The 11th Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) AP & TS Section Annual Convention and Awards Function was hosted at VNRVJIET, marking the finale of the Institute’s annual fest, Convergence 2k17. The event was attended by various dignitaries including the ISTE AP & TS Chairpersons Dr. K. Lal Kishore (A. P. ), Dr. A. Venugopal Reddy (T. S. ), and Secretaries Dr. K. Hemachandra Reddy (A. P. ) and Dr. Y. Padma Shayi (T. S. ); the Institute’s Principal, Dr. C. D. Naidu, and General Secretary-Vignana Jyothi, Mr. B. Sarat Gopal, and President-Vignana Jyothi, Dr. D. N. Rao.

Dr. Padma Shayi, Secretary cum Treasurer of ISTE TS Section, opened the event with her speech. She touched upon the 170-year long history of technical education in India and its role in improving the quality of life for an average Indian. Dr. Padma Shayi went to speak about the role of ISTE and its Chapters, including the role of the local chapters in the transformation of APTI to ISTE. Her speech concluded with the need for appreciation and encouragement in the field of education and how ISTE plays its part by conducting such events as the ongoing Awards Function.

Dr. C. D. Naidu, Principal-VNRVJIET, expressed his pleasure that it is a rare feat to witness three individuals with the stature and experience as Vice Chancellors of Universities on the same dais. He went on to explain how VNRVJIET was raising the bar for engineering education, with emphasis on projects, research, and consultancy work. Dr. Naidu added that the Institute has also set up the “VJ Hub” on the lines of “T Hub” backed by the Government of Telangana State and set up at IIIT-Hyderabad. The Institute has thus far supported five incubatee organizations through the Vignana Jyothi Technology Business Initiative (VJTBI), he stated.

Mr. B. Sarat Gopal, General Secretary-Vignana Jyothi, spoke about the vision of Vignana Jyothi towards education and informed the audience about the seven educational institutions, including VNRVJIET, run by the Society. He expressed that it is an honour for Vignana Jyothi to conduct the 11th ISTE Awards Function at VNRVJIET.

Dr. D. N. Rao, President-Vignana Jyothi, expressed his pleasure of being a part of such an excellent lot of academicians on the dais. He introduced the idea of “Spectral PyramidTM” and its four faces, *viz.* Excellence in Academics; Exploration Knowledge through Research; Excitement of Innovation & Entrepreneurship; Exponent for Development of Rounded Personality with Global Vision and Social Responsibility. Dr. Rao explained how students of VNRVJIET can be seen around the twin cities with a confident countenance and composure ready to conquer the world and take up any challenge in the field of their academic knowledge.

Prof. K Hemachandra Reddy, Secretary cum Treasurer of ISTE AP Section, said to the applause of the audience that the TS & AP sections of ISTE have decided to conduct the Awards function jointly even after the bifurcation of the states and that this is the second such Awards Function that is being jointly organized. He touched upon the numerous changes and paradigm shifts that have been witnessed in Technical Education in the last two decades. Prof. Reddy said that today’s technical educators must converge to diverge so that they can play their part effectively to resolve the problems that are affecting the real world.

Prof. K. Lal Kishore, Chairperson of ISTE AP Section, called upon the students and faculty members among the audience to participate better as members of ISTE and become role models for others to emulate. Prof. Lal Kishore pointed that India has a large proportion of youth and that they can grab more opportunities if they can be imparted with the necessary skills. He commended that VNRVJIET is one of the best engineering colleges in both the states, while referring to the activities of VJ Hub. He hoped that commercially viable products must come out of technical institutions on the verge of 4th Industrial Revolution that we currently witness.

Guest of Honour and Vice Chancellor of JNTU-Hyderabad, Dr. A. Venugopal Reddy, spoke on the occasion and appreciated the various teaching and research-related initiatives and facilities at the host Institute, VNRVJIET. He advised that engineering colleges must steer their paths such that commercially viable products may be developed within the colleges and lauded the efforts of the Institute’s Incubation Centre in this regard. He lamented that the standards of education are very poor in a lot of engineering colleges in the states of A. P. and Telangana and that all colleges must incorporate innovative teaching methods and that the technical teachers must develop and attitude to continually update their knowledge. Dr. Reddy revealed that JNTU-Hyderabad shall soon launch live, online courses and certificate courses for Faculty Development Programmes to better the Technical Education scene in the country.

Guest of Honour and Director of Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Hyderabad, Dr. D. N. Reddy, also spoke on the occasion and said that a total of 28 Professional Societies nationwide have been playing a prominent role in shaping engineers in India and that ISTE has been putting in a lot of dedicated effort in this direction too. Dr. Reddy said that there are 700 universities in India, compared to thousands of universities in countries like the USA, China, and Japan but that the particular situation in India is of significance because most of our engineering institutions are affiliated to universities, laying the onus of maintaining appreciable standards in education with the universities. He wished that teaching and learning methods must be modernized and that teachers must involve themselves in research, work towards publications and patents, and in consultancy projects too. He outlined ten essentially necessary qualities among academicians as well as students. Dr. Reddy later released the souvenir pertaining to the technical symposium, Convergence 2k17, that ended today at VNRVJIET.

Dr. V. M. Pandhari Pande, Professor with the Department of Electronics & Communication at the Osmania University-Hyderabad, as well as Dr. P. J ayarami Reddy, Director of G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College-Kurnool, received Lifetime Achievement Awards at this 11th ISTE Awards Function. The list of other Awards that were given away to the winners at this occasion is attached at the end of this Report.

Dr. Pande said that he will never be deemed retired and that he would continue to be a teacher so long as he is around. Dr. Pande said that he would dedicate his award to his students and he thanked his wife, who was also present at the occasion, for all the sacrifices she had to make while he was moving forward in his career. He opined that teaching is a noble profession and that the role of teachers in shaping, motivating, and changing students is a very important one. Dr. Pande had a brief stint at the prestigious Tata Institute for Fundamental Research-Mumbai as a Scientific Officer, before he joined the ranks of the IIT-Kharagpur as an Assistant Professor. Out of his 43 years of experience as an academician, it is remarkable to note that Dr. Pande was associated with the Osmania University for over 34 years, and has been instrumental in shaping engineering education at the University College of Engineering.

Dr. Jayarami Reddy thanked the ISTE AP& TS Chapters for considering him for the prestigious award and conferring the same. Dr. Reddy has a 45-year long career as an academician during which time he had 35 years of experience as an administrator too! Incidentally, he also happens to the longest serving Principal/Director of an Engineering College in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Students, Teachers, Principals, and Directors of various engineering and technology institutions received awards today in various categories as a part of the 11th ISTE Awards Function 2016. The event also witnessed the giving away of awards, prizes, and certificates to winners of the project expo “Open House 2k17” at the Institute as well as winners of various events during the technical symposium “Convergence 2k17”. The event was attended by the prize-winners and their family members as well as the Deans and Heads of Departments, faculty members, and students of the Institute.

**11th ISTE Award Recipient List:**

1. **Dr. V M Pandhari Pande**, Former Professor ECE, College of Engineering, Osmania Universityis chosenfor **“Life Time Achievement for Engineering Educator”** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College**, Kurnool
2. **Dr. P. Jaya Rami Reddy**, Director, G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College, Kurnool is chosenfor **Life Time Achievement Award** for an Engineering Educator in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **Maheshwara Group of Educational Institutions**, Hyderabad
3. **Mr. Siddi Reddy Sai Krishna**, ECE, VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad is chosenfor GEC State Award for an **Ideal Student of Talent and Excellence from Engineering Colleges** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **Gudlavalleru Engineering College** Gudlavalleru.
4. **Mr. Nalakurthy Joseph Rathod**, EEE, Govt. Polytechnic, Anantapur is chosenforA. A. N. M. & V. V. R. S. R**.** State Awardfor an **Ideal Student of Talent and Excellence from the Polytechnics of A.P. & T.S.** Sponsored by **A. A. N. M. & V. V. R. S. R Polytechnic,** Gudlavalleru.
5. **Dr. G. Ramesh Chandra**, Professor CSE, VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad is chosenfor **Velagapudi Ramakrishna Siddhartha Engineering College** Award for **Best Computer Science Engineering Teacher** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **VRSEC**, Vijayawada
6. **Mr. K. Hasith Reddy**, G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College, Kurnool is chosen for VRSEC Award for **Ideal Student of Talent and Excellence from Engineering Colleges** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **Velagapudi Ramakrishna Siddhartha Engineering College**, Vijayawada
7. **Vasavi College of Engineering**, Hyderabad is chosen for **Best Engineering College Award** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **Srinidhi Institute of Science & Technology**, Ghatkesar, Hyderabad
8. **Dr. B. Chennakesava Rao**, Principal, Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, Hyderabad is chosen for **Late Sri Panda Punnaiah Garu** Award for **Best Engineering College Principal** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology**, Hyderabad
9. **Dr. C. Shoba Bindu**, Professor, CSE, JNTUAis chosen for **Late Sri Jasti Sree Krishna Murthy Garu** Award for **Best Engineering Teacher** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology**, Hyderabad
10. **Dr. K. Lakshmi Pathi,** Senior Lecturer, CE, Govt. Polytechnic for women, Hindupuris chosen for **ISTE AP &TS Section Award for Best Polytechnic Teacher**
11. **Govt. Polytechnic**, Vijayawada is chosen for **ISTE-AP&TS Section Award** for Best Polytechnic Having Best Overall Performance
12. **Mr. Birudu Avinash, EEE,** Methodist College of Engineering & Technology, Hyderabadis chosen for **Late Vallurupalli Nageswara Rao** State Award for an **Ideal Student of Talent and Excellence from Engineering Colleges** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology**, Hyderabad
13. **Ms. Koduru Kavya, Mr. Venigalla Akhil, Ms. Marupilla Srivalli Santha Deepthi, Mr. Velaga Sai Krishna and Mr. Kambhampati Datta Sai Ram, CE,** Usharama College of Engineering & Technology, Telaprolu, are chosen for **Best B. Tech Project** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **Sreyas Institute of Engineering and Technology,** Hyderabad
14. **Gayatri Vidya Parishad College of Engineering**, Visakhapatnam is chosen for **“Best Engineering College”** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **Srinivasa Ramanujan Institute of Technology** Anantapur
15. **Dr. T. Jaya Chandra Prasad,** RGM College of Engineering and Technology, Nandyal is chosen for **Sri G. Krishna Kumar** Memorial state award for **“Best Engineering College Principal”** in A.P. & T.S. Sponsored by **G. Pullaiah College of Engineering & Technology**, Kurnool
16. **Mr. Donda Anand Kumar, Mr. Nikhil Pasari, Mr. Y. Sai Kausthub Kaundinya, and Mr. Sreekanth Kommula,** ME, VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad are chosen for **“Best Student Innovator from AP & TS Engineering College”** sponsored by **Aditya Institute of Technology and Management,** Tekkali