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**CREATIVE:** Model of unmanned air vehicle exhibited at a stall by Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College of Engineering. — PHOTO: K. GOPINATHAN

## Innovate India

**Design of low-cost outdoor surveillance system gets recognition**

**PADMA VENKATRAMAN**

Engineering students from Bangalore city have proved their mettle at the Innovate India 2009, a national-level two-day conference on Leveraging Knowledge Economy for Innovation, conducted by the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC). A team of students from the Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College (SBMJC) bagged the first prize in the category 'Innovative Technology' while the second prize went to a team from BNM Institute of Technology (BNMIT), Bangalore.

The team of Prajwal S., Anurag, Ravi, Shreyas and Chandan representing SBMJC won Rs. 75,000 for their design and development of a low-cost outdoor surveillance system. "The task was to demonstrate innovative technologies that can help in solving scientific and techni-

cal challenges and we designed, fabricated and tested a radio-controlled aircraft that can take off and land while carrying the maximum cargo," explained Prajwal.

He hoped that his team would be able to fly its Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) around the grounds during the 2010 Commonwealth Games. The second prize of Rs. 50,000 was awarded to Uma and Spoorthy from BNMIT for their Blind Navigation System. A team from PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, won the third prize of Rs. 25,000 for a project on a new coating paint for thermocol. The team consisted of Nishanth, Kartikeyan, Raja and Prabhuram.

The conference conducted at the J.N.Tata Auditorium envisaged providing innovators across the country with a conceptual umbrella which would accelerate the process of innovation and result in technological commercialisation.

One of the highlights of the conference was the I3 Forum which focussed on ideas, innovations and incubation. The contests were grouped into three themes: Gender

Programme, Rural Technology and Innovative Technology. A total of 271 applications were received from colleges across the country of which 47 shortlisted entries were exhibited.

While BITS Pilani, Goa, represented by Teesta Isser and Nikita Ramprasad Bhardiya took home the first two awards of Rs. 10,000 each in the Gender programme category, Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology represented by Nirmala and Sangitha won the third prize in the category for their Automatic Toll Booth.

NGOs and the agencies involved in rural development were invited to submit projects on rural technology, food processing, healthcare and sustainable development for the Rural Technology category. Prize money up to Rs. 1 lakh each was won by 10 institutions from across the nation, including Technology Informatics Design Endeavour (TIDE), Bangalore, for the dissemination of lower capacity brick kiln; Search, Guntur, for airlift check dam shutters for rural development; and RDC, IIT-Kharagpur, for innovative solar drier for rural application.