**Samvedan 2021 - Sensing Solutions for Bharat**

Samvedan 2021 is a **grand challenge competition** jointly organized by IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation and SONY India software centre Pvt Ltd.

**The challenge:**

SONY with Pravartak Technologies Foundation is challenging the youth of India for finding solutions for problems of social relevance in India.

The solution they come up with should be an innovative idea, making use of the **SONY SPRESENSE board**. The board has sensors and camera inbuilt in it which could be customized as per our need. The participants should make use of the features of the board and build a proof of concept of their solution.

The challenge was announced to get pan India reach, and 170 teams applied for the competition. Each team could have a maximum of 3 members. Out of the 170 teams, after initial level of screening, 75 teams were selected for the quarterfinals. The boards were shipped to each of the team separately.

Each stage of the competition was to track the development of the product prototype. Participants were asked to send the videos and other details of the prototype they made.

 A technical committee comprising of IITM Pravartak and SONY technical team evaluated the progress of the prototype.

**Evaluating Criteria:**

In addition to the technical aspects, the evaluators also verified whether

* The solution is of social relevance
* It made use of most features of the board
* The practicality of bringing the product to market

25 teams were qualified for the semi finals. They provided the details of the final working product prototype with data. These were also evaluated and top 7 teams among those 25 were invited to attend the grand finale.

In the morning session of grand finale (22nd March), the 7 finalists are expected to demonstrate the product prototype in from of the judging panel and decide the winners.

The winner and runners will be felicitated during this event. Awards for winners and runners are as follows:

* A 1st prize of Rs. 1,00,000/-,
* Two 2nd prizes of Rs. 50,000/-, each,
* A total of Four 3rd prizes of Rs. 25,000 each.

The individual members of top 15 teams which participated in the semi-finals will be provided an opportunity to submit an application for Entrepreneur-In-Residence (EIR) scheme. Selected individuals under this scheme will become eligible for grant up to Rs. 35,000 per month for a maximum period of one year.

On successful completion of the EIR scheme, an opportunity will be provided to apply for incubating a startup company with a grant of upto Rs. 50 Lakhs under the Seed Support Scheme (SSS).