

## Press Release

# Mahindra University Students Bag Top Honours in Global Innovation Challenge

**New Delhi/ Hyderabad, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** Students of Mahindra University secured second and third places in a highly competitive U.S. University challenge. Two teams from the University reached the final round, both emerging victorious at **The Babson Collaborative Global Student Challenge 2024**. This year, 2,414 students from 25 schools across 20 countries participated in this prestigious competition.

The second position was secured by the "**Harvested Robotics**" team which included five students, Rahul Arepaka, Pranav Mogli, Sai Phani, Sanjay Pramod, and Atin Sakeer. Their project aims to revolutionise agriculture by providing farmers with a chemical-free weed management solution through the use of advanced lasers and robotics technology.

The third place was secured by a project named "**Extrive Innovations**", the team comprised of four students, Abhishek Pratap, Ronak Oinam, Prem Ningombam, and Yashaswi Matla. This team developed an ergonomic, cost-effective exoskeleton designed to enhance workplace safety and efficiency while improving worker comfort and productivity. It addresses critical issues in occupational health and ergonomics, making a significant impact on industrial work environments.

Highly rated and well-known for its academic programme in entrepreneurship, Massachusetts-based Babson College hosts this annual competition. The competition focused on innovative business concepts addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Dr. Yajulu Medury, Vice Chancellor, Mahindra University** expressed immense pride in the students' accomplishments. *"These awards reflect the talent, dedication, and innovative spirit of our students. At Mahindra University, we are dedicated to cultivating an entrepreneurial environment that encourages creativity and problem-solving. The success of our teams on this esteemed global stage highlights our unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation in education."*

**Dr. Rajkumar Phatate, Professor and Head of the Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CEI), Mahindra University**, highlighted the importance of such global competitions in shaping future entrepreneurs. *"Participating and excelling in the Babson Collaborative Global Student Challenge demonstrates our students' ability to compete at an international level. The support and mentorship provided by CEI have been instrumental in guiding these young innovators to success. We are committed to continuing our support for student entrepreneurs and helping them turn their ideas into impactful solutions."*

The achievement of these teams reflects the university's strong emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and practical solutions to real-world problems. The constant support and encouragement from the faculty, mentors, and the broader university community have been crucial in this journey.

Their focus on entrepreneurship and innovation is setting new benchmarks in education, preparing students to be leaders and change-makers in their respective fields through its dedication by providing a conducive environment for budding entrepreneurs to thrive and make a difference.

**About Mahindra University:**

Mahindra University, Hyderabad (India) is a multi-disciplinary university offering multiple undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes in engineering, management, law, education, and media. The Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation is an interdisciplinary centre that serves all schools of the University. The University is backed by Mahindra Educational Institutions (MEI), a subsidiary of Tech Mahindra Ltd., the flagship IT company of the Mahindra Group, a US \$19.4 billion industrial entity that employs in excess of 2,56,000 employees across 100 countries. Its core mandate is to fulfil the mission of the University by balancing education with experience through entrepreneurial projects that aim to solve complex challenges confronted by our societies. As a member of the prestigious Babson College Collaborative, the Centre aims to create a pathway to entrepreneurship by providing students, alumni and faculty the requisite skills, tools and mindset.