

4 from Ahmedabad shoot into India innovator list

TNN | May 18, 2015, 12.42 AM IST

AHMEDABAD: Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) of India has documented 25 most successful entrepreneurs across the country, four of whom are from Ahmedabad. (The institute was assigned the task by ministry of science and technology.) A book called, The Innovators, edited by outgoing EDI director Dinesh Awasthi and educator Rajiv Joshi and published by the institute, gives details of the innovators. TOI profiles some of them.

Aiming for the moon

(Arvind Patel)

Gujarat entrepreneur Arvind Patel played a key role in Chandrayaan-1, India's first mission to the Moon. His company, Sahajanand Laser Technology Ltd (SLTL), supplied several components for Chandrayaan-1. Scientists used some of these components to send pulses of infrared laser to a strip of lunar surface and detect what was reflected from the strip. Patel's company has participated in several projects of Indian Space Research Organization (Isro). It has also provided laser solutions and machines to the Indian defence industry at some critical moments, especially after the 1998 nuclear experiments. Due to sanctions and the ban on India, manufacturers from Israel had stopped supply of some key laser components.

Robot alert

(Pulkit Gaur)

In 2007, Ahmedabad's Pulkit Gaur founded Gridbots with just Rs 10 lakh. He designed an underwater robot that is capable of cleaning deep water tanks. (Gridbots was incubated at IIM, Ahmedabad.) A major boost came when Gaur developed a nuclear

robot for Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). This innovation will help prevent nuclear disasters in the event of a tsunami or an earthquake if it functions as expected. At present, BARC is validating the functionality of the 5kg robot.

Pulkit has also developed an autonomous machine vision software system, GridSURV, which is capable of face detection, face recognition, and motion tracking. It also offers video search capabilities and can be used as part of security solutions in central government and state police departments.

Blow hot, blow cold

(Kranthi Kiran Vistakula)

Kranthi Kiran Vistakula, a student of mechanical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, US, hails from Andhra Pradesh. For Vistakula, the cold of Boston was something new and painful. He was in great discomfort and would cover himself with many layers of clothing during winters. In 2006, he finally made a temperature-controlled jacket that could keep him warm in winter and cool in summer. He started his company Dhama Apparel Innovations with an investment of \$10,000. The first prototype of a temperature-controlled jacket weighed 5kg. To take the initiative forward, Kranti decided to move to Ahmedabad and his was among the first ventures to be incubated at NID. It had motorized fans, batteries, electronics and a whole lot of wires.

Genome tracer

(Anuradha Acharya)

It is not your 'janmapatri' but your 'genomepatri' that holds the key to a healthy life. In 2000, Anuradha Acharya moved back to Hyderabad from Chicago. She founded a company, Ocimum Biosolutions, which helps scientist identify hazardous markers in the DNA. The structure of a person's DNA is extracted from his saliva and analyzed. Customers are called for counselling where

experts help them change their lifestyle. The extracted DNA is used to identify markers in the DNA which have links to more than 100 health problems.