



**Glimpses**

13th Edition of NEF Innovation Awards

**NEF Innovation Awards**

**2026**

**Friday, 13th March 2026**

**Sumant Moolgaonkar Auditorium, Pune**



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026 Top 3 Winners





# NEF Innovation Awards 2026



## Chief Mentor



Padma Vibhushan  
**Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar**  
Former Director-General (CSIR)

## Keynote Address



**Dr. Ganesh Natarajan**  
Chairman  
GTT Data Solutions

## Panel discussion on 'AI for Humanity'



**Moderator**  
**Dr. Uma Ganesh**  
Principle Trustee  
GTT Foundation



**Acharya Sri Shivamji**  
Dean  
MIT Group of Institutions



**Dr. Lakshmi Kumar**  
Director  
Avasara Academy



**Arun Wakhlu**  
Founder Director  
Pragati Leadership Institute



**Ankita Shroff**  
Co-Founder  
Sustain and Save Pvt. Ltd.

## Guest Address



**Akash Sureka**  
Founder  
TheNoah.ai



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026



## Jury



**Amit Bhadbhade**

CTO and IC Member, DigiGen  
JetSynthesys



**Jury Head**

**Amey Mashelkar**

Head  
JioGenNext



**Kaushik B.**

Vice President, Engineering  
Druva



**Nishith Shah**

SVP - Technology &  
Country Head - India  
RealThings



**Sayali Pawar**

Investments and  
Partnerships  
ARAM Partners



**Sriya Khandelwal**

Business Head  
Skills Alpha



**Sanket Inamdar**

Co-Founder  
So-Air



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026 Glimpses





# NEF Innovation Awards 2026

**Winners - Top 3 Teams**



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026

## Winners - Top 3 Teams



**Winner - 1<sup>st</sup> Position - Moonshot Idea (₹50,000)**

**Project Title: Gradus – Redefining Learning**

**Institute: Vishwakarma Institute of Information Technology, Pune**

**Guide: Dr. Vikas Kolekar**

**Innovators: Nikhil Jumbad, Dhruv Shah, Darshith Shetty, Ranveer Pensalwar, Ishwari Chaudhari, and Meet Oza**

About Project: An AI-powered interactive platform transforming fragmented video content into structured, personalized learning journeys already live and demonstrating strong scalability.



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026

## Winners - Top 3 Teams



**Winner - 2<sup>nd</sup> Position (₹30,000)**

**Project Title: “AI Environmental Impact Analyzer (ClarifAI)”**

**Institute: GH Raisonni College of Engineering and Management, Wagholi**

**Guide: Prof. Padmavati Sarode.**

**Innovators: Atharva Bhosale, Aachal Agrawal, and Atharva Takawale**

About Project: An AI-powered browser extension enabling consumers to make sustainable choices through real-time environmental impact insights.



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026

## Winners - Top 3 Teams



**Winner - 3<sup>rd</sup> Position (₹20,000)**

**Project Title: “Udaan – A Fitness Assessment Application”**

**Institute: MVPS’s Karmaveer Adv. Baburao Ganpatrao Thakare College of Engineering, Nashik**

**Guide: Dr. Balasaheb S. Tarle.**

**Innovators: Riya Rajesh Avasthi, Manjiri Jitendra Bankar, Shravani Rajendra Porje, and Mohit Alpesh Shirvi**

About Project: Udaan is an AI-powered mobile application that uses computer vision and pose estimation to deliver real-time fitness assessment, making professional evaluation more accessible and affordable across India.

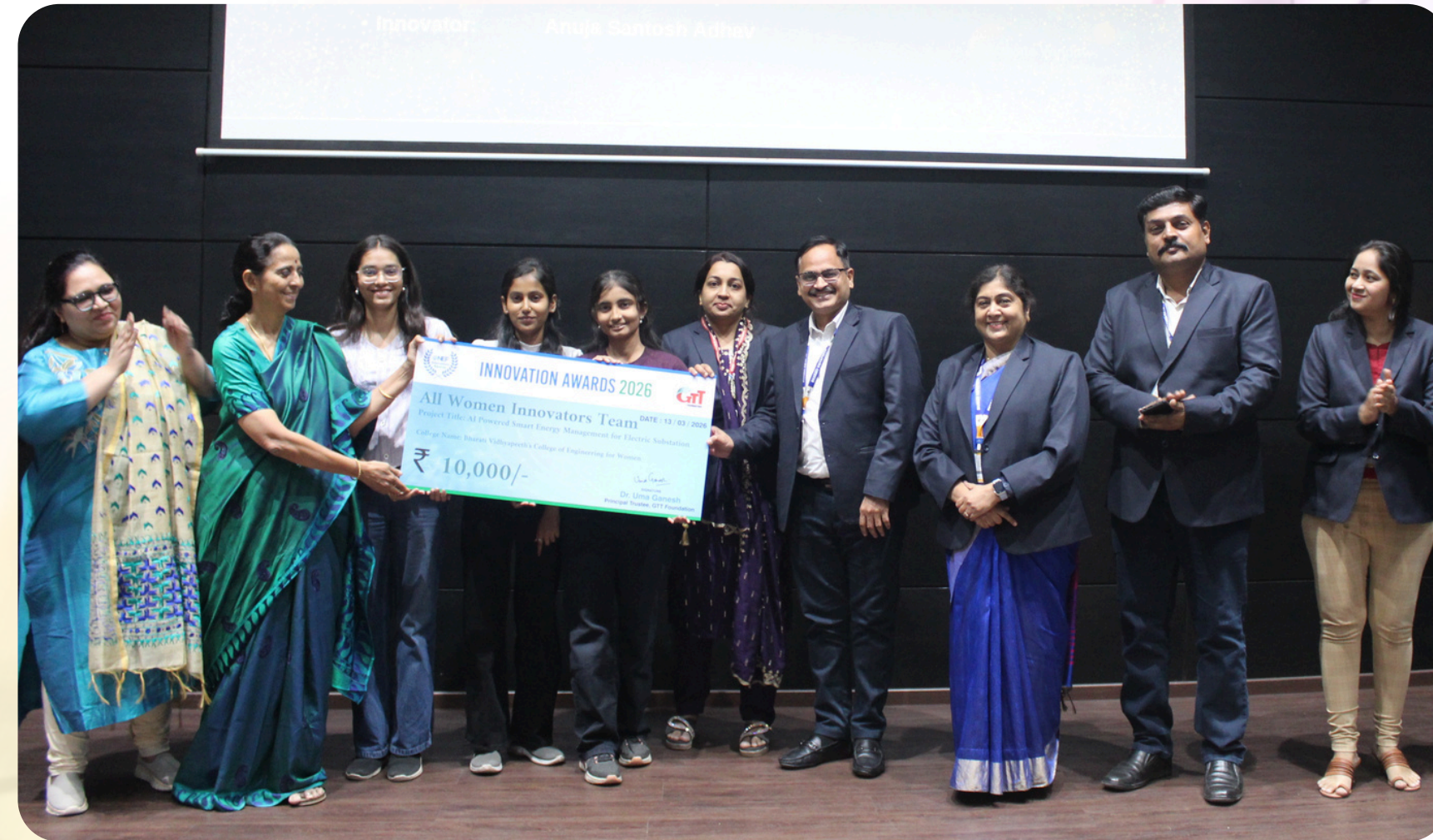


NEF Innovation Awards 2026

**Special Recognitions**



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026 Special Category Winners



## **All-Women Innovators Team – Sponsored Award (₹10,000)**

This special award, sponsored by Ms. Sriya Khandelwal in memory of Late Shri Alok Jyoty Basu, holds deep significance in encouraging women innovators.

**Project Title: AI Powered Smart Energy Management System for Electrical Substation**

**Institution: Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of Engineering for Women, Pune**

**Guide: Prof. Dr. N. A. Mulla**

**Innovators: Chetana Santosh Patil, Rucha Prashant Kulkarni, Prachi Chandradip Thakor, Anuja Santosh Adhav**

This remarkable team represents the strength, creativity and leadership of women in STEM building impactful solutions for sustainable energy management.



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026 Special Category Winners



## **Potential Team Award**

**Project Title: Aptiverse - AI Powered Personalized Learning Platform**

**Institution: MVPS's KBT College of Engineering, Nashik**

**Guide: Ms. Reena S. More**

**Innovators: Udaysingh Balasaheb Jagtap, Gaurav Vijay Bochare, Pranav Yogesh Borse, Pavan Narayan Dhatbale**

This team exemplified collaboration, synergy, and shared vision- demonstrating how collective intelligence can create scalable and impactful learning solutions.



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026 Special Category Winners



## **Social Impact Award**

**Project Title: Soullog - Empowering Teen Minds Through AI and Emotional Insight**

**Institution: MIT ADT University**

**Guide: Dr. Mansi Bhonsale**

**Innovators: Shreya Kolhe, Vikram Shendkar, Shravani Jagtap**

This innovation beautifully demonstrates how AI can be leveraged to address mental well-being- creating a safe, intelligent support system for young minds.



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026 Special Category Winners



## Best Pitch Award

**Project: Fake News Detection: Multimodal Approaches and LLM-based Verification From MKSSS's Cummins College of Engineering for Women, Karvenagar, Pune**

**Project is Guided by: Dr. Radhika Bhagwat**

**Innovators are: Saloni Puraswani, Chetana Patil, Saniya Pathan, Astha Pandey**

recognizes the team that presented their innovation with clarity, confidence and compelling storytelling - clearly articulating the problem, the solution and the impact of their innovation.



# NEF Innovation Awards 2026 Special Category Winners



## **Potential Founder Award**

**Project: Faceguard ATM Security - Advanced Multimodal Authentication System for ATM Transactions**

**From S. B. Jain Institute of Technology, Management & Research, Nagpur**

**Project is Guide by: Dr. Rahul M. Pethe**

**Innovators are: Harsh N. Suryavanshi, Rohit J. Shahare, Roshan D. Pandit, Samiksha V. Thakre**

This category recognizes a participants who has demonstrated the mindset, vision and leadership qualities



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