education Honours and Grants**Pi Jam Foundation- Physical & Creative Computing in Schools**

PiJam Foundation provides students in schools, access and training to low-cost open source technologies to foster skills like digital making, problem solving and design thinking. They have purchased and use the raspberry pi, which is a low-cost, pocket-sized computer specifically designed for education of students. Through their model, students are exposed to real world problems, which they are required to build solutions for, using technology and their existing academic concepts. These real-world problems lie in the domains of immediate school problems, climate change, pollution control, food and agriculture and other issues in their own communities. They have developed a database of easy to use APIs for complex electronic devices that allow students to use these tools without them getting bogged down by the technicalities. These APIs have been designed in a manner that still require usage of basic programming concepts that push a child to think logically.

Saajha – Grievance redressal app

Saajha is on a mission to enable parents of children in the government schools to collaborate with the officials to improve learning of children. Saajha, in partnership with Mindtree, has developed a mobile based application for facilitating effective grievances redressal. This mobile app allows School Management Committees (SMCs) to record SMC meeting minutes, and key action items, including flagging issues to higher authorities. The app has been launched in Delhi in the presence of approx. 15,000 SMC members. The solution is now live in 1000+ schools in Delhi and about 100 schools in Jharkhand and Karnataka. Using the same mobile application, Saajha plans to integrate and develop e- modules to make learning content available to all parents, family, government and community members to effectively participate in the functioning of a government schools. They would gradually provide the access of digital content to the government trainers for training of the trainer in partnership with other government agencies. They are creating videos, digitizing existing content and developing online activities.

Mphasis Accessibility Honours and Grants

Blank Solutions – Sparsh

Sparsh is a single cell refreshable Braille display that converts any form of digital data into its equivalent Braille form. It is a stand-alone portable device running on a microprocessor aimed at introducing the visually impaired to the digital realm. It includes a self-learning module that aims at teaching the visually impaired Braille script, at their own pace, the speed of which is set by the user. The device can connect to other devices via Bluetooth, USB and Wi-Fi. Sparsh comes with a keyboard that has a few navigational buttons, which doubles up as a “Perkins Style Keyboard”, a common keyboard type using which it is possible to type in Braille. It has internet access through Wi-Fi, Bluetooth connectivity, Self-adjustable reading speed, the Ability to switch from Braille to auditory screen reader, while browsing documents, websites etc, an inbuilt self-learning module to learn reading and typing in Braille script without a teacher. It also has a bundled dual-purpose Perkins Style Keyboard.

Thinkerbell Labs - Annie

Thinkerbell Labs is an organisation that aims to revolutionize education for the visually impaired by using technology to make Braille literacy more accessible. Their flagship product Annie is an audio-tactile device that makes self-learning and classroom teaching of Braille possible. Annie runs on a Raspberry Pi and consists of three major modules - a refreshable braille display, a digital braille slate, and a Perkins style braille keyboard - in one device, thus helping visually impaired children learn how to read, write, and type Braille on their own. The technology will enable self-learning (which is completely missing in today’s methods), enable efficient classroom teaching akin to mainstream classrooms, introduce collective and competitive learning, ease homework delivery and evaluation, and bring in easy tracking of progress. Annie is a super light-weight, portable device that children can easily carry anywhere. Soft typing keys, soft touch pad in the digital slate, and large cells in the reading module ensure that the device is extremely child-friendly and easy to use.

Healthcare Honours

Empathy Design Labs Pvt Ltd - Kriya

KRIYA is an IOT (Internet of things) solution where a wearable design like a patch is placed on a mothers belly and it provides information, alerts and further suggestions on a mobile app. Mothers of 28+ weeks pregnancy are suggested to wear the patch for 1-3 hours depending on her pregnancy type- High risk or Low risk pregnancy. They have designed a software application which they use to acquire, save and filter data. This software will take the shape of mobile app once Empathy Design Labs ports the solution further after acquiring the best signal possible using their algorithm. This app would contain User profiles – Mother’s age , Weight , Height , Prime/Multi parity , High/Low risk pregnancy

factors and details of everyday pregnancy parameters which would be determined from the wearable patch - KRIYA. They have Identified 4 states as priority places for the pilot study to test the ICT and patch design – i.e. Balasore [Odisha] , Barabanki [Uttar Pradesh] , BR Hills [Karnataka] , Ramnagar [Uttarakhand].

Epocare Pvt Ltd – Wound Healing Analytics & Prediction (WHAP) device

Epocare has developed a custom software integrated with hardware to collect and interpret data and send it over cloud using Wifi Module.

They use Amazon AWS service to process data on cloud for data storage and analytics. This data repository is equipped with a machine-learning algorithm, which predicts the healing potential of ulcers and forecast of healing time over the period. It has a database synchronization functionality in the backend of software, & whenever the new data is available in a remote device, new data get synced to cloud server and the reports get generated automatically. They are also developing a software that will be used to share reports among doctors and patients. They have another custom software equipped with a cloud server and an advanced image processing technique that allows images to get captured & process data at various spectral interests.

Financial Inclusion Honours

Danamojo- Payment Solutions platform

Danamojo is India's first payment solutions platform designed specifically for NGOs. Their purpose is to help NGOs raise more funds from individuals by providing a convenient and efficient mechanism to collect donations and engage donors thereby providing a superlative experience to the donor to make them repeat donors engaged to the cause of the NGO. They provide an “e-commerce like donation storefront” allowing donors to select donation products, capturing donor information for 100% legal compliance, providing multiple payment options – both online (credit card, debit card, netbanking, mobile wallets and EMI) and offline (cheque pickup in 100+ cities) modes of payment. A customized Thank You mail and 80G receipt is sent to the donor on behalf of the NGO on confirmation of the donation. Danamojo integrates the donation storefront in less than 5 minutes on the NGO's website. They currently have 500+ NGOs live on the platform.

Donatekart

Donatekart is India's first crowdsourcing platform where people can donate in kind to charities instead of money. NGOs start campaigns on their platform listing down their product requirements and donor just like they shop on flipkart can choose products they want to donate and pay for them. Donatekart at the end of the campaign delivers the products to NGO's and update donors. As 70% of the money raised by NGO's is used in procuring some or the other products, they are making these donations transparent by helping NGO's get them directly from Donors. They are a completely free platform for NGO's to raise any kind of products be it stationery, blankets, groceries, utensils, medical equipment anything which they can ship to the organisation. Their campaigns are so successful that 200 of their NGOs raised 10 lakh products from across the world.

Environment Honours

StrataEnviro Pvt Ltd – Outdoor Air Pollution Controllers

The innovation addresses the problem of increasing outdoor air pollution levels. Outdoor air pollution controllers are units designed, manufactured & installed by Strataenviro Pvt Ltd.

These units are installed for free at public & private locations to reduce outdoor air pollution with a unique revenue model for sustainability benefiting people commuting on foot, 2/3 wheelers, buses in high polluted zones like traffic signals, high traffic congestion zones, schools, hospitals, tolls booths, railway stations, airports, fuel stations, and similar places.

These units are IoT enabled units which suck polluted air from the environment (outdoor), then locally filter the pollutants (particulate matter pm2.5, pm10, dust, petroleum fumes, smog, odour and similar air pollution elements). The innovation is successfully operational in both the private and public sector with clearances of city wide installation by 2 municipal corporations & private locations in 5 cities.

Other Social Issues

Schemopedia (Karma Online Ventures, LLP) – Online portal

Currently, information on various government schemes and benefits like grants, loans, scholarships, subsidies, etc. is spread out across multiple online and offline sources. This makes it difficult for citizens to know about the relevant scheme and information is not organized as per the Citizen's profile and need. Due to this non-intuitive information organization, it is difficult for citizens to browse the same despite reaching the right website. Even for the Government, lower public awareness and lesser number of applications result in sub-optimal utilization of government funds. Schemopedia is online platform for information and application support on government schemes and benefits.