

Dr Imran Ali conferred Shambhavi Puraskar

Bipin Bihari Panda gets Jury Commendation Certificate

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 23 MARCH

The Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), the CSR arm of the Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Limited (IMFA Group), conferred the Shambhavi Puraskar 2023 on Thursday to Dr. Md. Imran Ali for his contribution to the health and advocacy sector in Odisha.

The Jury Commendation Certification was conferred to Bipin Bihari Panda for his dedicated efforts towards the vulnerable sections of society.

Dr R Balasubramaniam (Member-HR, Capacity Building Commission, Govt. of India) and Ms Shaifalika Panda presented the award to the recipients.

Addressing the gathering Dr R Balasubramaniam spoke of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of 'seva and tyaga'. The heart is to feel, the head to think and hands to work. He also referred to Bill Gates remarks that making money is excitement, giving is joy.

Significantly, he stressed on the NGO sector working together as partners with the government as well as the corporate.

There is a new sector that needs to come up, he said while terming it as 'soulful compassionate capitalism'.

"On this stage we have felicitated people, who have had very little for themselves, yet made it a point to work towards charitable causes. Every individual, company



or authority must prioritize initiatives for the larger good and contribute, as per their skill set, on sustainable solutions for developmental issues. This way we will stride closer to ensuring that no one is left behind", said Ms Shaifalika Panda.

The 'Shambhavi Puraskar' instituted since 2014 identifies and awards silent heroes who are change agents working in the society.

The awardee selection is based on evaluation against certain criteria i.e Impact, Sustainability, Community Participation, Scale, and Innovation & Beneficiaries.

Dr. Md. Imran Ali, known as Odisha's Anti-Drug Champion, has been working incessantly to eliminate the influence of substance abuse in the lives of children and youth. His book titled "Bloody Gutkha" enumerates the immense harm caused by tobacco products, and his volunteer group "Nasa Mukti Yuva Sankalp" has brought about behavioural

change through infotainment like street plays. His thoughtful approach for an Inclusive Campaign by developing a Braille Script and use of sign language for visually & hearing impaired has been appreciated by all.

His work has made a place in the India Book of Records for the anti-tobacco campaign spread through community radio centers across Odisha. Dr. Md. Imran Ali with the Shambhavi Puraskar 2023; which carries a memento, citation and a cash prize of Rs. 2,50,000/-.

BIPF conferred the 'Jury Commendation Certification 2023' upon Mr. Bipin Bihari Panda for his selfless work, compassion, and courage in helping those people who have lost their own and been abandoned by society. Bipin Bihari Panda received the Shambhavi Puraskar Jury Commendation Certification 2023, which carries a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/-.