



A day-long Grand Jury was held for the 13th Manthan Awards at Sanskriti Kala Kendra in New Delhi on October 22, 2016. The day started with an informal meeting over breakfast with 18 Grand Jurors and Moderator Osama Manzar, Founder-Director of Digital Empowerment Foundation. This was followed by formal introductions of Jurors, each of whom had come from diverse backgrounds to share their expertise and knowledge to select only the best innovations for the 13th Manthan Awards.

Jurors for the day included Rajen Varada, Co-founder & Director of Technology for the People; Mahesh Venkateshwaran, Lead of Industry Partnerships & SIMO Project at the National Skill Development Corporation; Soumya Sarkar, Writer & Editor at India Climate Dialogue; Manoj Dawane, VP & Head Technology (Government & Industry Relations and Corporate Responsibility) at Ericsson India; Madanmohan Rao, Research Advisor at the Asian Media Information & Communication Centre; Ashis Sanyal, Independent eGOv and ICTD Consultant; Saloni Malhotra, Associate Vice-President at Paytm; Geeta Goel, Director of Mission Investing at Michael & Susan Dell Foundation; Vivek Prakash, AVP CSR at Jubilant Life Sciences Ltd; Gayatri Subramaniam, Chief Programme Executive & Convener at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs; Sujith Jayasuriya, Programme Manager of ICTA in Sri Lanka; Amita Joseph, Director of Business & Community Foundation; PK Joseph, Director of DLF Foundation; Rajib Debnath, Independent Management Expert; Niki Das, Associate – CSR at Capgemini; Pallavi Mohan, Senior Consultant at NetImpact Solutions and IOT

Infotainment; K. K. Upadhyay, Advisor at the National Skills Foundation of India; Sunil Sayal, CFO at Nokia India.

The next couple of hours were grilling hours with teams of Jurors bringing heads together to shortlist their favourite (read best) nominations for the voting process. At the end of this shortlisting process, each category team presented their shortlisted nominations to other Jurors in the room. During the presentation, the nominations were judged on the basis of idea, impact, sustainability and replicability, among other parameters. After intense discussion between the presenting team and the other Jurors on each category, the floor was opened for voting, following which not more than five winners (including Special Mentions) per category were selected.

The categories open for nominations this year were Governance & Citizen Engagement, Health & Well Being; Learning & Education; Environment & Green Energy; Culture & Tourism; Smart Settlements & Urbanisation; Business & Commerce; Inclusion & Empowerment; Early Stage (launched after May 1, 2016). Under these categories, the 13th Manthan Awards had received 296 nominations from seven of the eight South Asian Countries (Maldives being the only country to not participate). Out of these 290, 89 nominations were filtered by a Virtual Jury and pushed to the Grand Jury stage, where only the best nomination were selected as winners

Manzar, noted, during the session, “We can see more innovation is smaller countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; while scalability is visibly higher in big countries like India.”

Meanwhile, the organising team received positive feedback from the Jurors who said the entire day was very well organised; the venue was well selected; the Jury members showed diversity in areas of expertise; and the Jury process was efficiently executed. Some suggestions received have been noted by the team; and efforts will be made to try and incorporate them next year. These suggestions include encouraging more quality entries in certain categories, which will require more publicity of the awards; a drive of pre-installed shortlisted apps; ensuring there isn't repetition in the nomination forms; provision for an electronic method of voting; and some music to break the day and reboot the Jury during the grilling sessions.

Winners of the 13th Manthan Awards 2016 will be announced at Surajkund Mela Ground, Faridabad, on December 2, 2016.