

28-year-old Odisha engineer Anil Pradhan bags third Rohini Nayar Prize for outstanding contribution to rural education

PTI |

Nov 08, 2024 01:40 PM IST

Anil Pradhan's work in STEM education and innovation has impacted over 2.5 lakh students to date.

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Anil Pradhan, a 28-year-old engineer from Odisha, was awarded the third Rohini Nayar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development for his work in promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education among students in rural India.



Pradhan, co-founder of the Young Tinker Foundation, came up with the idea of 'Tinker-on-Wheels' — a mobile learning lab that offered hands-on experiences in areas like robotics and 3D printing to school students in rural regions of Odisha, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. (File/Representative image)

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I-STEM conducts its flagship 'Samavesha' at the University of Ladakh, details inside

"I pursued my engineering from a government college in Odisha. When I began working as an engineer, I realised there is a huge gap between what is being taught in schools and what is actually happening in the industry," Pradhan told PTI.

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"While students in metro cities still have exposure to hands-on learning, it is very limited for students in rural areas. That's why I thought of starting this. We began with 200 students, and we have helped 2.5 lakh students so far," he added.

Pradhan said many schools lack the infrastructure to support such exposure and training, so his 'Tinker-on-Wheels' travels to these schools, setting up mobile labs in playgrounds.

HT POLL

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He was also the chief designer of Asia's first university rocket team, VSLV, and built a team of students from India who ranked third in the world at the NASA Rover Challenge in 2021, making them Asia's first Under-19 team to achieve such a feat.

Pradhan returned to his rural roots in 2017, driven by his mission to bring hands-on education to underserved areas.


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The Rohini Nayyar award, instituted in memory of Rohini Nayyar, one of India's esteemed economists, is conferred annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to rural development. Nayyar, whose illustrious career spanned roles such as teaching economics at Delhi University's Miranda House College, serving in the Indian Administrative Service for five years and retiring as the principal advisor for rural development, has left a lasting legacy in the field.

The award comes with a cash prize of ₹10 lakh, a citation, and a trophy and is given annually by the Nayyar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose to individuals under the age of 40.


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MCD schools to screen inspirational movies for classes 4 and 5 to motivate students

PTI | , New Delhi

Nov 30, 2024 05:51 PM IST

According to the MCD, films like Chandu Champion, Srikant Balla's Inspirational Journey, Guthali Laddu, I Am Kalam, and 12th Fail will be shown to the students

Schools under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will screen inspirational movies for classes 4 and 5 students, the civic body announced on Saturday.



For younger students in classes one to three, motivational cartoon films will also be screened to suit their interests and comprehension levels. (HT Archive)

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Aimed at motivating students to overcome challenges and set positive goals, the initiative will feature films that highlight perseverance and life lessons from real-life heroes.

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The MCD's education department has instructed school in-charges to use smart TVs or other audio-visual aids available on campus for this purpose.

Teachers have been asked to facilitate discussions after the screenings, helping students grasp the motivational messages and moral values portrayed in the films.

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Over 40 students stage silent protest at AIIMS Rishikesh

PTI | , Rishikesh

Nov 30, 2024 03:24 PM IST

The silent protest is against misbehaviour with the media and the attempt to suppress the students' voice, the agitating students said.

come for the coverage of their ongoing agitation which entered its seventh day.



The agitating students alleged that the media personnel were ill-treated and pushed around.(HT Photo)

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Forty-seven students have been protesting in the institute premises for the last six days against non-fulfilment of their demands, including payment of a monthly stipend of ₹13,940 to the students across all six courses during internship and the facility of degree registration.

"There has been no action on our demands. We are not being heard. Instead, we are being threatened with termination," said a protesting student.

AIIMS Deputy Director Amit Parashar has asked for a week's time to look into the matter.

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