

Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust Announces 'Sat Paul Mittal National Awards 2024'



*Hon'ble Governor of Punjab, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria
felicitated the awardees for Outstanding Service to Humanity*

- *Rs. 20 lakhs in total cash prizes awarded to 4 recipients in the 'Individual' and 'Institutional' categories*
- *Around 1,600 scholarships worth approx. Rs. 1 Crore sanctioned this year to students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds*

Ludhiana, November 12, 2024: The Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust, established in 1983 by the Late Shri Sat Paul Mittal, presented the Sat Paul Mittal National Awards for 2024 at a ceremony held today at the Sat Paul Mittal School. **The Chief Guest, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab,** felicitated the awardees and distributed the scholarships. Also, present was **Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, President, Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust.**

The distinguished recipients of the Sat Paul Mittal National Awards 2024 were presented with a collective cash prize of **Rs. 20 lakhs along with citations** under the following categories:

- **Sat Paul Mittal National Award (Platinum)** where individual(s) and institution(s) rendering **outstanding service to humanity** were presented **Rs 7.5 lakhs each** along with a citation.
- **Sat Paul Mittal National Award (Gold)** where individual(s) and institution(s) rendering **outstanding service to humanity** were presented **Rs 2.5 lakhs each** along with a citation.



Since 1991, the trust has awarded over **26,500** scholarships, totaling more than **Rs. 9.50 Crore** to students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, with **70%** of beneficiaries being **girls**. In the current year, the Trust will disburse approx. **Rs. 1 Crore** in scholarships to around **1,600 students**. These scholarships aim to empower young minds to pursue their educational aspirations and build a brighter future. Additionally, prizes were awarded to winners of the inter-college debate competition.

The **Sat Paul Mittal National Award 2024 (Platinum)** in the **'Individual'** category was presented to **Dr. Vandana Gopikumar**:

Dr. Vandana Gopikumar, a leader in mental health care, co-founded The Banyan and the Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health (BALM) to support homeless individuals with mental illness. Her efforts have provided acute care to over 4,230 people, with 71% reintegrating into their families or communities. She launched the Home Again program, enabling 1,159 individuals transition to community-based living across 138 homes in Ten Indian States, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Through the NALAM program, over 10,315 people have accessed mental health support, with 1,320 using outpatient services. Dr. Gopikumar has also played a key role in shaping India's National Mental Health Policy (2014) and state-level policies, earning national and international recognition.

The **Sat Paul Mittal National Award 2024 (Platinum)** in the **'Institutional'** category was conferred upon **Goonj**:

Since 1999, Goonj has been dedicated to rural development, rehabilitation and disaster relief, channeling over 63 million kg of urban surplus to drive 96,000 grassroots initiatives across India. Its unique economic model, leveraging \$26 million in funds, materials and local resources, has empowered communities to create sustainable change. Over the past decade, Goonj has impacted 18 million lives through its relief and development efforts, earning various accolades.

The **Sat Paul Mittal National Award 2024 (Gold)** in the **'Individual'** category was presented to **Mr. Prashant Gade**:

As the young founder of Inali Foundation, Prashant's remarkable journey demonstrates the transformative power of technology and compassion. Inali Foundation has provided electronic prosthetics to over 10,000 individuals from marginalized communities in India, conducting fitment camps across 25 states. By offering functional electronic prosthetics free of charge, Inali empowers people to lead independent lives and pursue dignified livelihoods, contributing to the economy. At 32, Prashant's work exemplifies how technology driven social purpose can create lasting change and foster a more inclusive, equitable society.

The **Sat Paul Mittal National Award 2024 (Gold)** in the **'Institutional'** category was conferred upon **Salaam Baalak Trust**:

Incorporated in 1988, Salaam Balak Trust (SBT) has made remarkable strides in its 35-year journey providing comprehensive care and protection to street children through varied child-centric programmes. SBT has been instrumental in providing safe shelter to 12,206 children,



served 5 lakh meals annually and reunited 6,714 lost, trafficked and runaway children with their families. Its holistic programs, including mental health support, education, healthcare and vocational training, have reached 15,812 children, with 60-80 placed in jobs each year. The Trust's journey exemplifies how dedicated intervention can transform the lives of vulnerable children, creating a lasting impact on communities and society, while fostering hope and self-reliance among India's street children.

Congratulating the awardees, **Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, President of Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust** said, *"Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust remains deeply committed to empowering our communities, with a focus on education. We are truly moved by the overwhelming response and the extraordinary stories of selfless dedication that poured in through the award entries. My heartfelt congratulations to all the exemplars whose outstanding contributions are breaking barriers and offering new hope to the vulnerable sections of society. I would also like to applaud the winner of the inter-college debate competition and extend my best wishes to the students receiving scholarships. **We are honored to have Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab, join us for this special occasion to present these awards and scholarships.***

As we celebrate excellence through these recognitions, we hopefully, inspire many more to contribute to a brighter, more inclusive future for all."

Every year Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust invites nominations for Sat Paul Mittal National Awards for honouring individuals and institutions working in areas including but not limited to health, education, environment, food, shelter, poverty alleviation, art, culture, child rights, welfare of the differently abled and women empowerment. Notable past recipients of the awards include Mr. Sakib Khalil Gore, Mr. Devendra Kumar, Project Nanhi Kali, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan (RSKS India), Dr. E. Sreedharan, Dr. S.S. Badrinath, Ms. Ela R. Bhatt, Late Mr. Sunil Dutt, Mr. Anna Hazare, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, SOS Children's Villages & Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Navjyoti Delhi Police Foundation for Correction De-addiction & Rehabilitation, among others.

About Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust

Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust was founded in the year 1983 by Late Shri Sat Paul Mittal to propagate the ideologies of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Following the footsteps of its founder Shri Mittal, the Trust is actively involved in helping the poor and weaker sections of society with a special focus on education.

The Trust gives away various scholarships, and awards and organizes cultural activities. In 2024, around **1600 students** received scholarships from the Trust.

The Trust has set up the **Sat Paul Mittal School** – a leading educational institution in Northern India providing quality education. The Trust in partnership with Shri Gow Rakshni Sabha has also set up **Horizon School of Excellence** in Ludhiana, with a vision to provide **free quality education** to underprivileged children. In addition, it will also provide uniforms, books & stationery and midday refreshments to the students at no cost. With a vision to enhance employability of youth, the Trust established Vocational Centre, which provides three-month courses on GST and Tally, with a provision for a scholarship of Rs 24,200 to needy students.



Until September 2024, **650+** students passed the assessment, with **500+** securing placement in leading industries of Ludhiana with an average monthly salary of around **Rs. 12,500.**

