

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IIT MADRAS NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE FACULTY COORDINATOR, CSIE IIT MADRAS

Dear Reader,

I want to thank the CSIE team for putting in the effort to produce these Newsletters, without any confirmation that it is being read by many! If you receive this Newsletter and read it, do drop a line to ganganramsandeep@gmail.com. I'm sure he'd appreciate it.

As always, the variety of initiatives that CSIE is driving in the realm of social entrepreneurship is remarkable. CSIE is administering the "Gandhi Hazare Award", sponsored by our '64 alumnus, Dr. Sarma Gullapalli, to identify technical solutions to the corruption epidemic in India. Do view the videos linked in the Newsletter below to get a feel for the quality and viability of the proposed solutions. Perhaps a day will come when we make a dent in corruption based on the ingenuity on display here.... Another competition with CSIE involvement was in waster management, with UKISEEN as partner. Two of the three prize-winning teams were from IIT Madras, something for the home institution to take pride in.

The bread-and-butter of what CSIE delivers continues to be **technology commercialization, capacity building and livelihood enhancement**. CSIE's transfer of a biochar technology developed by MCRC to an entrepreneur is a successful case-study of technology commercialization. The TNPL-funded CSR project on capacity-building for "Farmer Producing Companies" is in its final phase, while the livelihood enhancement project at Pathamadai has given new life to the weavers of the region. **Skill development** is a new direction for CSIE, thanks to CSR funding from CPCL which is supporting two Centres in Nagappattinam District in IT and tailoring, resp. Planning for a July launch are in full swing.

As CSIE grows in multifaceted strength, the support of the IITM campus and alumni community is ever more crucial to ensure its mission and vision are met. I look forward to increased communication and interaction with both stakeholders in CSIE and its success.



Prof. R. Nagarajan
Faculty Coordinator, CSIE

Head, Dept. of Chemical
Engg., IIT Madras

OUTREACH

Gandhi Hazare Award (GHA) 2018-19

CSIE has launched a programme dedicated to Gandhiji and Shri Anna Hazare titled "Gandhi Hazare Award" for IITM students, where students in teams can propose technical solutions to fight corruption in the country. This idea is proposed and funded by Dr. Sarma N. Gullapalli, an alumnus of IIT-M, B.Tech 1964 batch.

CSIE has successfully finished the competition. 45 students from IIT Madras have formed 20 teams and participated in the Gandhi Hazare Award themed 'reducing corruption using technology'. 6 out of the 20 entries have reached the finals. The teams had to submit abstracts, full papers and videos as part of the competition. The total prize money for the competition is Rs. 45,000/-. Below are the top 3 entries:

- **1st Place:** Team: RISE-ing Squad - A Blockchain based framework for combating frauds in the public distribution system: Video here: <https://youtu.be/dohEf-1HGuM>
- **2nd Place:** Team Skyhawks - Reducing corruption in Indian Railways: Video here: https://youtu.be/5cW_GfaqFTI
- **3rd Place:** Team VoiSe - Voice based Service Delivery System: Video here: <https://youtu.be/z1A3xbiTx94>

"Participating in this competition was a really nice experience for us for multiple reasons. Firstly, it gave us a platform to showcase the social relevance of the technical work that we do in research labs. Secondly, such initiatives also help us get feedback from the domain experts, which help us further enhance the quality of our work. Kudos to the organizing team and the CSIE community who put in a lot of effort to streamline the entire process and the alumnus who sponsored this initiative for motivating us."

- **Gargi Mitra, IITM student, from Team RISE-ing Squad**

"We are extremely grateful to our alumni and CSIE for giving us the opportunity to participate in Gandhi-Hazare Award. While the idea of VoiSe (Voice based Service delivery) randomly came in our mind, the participation in GHA made us to look around myriad of social problems which require technological intervention. Moreover, the format of the award ensured made us thoroughly research and analyze the problem before proposing a solution. We believe that awards like GHA would definitely motivate the students/scholars to develop technical solutions for social problems."

- **Pankaj Dhaka, IITM student, from Team VoiSe**

PROJECTS

Capacity Building Program for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

CSIE organized final phase of its capacity building program as part of TNPL funded CSR project. The venue is decided to encompass 'Farmer Producer Companies' (FPCs) and promoting institutions of FPCs in western part of Tamilnadu. Resource persons included 'Executive Coaches', 'Commodity trading consultants', 'Banking officials' apart from scientists keen on technology transfer initiatives through FPOs. The program was organized with 'Regional Institute of Rural Development (RIRD), Bhavanisagar' as the venue partner. The program received commendable feedback from participants from more than 10 FPCs, 11 NGOs and delegates from agriculture departments of various zones.



Livelihood Enhancement Project at Pathamadai

CSIE is involved in the Business Development and Livelihood enhancement of Pathamadai weavers' community. After successful training, the weavers are now able to weave any kind of design into a korai mat. CSIE has appointed a young lady from the local community as the Marketing and Operations in-charge for the Pathamadai Co-operative Society who is now in a position to take up orders, get them done and fulfill delivery as per customer's requirement. CSIE has done the market promotion of the newly designed mats by gifting them to dignitaries and key people who helped in the project. They were overwhelmed by the results and progress. As a way of acknowledgement, Dr. Santosh Babu IAS (Principal Secretary for IT in Tamil Nadu) who had initiated this project, posted on his Facebook page about the progress. Link to the same: <https://bit.ly/2loU6Xe>



Skill Development Project in Nagapattinam District

CSIE has become a member of the team for a Village(s) Improvement Project, an initiative by CPCL. As part of it CSIE is launching two Skill Development Centres at three villages in Nagapattinam district namely Panangudi, Vellapakkam and Goparajapuram. Initially the skills will be in the areas of IT and Tailoring. These skills have been shortlisted from the initial baseline survey among the youth and in consultation with the head of these villages. The Centres are planned to be launched in July 2019.



UK India Social Entrepreneurship Education Network (UKISEEN) - National Conference

CSIE has successfully completed the 2nd edition of the UK India Social Innovation Challenge (UKISIC) the theme of the competition was Waste Management. A total of 37 teams have participated in the competition out of which 12 applications qualified for the finals. After a thorough evaluation by selected judges the top 3 applications have been selected. A total of 1,400 GBP prize money and certificates have been given to the winners. Below are the top-ranked projects:

- 1st Place:** Recycling of demolished waste concrete using solar energy - IIT Madras Team
- 2nd Place:** Eco-Friendly Construction blocks from C&D Debris using the Innovative CO2 Sequestration Technique - Kongu Engineering College, Erode, Tamil Nadu,
- 3rd Place:** Catalytic Degradation of kraft lignin by Ultraviolet Light and Ultrasound - IIT Madras Team.

Link to news article - [Click Here](#)

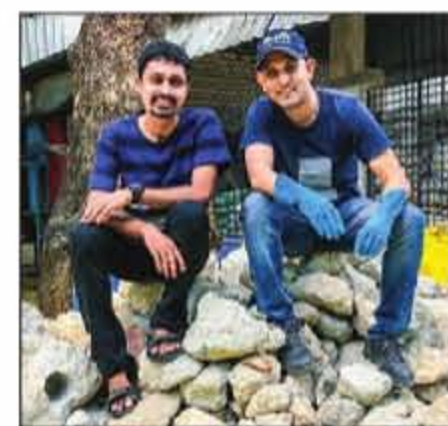
More details here : <http://ukiseen.org/uk-india-social-innovation-challenge-new>

IIT-M teams win awards

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Two teams from the Indian Institute of Technology - Madras won the first and third prizes in the UK India Social Innovation Challenge, that aims to find, fund and support innovative and sustainable solutions to the global problem of waste management.

Rohit Prajapati, a Phd student from the civil engineering department, and Ram V G, who won the first prize, had submitted a pro-



Ram VG (L) and Rohit Prajapati
ject on recycling of demolished waste concrete using solar energy.

PROJECTS

Gallery

Technology Commercialization

CSIE has been involved in a technology commercialization project with Shri AMM Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre (MCRC). CSIE has successfully completed the Phase 1 of the project by facilitating transfer of Biochar technology with an entrepreneur.

Consultation Meeting with SIRD

State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (SIRD & PR) has been pursuing talks with CSIE on entering into an MoU in the context of collaborative activities towards handling Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation (TN RTP) project. TN RTP is a world bank funded innovative project that aims at rural transformation through rural enterprise promotion, access to finance and employment opportunities in the selected blocks of Tamil Nadu. Delegates from SIRD visited CSIE, IIT Madras on April 10 to finalize the scope of engagement of CSIE in TN RTP. The centre also earmarked its focal areas with regard to TN RTP during a meeting led by its CEO on 30th April, 2019.

மண்டல உணரக வளர்ச்சி மற்றும் உடராட்சித்துறை நிறுவனம் - பவானிசாகர் உழவர் உற்பத்தியாளர் நிறுவனங்களுக்கான திறன்மேம்பாட்டு பயிற்சி
ஈரோடு, கோவை, திருப்பூர், நீலகிரி, கரூர், திண்டுக்கல், அரியலூர் & பெரும்பலூர் மாவட்டங்கள் பயிற்சி காலம் 27.02.2019 முதல் 28.02.2019 வரை



Capacity Building Program for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in February at Bhavanisagar, Erode, Tamil Nadu.



Santhosh Babu

9 April

Dear friends, All of you have heard of Pathamadai mats. It has been a languishing craft. During my time at Poompuhar, we joined hands with IIT Madras to upgrade the technology, introduce new designs and provide a Common Facility Centre (CFC), all, at a cost of ₹47.50 lakhs from the State Government. An old building was renovated, new Jacquard looms installed, new designs introduced.... the technology involved a computer designing interface for the handloom jacquard.... a mix of tradition and technology.....

Dear friends, please patronise these artisans of Tirunelveli who have made their Village world famous.... the GI tag was obtained in 2013.

I was in for a pleasant surprise, as young Sandeep Gangaram from IIT Madras and Mr. James Rajanayagam from CSIE turned up in my office with a mat, as a gesture of affection... my day has been made! young Sub Collector of Cheranmahadevi Akash Parameswaran IAS was instrumental in getting us involved....he was the driving force behind the project...



Dr. Santosh Babu IAS, Principal Secretary for IT in Tamil Nadu posted about the progress made with respect to the Pathamadai Project on his facebook profile



Mr. James from CSIE explaining the Youth at Nagapattinam about the Skill Development Center

Quote

"What business entrepreneurs are to the economy, social entrepreneurs are to social change. They are the driven, creative individuals who question the status quo, exploit new opportunities, refuse to give up, and remake the world for the better.." – **David Bornstein**



IIT Madras - CSIE

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