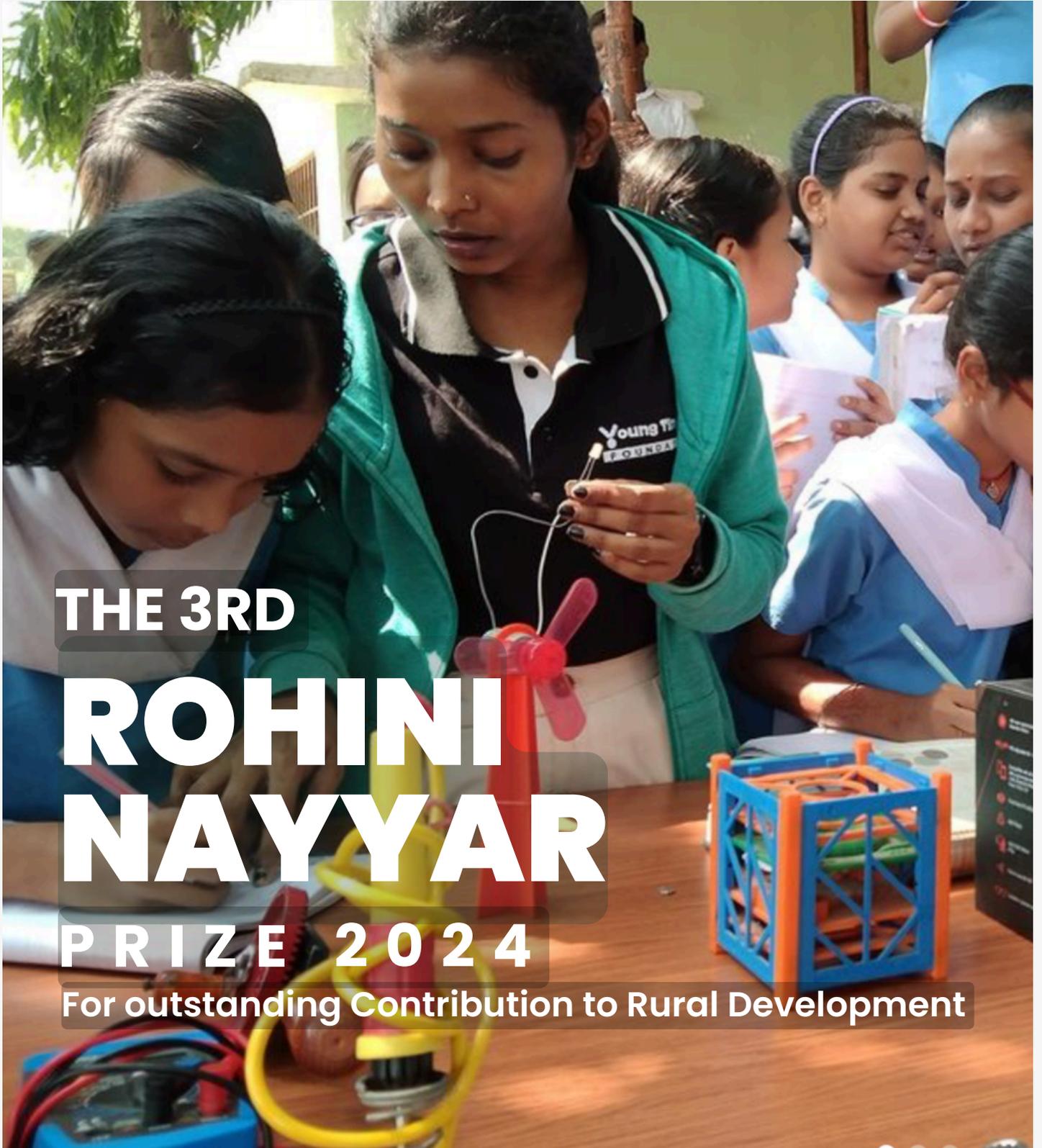


# NAYYAR FOUNDATION



YOUNG TINKER FOUNDATION

STEM LEARNING

**THE 3RD**

**ROHINI  
NAYYAR**

**PRIZE 2024**

**For outstanding Contribution to Rural Development**

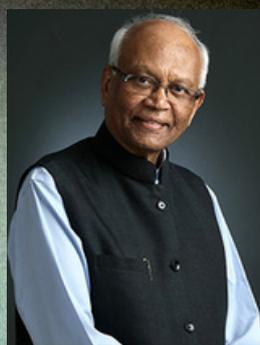
**Nayar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose**

[www.rohininayarprize.org](http://www.rohininayarprize.org)

The Rohini Nayyar Prize has been instituted in the memory of the life and work of the late Dr. Rohini Nayyar by her family. It is awarded every year to an individual, 40 years or less in age, with a prize of Rs. 10 lakhs, a citation and a trophy. Over her long career, Dr. Nayyar mentored several young professionals in the field, in government and outside. By recognising the outstanding work of persons under 40, the Rohini Nayyar Prize hopes to carry forward her legacy of improving the lives of those who live in rural India.

## The 3rd ROHINI NAYYAR PRIZE 2024

### CHIEF GUEST



R. A. Mashelkar

NOVEMBER

Wednesday

06

At 6.30 pm

VENUE: India International Centre, New Delhi

Dr. Raghunath Anant Mashelkar is known for his world-class scientific research in polymer science & engineering, for his transformative national research institution leadership, for his pioneering different movements such as evolving global systems for traditional knowledge protection, helping create strong yet balanced IPR systems, inclusive innovation movement based on the concept of Gandhian Engineering that he pioneered. He has been an influential thought leader in shaping Science, Technology and innovation policies in post-liberalised India.

### THE PRIZE WINNER 2024

# Anil Pradhan

## For outstanding Contribution to Rural Development



Anil Pradhan was born in the village of Baral, Odisha. Later, he migrated to Bhopal for education. He was the chief designer of Asia's first university rocket team, VSLV. Anil's return to his rural roots in 2017 fuelled his mission to bring hands-on education to underserved areas. After engineering, he chose to start an education revolution over lucrative job offers.

Anil founded "Young Tinker," revolutionizing hands-on learning in India. Young Tinker Spaces focused on STEM education, innovation, and leadership, impacting 247,000 students. He built a team of students from India who won world rank 3 at the NASA Rover Challenge in 2021, Asia's 1st Under-19 team to do so.

Anil's innovations and educational tools, from tinker boxes to teaching aids, promote STEAM subjects, innovation, and soft skills in rural Odisha.

# THE JURY

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## **Dr. Ashok Khosla**

is an global environmentalist based in New Delhi. He received his MA in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University and his PhD in experimental physics from Harvard University. He setup and headed India's (and the global South's) first government and, then UNEP's global information system, INFOterra. Subsequently, he founded Development Alternatives, the world's first social enterprise for innovation and large scale application of appropriate (or "frugal") technology with direct relevance to eradicating poverty and regenerating the environmental resource base. He served for a decade as the founding co-chair of the United Nations Environment Programme's International Resource Panel (UNEP-IRP) and is internationally known for pioneering and contributing to the concepts and praxis of sustainable development. He was President of IUCN (2008 to 2012) and the Club of Rome (2005 to 2012).

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## **Ms. Renana Jhabvala**

is a social worker, who has been active for decades in organising women in the informal economy into trade unions, co-operatives and financial institutions in India, and has been extensively involved in policy issues relating to poor women and the informal economy. She is best known for her long association with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India, and for her writings on issues of women in the informal economy. She presently the President of SEWA Bharat, the All-India Federation of SEWAs.

In 1990, she was awarded a Padma Shri from the Government of India for her contributions in the field of social work. In April 2012, she was Chancellor Gandhigram Rural University (2012–2017) and was Member of UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment (2016–2017).



## **Dr. Rajesh Tandon**

is the Founder-President of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and the Chairperson of Martha Farrell Foundation. He is also Co-Chair of the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, since 2012.

A Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA and an electronics engineer (IIT, Kanpur) with a graduation in management (IIM, Calcutta), Dr. Tandon is an internationally acclaimed leader and practitioner of participatory research and development. A pioneer of participatory research, he has given new meaning to academic research by redefining the relationship between the researcher and the researched. Dr. Tandon has also served on numerous Expert Committees of Government of India, University Grants Commission, United Nations, Commonwealth and World Bank.

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## **Prof. K. Seeta Prabhu**

is currently Visiting Professor and Senior Advisor (SDGs) at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, and Visiting Faculty at the Indian School of Development Management, New Delhi. Seeta was Tata Chair Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (August 2013 to August 2018) and Programme Director of the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellows Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (2015–2017). She was Head, Human Development Resource Centre and Senior Advisor, UNDP, New Delhi (2000–2013). Seeta's latest book co-edited with Prof. S. Parasuraman Making Development Happen: Transformational Change in Rural India Volumes I and II, chronicles the developmental work undertaken in rural areas of India's conflict affected districts by the PM's Rural Development Fellows.



# DR. ROHINI NAYYAR

1944-2021

Rohini Nayar was one of India's foremost economists in government. She studied in Miranda House and the Delhi School of Economics, for a B.A. Honours and M.A. in Economics, at the University Delhi. She taught Economics at Miranda House for a short period, before she joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and served in the Uttar Pradesh cadre for five years. Thereafter, she went to University of Oxford where she studied for a B. Litt in Economics. She was awarded her D. Phil in Economics from the University of Sussex. Some years later, she joined the Planning Commission of India – the country's apex development policy institution – in 1987, where she worked till 2005 in different capacities until she retired as Principal Advisor, Rural Development (in the rank of Secretary to Government of India). Her myriad contributions to academic literature, policy making, and institution building have greatly enriched our understanding of rural development in India.



The trophy for the Rohini Nayar prize is based on an artistic interpretation of the name Rohini, which refers to an ascendent star.

It is a tribute to the late Dr. Nayar and a recognition of the long tradition of rural craft in India.

The trophy is designed by Latika Khosla who is the founder of Freedom Tree, a design and colour strategy studio based in Mumbai.

The trophy is a co-creation of Freedom Tree and its partner artisans. The artisans are skilled in traditional techniques of casting and lathe-work, while being equally adept at using computers and new materials. This is a true leap in blending modernity and tradition in Indian crafts.