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Promoting Innovations both in Formal and Informal Sectors

GTU (Gujarat Technological University) is the first Technological University in this country which has taken concrete steps for promoting Innovations both in formal and Informal sectors. Twenty five GTU Innovation Sankuls are structures, which bring together all the Principals/ Directors of Colleges/ Institutes, affiliated with GTU, on a common platform with Industry Leaders from all across Gujarat.

On 25th March, 2013, GTU identified 16 grass root Innovators as visiting faculty during Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award function at IIM-Ahmedabad.

"Hon'ble President of India, Shri. Pranab Mukherjee took some decisions recently which can have far-reaching consequences. During the meeting of the Vice Chancellors of the Central Universities, he proposed several initiatives which could perhaps help in transforming the environment for higher education and connection between academia, innovators and rest of the society. He would meet the inspired teachers and innovators from the university and nearby regions during his visits. Dr Aggarwal has gone one step ahead. He is not only meeting the innovators and inspired teachers but also he is inviting the grassroots innovators as visiting faculties to GTU affiliated colleges. This is a historic moment in the country."

- Prof Anil K Gupta, IIM-A,
- Member, National Innovation Council (during GYTI award 2013 at RJMCEI, IIM-Ahmedabad, 25th march 2013)

GTU has been working to bring practice orientation to classroom and for this it has taken many steps since 2010. The purpose of bringing grassroots innovators to class room is in continuation to such efforts. The grassroots innovators will bring the native confidence in technology by Indians to the class-rooms and laboratories. The interaction will benefit both faculty/students on one side and the grass root innovators on the other side. The students will be able to develop confidence in using their knowledge of technology for solving social challenges. The innovators will learn about new materials and new components in making their products even better.

GTU has been working to bring the spirit of innovations not only in the colleges but also in the society in whole. We hope when the grassroots innovators go to classrooms, the spirit of innovation will take bigger leaps in our society.

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On 25th March, 2013, Gujarat Technological University honoured 16 Grass Root Innovators from Gujarat, (who may not have not studied after 10th /12th Standard but have made significant impact due to their innovations and have won national awards) for their innovative works. Dr. Akshai Aggarwal, VC GTU, while speaking at the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award, said that the students and faculty members could benefit from the native technical competence of the Innovators from the informal sectors. He said," When the innovators come to our class-rooms, the inter-action with technology students and faculty members, will create new opportunities for creative thinking."

GTU Innovation Council has taken many disruptive measures to forge linkages between industry-academia and to bring innovation into the learning processes. The connections of different knowledge networks, students, faculties, MSMEs have shown remarkable results. This step of consciously co-opting the grass-root innovators into the GTU's innovation system will cement the gaps in the innovation value chain to make it a stronger instrument for ushering in self-confidence in developing new solutions to our problems. The new linkages between the University's innovation movement and these innovators will help improve the access of grassroots innovators to technological laboratories and workshops for further value addition to their ideas in service of the society.

This will contribute towards making GTU Innovation Council. the best Frugal University based Innovation Ecosystem not only in the world but across the globe in terms of scale and depth.

Protocol:

- College/Department authority fixing a date for guest lecture/interaction
- Innovators will get an invitation from the Sankul/College. GTU Innovation Council will work with the Sankul/College to reach out to the innovator.
- Innovators will visit the respective colleges and the event will be managed by the College/Department in a contextually suitable way.
- Students/faculties will explore ways to support the innovation. Some group of students may take up projects guided by faculties and such innovators. Such projects may also be considered as IDPs/UDPs for a final year academic project, as evaluated by the faculty.

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GTU Innovation Council will appreciate the institutes, Students/faculties and other stakeholders who take outstanding measures for connecting students/innovators/faculties and help the grassroots innovators.

Grass Root Innovators who were appreciated as visiting Faculties by GTU

Name of Innovator	Innovation
Arvindbhai R. Patel	Natural Water Cooler
Mansukhbhai Patel	"Chetak" - Cotton Stripper Machine
Pareshbhai K. Panchal	Motorised Kite String Winder (Phirkee) / Manually operated bamboo strip and incense stick making machine
Sanjaybhai D. Tilwa	Groundnut Digger
Bhanjibhai Mathukia	Vanraj 10 HP Small Tractor
Mansukhbhai Prajapati	Mitti Cool Refrigerator: An affordable refrigerator / Non Stick Coated Earthen (Clay) Tawa / Clay Cooker
Mansukhbhai Jagani	Bicycle Sprayer / Motorcycle Driven Ploughing Machine / Seed cum Fertilizer Dibbler
Bachubhai Thesia	Tractor Without Steering / Sugar Cane Juice Extractor / Long lasting electricity bulb
Khimjibhai Kandiya	Head Load Reducing Device
Amrutbhai Agrawat	Aaruni Tilting Bullock Cart
Bharatbhai Agrawat	Modified Wood Stove
Shakrabhai Prajapati	MARUTI Jhula - An Innovative Health Care Chair
Natubhai Wadher	Cotton Ball Picking Machine
Maltiben Chaudhary	Livestock Management
Gopalsinh Suratiya	Cycle sprayer pump/ multiple harvester
Rahemat Pir Khan	Herbal Healer

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Padmabhushan Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Prof Anil Gupta, Member NIC, Prof Akshai Aggarwal (VC, GTU), Dr Gopi, Elaben Bhatt (SEWA) and, Mrs. Aggarwal, Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta, Techpedia, Mr. Chetan Patel, Sristi and 16 grassroots innovators (who are widely appreciated in India and across the globe) from Gujarat.

*This is 1st step in the country in any technical university for forging linkages between innovations/innovators from both informal sector and formal sector.

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