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Seven India-Based and One Nepalese Inventor Named Finalists in Global Competition for Social-Driven Hardware

2018 ISHOW Finalists to Present Their Social Innovations in Bengaluru on April 5, 2018

NEW YORK, March 19, 2018 – The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the world’s largest organization for mechanical engineering, today announced the regional finalists for the 2018 ASME Innovation Showcase ([ISHOW](#)), an international competition of hardware-led social innovation.

Eight social-minded inventors from South Asia (seven based in India and one from Nepal) will present their path-breaking design prototypes in Bengaluru on April 5. This year’s finalists built innovative design prototypes for diabetes, fetal monitoring, the visually impaired, oral cancer and irrigation, among others. They are the first regional finalists selected from over 150 entries worldwide. A panel of esteemed experts is currently evaluating design submissions from Africa and the United States.

Below are the eight finalists who will present their prototypes from **8:30-10:00am April 5 at Le Méridien Bangalore**. The three regional Grand Prize winners will be announced at 7:00pm. ISHOW India finalists can be viewed here:

<https://thisishardware.org/competition/2018/india>

- **Vinayak Nandalike (Bengaluru, India)** - [Sparsh](#) is a multi-parameter, portable, hand-held medical device that helps clinicians screen diabetic patients for symptoms of peripheral neuropathy.
- **Sanskriti Dawle (Bengaluru, India)** - [Annie by Thinkerbell Labs](#) is an audio-tactile device that enables Braille self-directed learning and classroom teaching for the visually impaired.
- **Subhash Narayanan (Bengaluru, India)** - [Sascan](#) has developed a hand-held, multimodal imaging device that looks at changes in tissue fluorescence, absorption, and scattering of light to screen and detect oral cancers.

- **Balaji Teegala (Hyderabad, India)** - [Brün CG](#) is a state-of-the-art fetal monitoring technology that makes it possible to record, collect and share fetal data with clinicians for timely interventions in remote locations.
- **Manoj Sanker (Hyderabad, India)** - [Nemocare Protect](#) is a highly accurate, affordable, smart wearable device placed on the baby's foot, which measures vital parameters and wirelessly relays data over the cloud to a central monitor.
- **Tarun Bothra (Ahmedabad, India)** - [Saathi](#) has developed a 100% biodegradable sanitary pad made from banana fiber, one of the most absorbent and abundant natural fibers in India. Saathi pads degrade within six months of disposal, 1,200 times faster than conventional pads.
- **Katie Taylor (Pune, India)** - [Khethworks](#) makes solar-powered irrigation systems that are perfectly fit for small-plot farmers in east India, where shallow groundwater is accessible. These plots can be farmed year-round with appropriate irrigation.
- **Pratap Thapa (Kathmandu, Nepal/Delft, The Netherlands)** - The [Integrated Turbine Pump](#) is a cost-effective, low-maintenance solution for irrigation ideal for remote areas. It uses minimal head difference in flowing water sources to pump water around-the-clock.

A panel of judges will choose three hardware designs per country as grand prize winners. This year, ASME received more than 150 submissions vying for the \$500,000 in cash and in-kind prizes that the organization has offered to help bring these socially innovative hardware-led solutions to market.

“ASME originally created ISHOW after our research showed an urgent need to support hardware innovators seeking to enter global markets and make a societal impact,” said Charla K. Wise, president of ASME. “We believe this year’s entries all have the potential to address some of the most vexing issues faced by humankind.”

The 2018 ASME ISHOW will feature a range of devices that promise to make a transformational economic, environmental, and social impact in underserved communities around the world. During the competition, the finalists will pitch their product prototypes to a panel of judges that include successful entrepreneurs, academics, and founders of venture-funded startup companies. The pitches will outline the engineering design attributes of the prototypes and also include a discussion of plans for manufacturing, implementation, marketing, and financing.

The winners selected in Bengaluru and two other ISHOW events in Nairobi, Kenya (May 10), and Washington, D.C. (June 21), will share \$500,000 in seed grants, technical assistance, design and engineering reviews and access to ISHOW’s partnership network.

“ASME congratulates all finalists,” noted Wise. “We celebrate their new ideas and innovations, which are pushing our collective knowledge frontier outward and solving problems to improve the lives of all people.”

For more information about the finalists and the ISHOW, please visit: thisishardware.org

About ASME

ASME helps the global engineering community develop solutions to real world challenges. Founded in 1880 as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME is a not-for-profit professional organization that enables collaboration, knowledge sharing and skill development across all engineering disciplines, while promoting the vital role of the engineer in society. ASME codes and standards, publications, conferences, continuing education and professional development programs provide a foundation for advancing technical knowledge and a safer world. For more information, visit www.asme.org.

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