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# Dehradun educator Prashant Chaudhary wins Rohini Nayyar Prize for teaching coding to 4 lakh rural students

Chaudhary's CodeYogi Foundation has trained government-school students across 102 districts in nine states through a 30-day mobile-based coding course.

DHNS

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Prashant Chaudhary wins Rohini Nayyar Prize. Credit: Special arrangement

New Delhi: Dehradun technology educator, Prashant Chaudhary, was on Saturday awarded the 5th Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development.



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The award, that comes with a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a citation and a trophy, was awarded at the Capital's Indian International Centre by chief guest Amitabh Kant, former CEO of NITI Aayog and G-20 Sherpa, as well as economist Deepak Nayyar.

Chaudhary, who runs the CodeYogi Foundation, teaches students from rural areas, studying in government schools, how to code. The course, taught on a mobile for 30 days, has reached 4 lakh students across 102 districts in nine states, with 1 lakh students using their coding knowledge to create something.

"For the first time, government students used a mobile phone for creation instead of consumption, thereby creating a forefront for AI adoption," Chaudhary said.

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"One of the products built by our students, City Bot, is being used by a lot of US city governments for administration."

Chaudhary was selected by an eminent jury with backgrounds in civil society, academia and government comprising Dr Ashok Jhabvala, National Coordinator of SEWA, Professor Seeta Prabhu of Institute of Human Development, Delhi and TISS, Mumbai and Alok Sinha, retired IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre.

Chaudhary said that of his students, 48.6% are girls; 95% are smartphone-only learners and 59% are advanced learners from non-STEM backgrounds. The platform is on track to reach 1 million learners by March 2027, he added.

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Kant remarked that most of the Rohini Nayyar award, since its inception, has been given to changemakers who have solved problems of rural development, and thereby, built a community around their solutions.

The Rohini Nayyar Prize was instituted by the family of the late Dr Rohini Nayyar, an eminent scholar-administrator who worked in the rural development sector in India. She made key contributions to the formation of the MNREGA and was the driving force behind the development of Human Development Report nationally as well as statewide reports.

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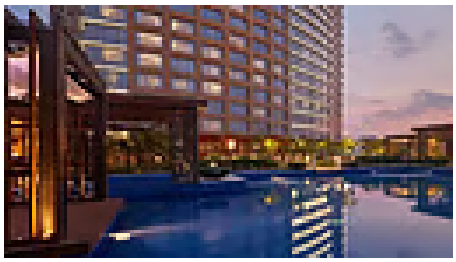
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