hindustantimes

ht for mumbai
Awards 2015

CELEBRATING CHANGEMAKERS

For the awards, HT's jury whittled down a longlist of nominees to six finalists in two categories, Individuals and Organisations. Each of these 12 nominees will be profiled in this space every day. Today, we profile IIT-B professor Kannan Moudgalya for his mission to take IT to the city's less-privileged schools

When students learn their net v

FOR FREE Kannan Moudgalya's 'spoken tutorials' software aims to make IT students stuck with obsolete curriculum

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worth

n more employable

THE AWARDS

- The HT for Mumbai awards are a recognition of individuals and organisations that have worked tirelessly and selflessly to make life in Mumbai better. The parameters used to shortlist them were: the individual/organisation should have been active for the last five years, should have been a changemaker, should have had a positive impact on public policy and should have been proactive on an issue without waiting for intervention from authorities.

- The panel of judges comprised Neera Adarkar, architect and urban researcher; V Ranganathan, former chief secretary; Vidya Balan, actor; Soumya Bhattacharya, editor, Hindustan Times, Mumbai; and Pravinchandran Nair, deputy editor, Hindustan Times, Mumbai

> The content is neatly presented and very easy to understand.

LOHIT SAHU, founder-director of Phyzok learning solutions, which provides educational technologies to schools

> The software helps students to better understand abstract concepts.

AMARSING MAGAR, principal, Colaba Municipal Secondary School

TOMORROW
Pratham

HT SPECIAL AWARDS

T FOR MUMBAI POPULAR

INDIVIDUAL

UDAY DESHPANDE (01)

This mallakhamb coach who runs the Shree Samartha Vyayam Mandir at Shivaji Park has been teaching the sport there for 48 years. He holds free one-hour classes daily. A career Customs and Excise Department man, he is also former secretary of the Mallakhamb Federation of India.

HARAKHCHAND SAWLA (02)

This restaurateur from Nagpada feeds cancer patients and their families for free every day, outside Tata Memorial hospital. Many patients come from rural areas and live on pavements outside the hospital. From feeding 5 people 30 years ago, Savla's Jeevan Jyot Trust now feeds 600 daily. The trust also distributes free medicines for cancer treatment and toys for young patients. He currently caters for more than 40 people every day.

MAARK D'SOUZA (03)

This Borivli real-estate agent runs a free tiffin service for the elderly – mainly people too old or too ill to cook. He delivers fresh, home-cooked food to their doors every day. Many of his beneficiaries also live alone, so he helps them fill out forms, complete bank work, even drives some to doctors' appointments.

LAXMI TRIPATHI (04)

A member of the transgender community, Laxmi has taken on the onerous task of acting as the face and voice of India's marginalised hijras. From speaking at the UN to leading rallies for equal rights, she has pushed the boundaries of what is possible for transgenders in India. She and her NGO, Astitva, also mentor transgenders and help them complete higher education, acquire degrees and find work.

KANNAN MOUDGALYA (05)

This professor at IIT-Bombay has made it his mission to take information technology to less-privileged city schools. He has created software that allows schools to explore the Web even without a Net connection, so students can get first-hand experience of information and communication technology. He has also created open-source learning software that students can download for free.

BHAGVANJI RAIYANI (06)

His Forum For Fairness in Education has filed 44 PILs across high courts and in the Supreme Court. These include petitions about fund misappropriation in the Sarva Shiksha

ORGANISATION

SNEHA (07)

The Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action tackles issues, including malnourishment, maternal and infant health and primary health care. They have been working in the city's most-neglected civic wards for more than 20 years. It was started by Dr Armida Fernandez, a paediatrician and neonatologist, who set up India's first milk bank at Sion hospital in 1977. The NGO now employs 360 people, works across slums in 12 municipal wards and recently expanded its purview to include Thane, Bhayandar and Kalyan.

PRATHAM (08)

Pratham's recent investigation into the use of child labour at the Sassoon Dock led the Maharashtra State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights to issue an order to the labour department to take action against the employers. Its Annual Status of Education Report offers valuable insight into the learning levels of students in rural areas.

MUMBAI GRAHAK PANCHAYAT (09)

Has worked single-mindedly to address consumer issues and protect consumer rights. Several times a year they also make available large quantities of household goods at minimal rates. They have taken their battles to court many times.

MUMBAI TRANSPORT FORUM (10)

Works on various fronts in the struggle to make the Mumbai commute more bearable. MTF has been working with traffic and transport authorities to reduce the traffic congestion. It has worked on issues such as making BEST buses more effecient to reduce cars on roads.

AWAAZ FOUNDATION (11)

For its work on environmental issues such as noise pollution, illegal sand mining and oil spills. It has also worked to promote more eco-friendly festivals and also convened an NGO movement named Mitra (Movement Against Intimidation, Threat and Revenge against Activists) for protection of activists.

NAGAR (12)

Nagar has waged a relentless battle to protect open spaces in the city. For 15 years, the group of citizens has been fighting for open spaces, played a key role in the