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Trestle Labs emerges winner of Tata Social Enterprise Challenge 2019-20

~The eighth edition of Tata Social Enterprise Challenge attracted over 1000 impact proposals~

Kolkata, January 4, 2020: The winners of the **Tata Social Enterprise Challenge 2019-20 (TSEC)**, a joint initiative of the **Tata group and Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIMC)**, were announced during the **Grand Finale** held on January 4, 2020, at the IIM Calcutta campus. The challenge endeavours to find India's most promising early-stage social enterprises and create an ecosystem for social entrepreneurship – encouraging sustainable, scalable and measurable social impact.

Trestle Labs from **Gujarat** (Winner), **PadCare Labs** from **Maharashtra** (1st Runners-up) and **Greenikk and Aerobiosys** from **Kerala and Telengana respectively** (Joint 2nd Runners-up) emerged as the top four most promising social ventures, winning prize money of **Rs. 2.5 lakhs, Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 1.50 lakhs**, respectively.

REWARDS

- **Incubation:** The top 23 teams will get an opportunity to pitch for incubation at IIM Calcutta.
- **Funding opportunity:** Shortlisted teams for the semi-finals and finals will have an opportunity to pitch to India's largest social VCs for seed funding
- **Cash Award:** Total prize money of ₹6 lakh for the top three teams. The semi-finalists received travel grants.

Trestle Labs, the winner of the challenge, is a technology startup which invented KIBO, the World's first intelligent personalized reading-learning companion for the Visually-impaired and Learning-disabled which helps them read any printed/handwritten/digital content in real-time through audio with an immersive reading-learning experience.

Padcare Labs which was announced as the first runners-up, is into water and sanitation. Padcare labs developed decentralized, portable, instant washroom fit able sanitary napkin disposal unit that gives significant bacterial lock. The company is using novel chemo-mechanical method and reverse osmosis for de-swelling of superabsorbent polymer that is assisted by efficient mechanical shredding.

With respect to the second runner up position, there was a tie between Greenikk and Aerobiosys. Greenikk is engaged in using state of the art technologies to make 100% bio-degradable and eco-friendly straws by using stalks of papaya plant as the raw material. Aerobiosys is a healthcare start up which developed a cost-effective, intelligent, AI and IoT-enabled ventilation system called "Duo-vent" for patients admitted in the Critical Care unit with Respiratory illness.

Apart from the top 4 winning ventures, the 6 ventures that have made it to the top 10 finalists are Krishworks Technology and Research Labs, Nunam, Ferrosens, Datair Technology, KBCols Sciences, Greenwear Fashion.

The ventures were judged on five parameters – Social Impact, Innovation, Business Model, Revenue and Sustainability, Leadership and Team.



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Mr. Ashish Kumar Gupta, Managing Director, TM International Logistics Limited felicitated the winner.

Dr. Subhrangshu Sanyal, CEO – IIM Calcutta Innovation Park said, “Over the period of last eight years, the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge has evolved as the largest platform for early stage social entrepreneurs who are trying to solve socio-economic challenges of our country. We have seen a steady growth in participation every year and around 40% of the finalists were successful in raising funding.”

Mr. Ashish Kumar Gupta, MD, TM International Logistics shared, “The last two days of the grand finale has been very insightful for me and I have learnt a lot about the subject. I think CSR is about a cause and not just about spends, it should create social and financial impact. The success of any social enterprise depends on the entrepreneur having complete clarity and passion for the larger social purpose his/her venture sets out to achieve.”

The Tata Social Enterprise Challenge 2019-20 received 1080 applications from all over India. These proposals covered several different areas such as agriculture; healthcare; water and sanitation; technology and development; education and skills development; housing; handicrafts; energy; and microfinance, among others.

How the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge 2019-20 was conducted:

Out of 1080 applications, 60 teams were shortlisted for the regional rounds which were conducted at Kolkata, Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai in November last year. Based on the business plan presentations, 20 teams were selected for the semi-finals. Three startups were selected from the Germany regional round. The Semi Final and Grand Finale were scheduled on 3rd and 4th January, 2020 respectively. In the Grand Finale of this event, top 10 early stage startups in the social enterprise space were identified and felicitated. Eminent personalities shared their insights to motivate the youth towards social entrepreneurship.

About the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge (TSEC):

Tata Social Enterprise Challenge, a unique initiative undertaken jointly by a business incubator (IIM Calcutta Innovation Park) and a business group (the Tata group), is a quest to find India's most promising early-stage social enterprises. It endeavors to create an ecosystem for social entrepreneurship, and encourage sustainable, scalable and measurable social impact. Started in 2012, Tata Social Enterprise Challenge has received more than **3500 impact proposals** in all, over the eight editions to date. The finalists of TSEC get mentored, undergo training, cash prizes, an opportunity to pitch to VCs, and a chance to be considered for incubation support from IIM Calcutta Innovation Park. To expand its reach and impact, Tata Social Enterprise Challenge conducts a series of seminars across India on the theme of 'Thinking Social', bringing together social entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and members from the academia, industry and business from across the country on one platform. For more details and updates on the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge, please log on to <http://www.tatasechallenge.org/>



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About IIM Calcutta Innovation Park: The IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) is a Section 8 company established under the aegis of IIM Calcutta (IIMC) to promote Entrepreneurship and Innovation. IIMCIP aims at creating a comprehensive eco-system that would nurture innovation and transform promising ideas into sustainable business ventures. Social entrepreneurship is a focus area for IIMCIP and it is recognized as a leading incubator in this space. Over the last 5 years, IIMCIP catalyzed more than 5000 ideas, mentored 500+ entrepreneurs and incubated more than 100 startups. IIMCIP also supports several state Governments as knowledge partner for their entrepreneurship development programs.

The finalists of the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge get an opportunity to pitch for Incubation at the IIM Calcutta Innovation Park. As part of the incubation programme IIMCIP offers institutionalized mentorship, funding connects, support services and training program on various aspects of entrepreneurship at IIMC campus. For more details please visit the official website: www.iimcip.org

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