Winners in the "National Defense Technologies" Category at the Engineering Students' Fest - IISF 2021, Goa

(11, 12 December 2021)

Engineering Students' Fest (ESF), previously known as the Students' Engineering Model Competition (SEMC) is an annual event organized by India International Science Festival (IISF). This year, the event was held in hybrid mode (25% physical & 75% virtual) at Panjim, Goa. The focus of ESF21 was to provide a launchpad for new initiatives and to expand the existing programs to foster innovation, to bridge the gap between basic and applied science, to use S&T for the rural economy, and to promote Vocal for Local.

This year, ESF invited entries from students across India in the following 6 categories -

1. Edu Tech
2. Agriculture & Food Processing
3. Environment & Disaster Management
4. National Defense Technologies
5. Medical & Community Healthcare
6. Transport and logistics

Out of a total of 2000+ applications received across India, only 200 were selected for the ESF21 event in Goa. The 200 shortlisted projects, were then scrutinized online by a panel of jury; primarily based on the technical feasibility, and stage of the project – idea stage, working prototype, etc. Based on this, the projects were evaluated out 100 marks and the top 5 projects from each category were shortlisted for the final round.

The final round was held physically and was judged by the National jury. The projects were tested on the market feasibility, profitability and the potential of converting the project into a successful startup or product. In this round, the judges identified the top 3 projects from each category. A small valedictory event followed this round wherein the 3 winners from each category were announced.

NATASHA, a home network security device, got the **1st prize** in the **"National Defense Technologies"** Sector. This device protects smart homes and smart devices connected to the home Wi-Fi from cyber threats. This project was specially appreciated by the Jury members from DRDO and including the Director General (Technical Management) of DRDO, Dr. H.B. Shrivastava. This device not only makes security easy and affordable for the common man of India, but will also help to strengthen the cybersecurity within the nation.