

## Report of Student Innovation Award – 2020

In consonance with the Government of India's initiative to promote the culture of innovation in the country, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been recognizing and promoting the major contributors in the area of research and innovation among its faculty and staff for more than a decade.

In order to identify, recognize and nurture the innovators from amongst its stakeholders, National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) is making all efforts to reach all the stakeholders of the system. Considering the students to be the most important stakeholder of the system, the university has formulated a scheme for identifying and recognizing the innovator students of IGNOU and instituted a "**Student Innovation Award 2018**" to be given every year to first three innovator students across the country. This scheme was started in 2018.

In 2020 entries were invited by the NCIDE from IGNOU students for the **Student Innovation Award – 2020**. After evaluation by a Committee of Experts, four best entries were selected for the Student Innovation Award – 2020.

The awards were given away by Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU on 12 December 2020. He appreciated the innovative work done by the IGNOU students.

The **First Award** was given to Mr. Shubhajit Bhattacharya. He has developed a two-wheeler for people with disability who don't have both hands. He designed modifications to a Suzuki Swish automatic scooter allowing him to commute safely within Bangalore. The modifications are unique to his disability since he found that only he best understood his specific needs. He modified the handle on the right as spiral shaped to enable tight grip by his elbow. Since he drives with one hand only, this is very important. He did cushioning of the spiral shaped handle to protect his elbow in case of bad roads or sudden brakes. Most importantly, he shifted all components like brake, accelerator, lights, horn to the foot area to be able to operate them easily. Mr. Shubhajit Bhattacharya was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- along with a Trophy and a Certificate.



The **Second Award** was given to Ms. Shrutee Bepari. In her innovation, she made a solar tracking system and has utilized the solar power collected by the solar panel to charge a battery and drive an electric fence along with an automated sprinkler system. An electric fence is a barrier that uses electric shocks to deter animals or people from crossing a boundary. Most electric fences are used today for agricultural fencing and other forms of animal control, although it is frequently used to enhance the security of sensitive areas, such as military installations, prisons, and other security sensitive places; places exist where lethal voltages are used. Ms. Shrutee Bepari was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 7,000/- along with a Trophy and a Certificate.



The **Third Award** was given to Mr. Yugal Kishor. He has developed an innovative device, which is a contactless Ultraviolet (UV) disinfecting system. It is a novel automated solution for rapid and chemical-free disinfection for personal and office utility. The whole disinfection process should be contactless to ensure personal hygiene and reduce the chance of community spread of the virus. Moreover, it is very cost effective. The total cost of one prototype is around Rs. 8000 only. Mr. Yugal Kishor was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5,000/- along with a Trophy and a Certificate.



In addition to this, a **Consolation Award** was given to Mr. Milindshekhar Chandrashekhar Gupta. He has developed a new bulletproof material, which is designed to stop the 'Steel Core Bullets'. It can penetrate the conventional bulletproof Jackets which is made up of Kevlar or Boron Carbide. Mr. Milindshekhar Chandrashekhar Gupta was awarded a Trophy and a Certificate.



Besides identifying and awarding the innovators, IGNOU plans to handhold such innovators by the way of providing various kinds of support to them in commercialization of their innovations.

**Dr. Oum Prakash Sharma**  
Director , NCIDE  
Email: opsharma@ignou.ac.in