

WINNERS OF THE 2016 IGNITE AWARD

GRASSROOTS INNOVATION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED BY THE NATIONAL INNOVATION FOUNDATION IN INDIA

On 7 November 2016, the [National Innovation Foundation of India](#) awarded the [30 winners of the National Competition of Original Technological Ideas and Innovations of School Children IGNITE](#). The President of India awarded the young winners. An exhibition showcasing award winning ideas was held at the venue.

The IGNITE Award is one of the initiatives realized by the National Innovation Foundation every year to promote creativity and originality among children up to class 12 in school or those up to the age of 17 years out of school). The Award is organized is by NIF in association with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Since 2008, 142 awards have been given to 202 children and the total number of submissions from school children received during the various IGNITE campaigns have been 71,200. The innovations awarded every year are collected in [Catalogues presented in the NIF website](#).

The submissions proposed by the young people in 2016 were 55,000 from 458 districts of the country and the [30 innovations awarded](#) are presented in the NIF website.

Students can submit the innovations to the schools which would forward them to NIF or directly to NIF. NIF will file patents in all applicable cases in the name of the students and will also engage designers/fabricators to develop prototypes of the students' ideas.

An example of the great potential impact of the innovations awarded in 2016 is the [Namda Rolling Machine](#) presented by Zufa Iqbal, a young teenager from Bota Kadal Lal Bazar.

The *Namda Rolling Machine* is the first technological intervention for automating the manual process of Namda (woolen carpet) production. This machine takes almost seven to eight minutes to make a simple Namda. The washing and designing process is also finished within 15-20 minutes. Zufa Iqbal now plans to refine her innovation and commercialise it as a cost- and time-efficient machine.



Rolling of Kashmiri Namda (a mattress like carpet) is a tiresome job that takes hours and a lot of efforts from artisans and the rolling machine can represent a big relief to the people associated with Namda work.

The prototype model works on the principle of rotation and relative motion after material is wrapped around the main roller. The roller applies pressure on material and a motor is also attached which rotates the roller. It takes just 30 minutes to make one piece of Namda with the machine thus reducing the workload which would take hours. In order to develop a prototype of her innovation Zufa Iqbal has registered her innovation with GIAN Cell - University of Kashmir. GIAN Cell has also submitted a proposal to National Innovation Foundation-India for support because this innovation can reduce the workload of the people associated with Namda work, besides it will increase the output.

The [National Innovation Foundation](#) (NIF) is an autonomous institution operating under the Department of Science and Technology of India, to provide institutional support for scouting, spawning, sustaining and scaling up the grassroots innovations. The Foundation works in close collaboration with the [Honey Bee Network](#) and the [GIAN Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network](#) and [SRISTI Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions](#).

The system of science and technology implemented by NIF in India to provide institutional support for grassroots innovations is an example of great interest to other countries interested in promoting the heritage of knowledge and creativity of the population. The Foundation is recognized by the national system of science and technology and works closely with other organizations specialized in the field of innovation. NIF also collaborates with other national structures that can financially support the innovators in inserting their technologies in the national market.

To know more

[IGNITE Award 2016 winners](#)

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[NIF Technology Catalogue](#)

[NIF Annual Reports](#)

[Statewise Innovations](#)

[Article in Kashmirmonitor.in](#)

[Article in kashmiroserver.net](#)

