

Rocking chair design for father fetches city student first prize at national contest

GARIMA MISHRA

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WHEN city student Ajay Kale sent his entry for a national level design competition, little did he expect that he would emerge the winner. His design of a rocking chair won him the first prize at Creatio, a national design competition.

Creatio was organised by Vidya Darshan Rana Charitable Trust in association with SSRana & Co to mark the Industrial Design Day on June 29. "The aim of the competition is to raise awareness on intellectual property in India and help the grassroots innovators, designers, artisans and creators to realise their true potential," says Rishu Srivastava, organising secretary, Vidya Darshan Rana Charitable Trust.



Ajay Kale (left) and the rocking chair he designed.

It was in the first week of June that 24-year-old Kale learnt about the competition. "During that period, I was thinking of designing something for my father. When I learnt about the competition, I conceptualised and designed a rocking chair," says Kale, who is pursuing a post-graduate programme at MIT In-

stitute of Design. Even if he didn't win the competition, he would still have made the rocking chair for his father, he adds.

Kale says his inspiration comes from objects and things that he sees around him. "One day, I saw a dolphin on television. The shape of the dolphin inspired me in my design," recalls Kale, who

admits that it was because of his faculty at MIT — Professor Sanjay Jain and Professor Dhimant Panchal — he was able to apply theoretical knowledge to practical use. It took him three days to design the chair. As far as the turning his design into a product is concerned, Kale plans to tie up with a manufacturing company.

Srivastava says, "What made Ajay's entry stand out was its ergonomic design. The way he depicted his inspiration from nature appealed to the judges. We believe that his designs will carve a niche in industrial domain." She adds that looking at the kind of response the competition has generated in its first year, the group plans to make it an annual affair.

The competition received 28 entries from across India and the winners were announced on July 2.