

News monitored for: Lemon Tree Hotels

Helen Keller awards for firms, differently-abled achievers

NCPEDP felicitates those who set an example for others

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NEW DELHI

The National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) in collaboration with Mindtree announced the winners of the eighteenth edition of the Helen Keller Awards here on Saturday.

The annual awards honour the differently-abled individuals who have overcome their disability and set an example for others from the community. The awards also recognise individuals and corporates working to ensure equality of opportunity in terms of employment and workplace rights, for the differently-abled.

Eighteenth edition

Javed Abidi, Director of NCPEDP said, "We launched these awards in 1999, when the discourse on employment for people with disabilities was unable to move beyond basket weaving and candle making. Today, when I look back, it is with a great sense of satisfaction. It is not about the gold medals or the number of awards but about the kind of examples we set."

Suresh Jandial, executive Director (HR), Oil and Natu-

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SHILPI KAPOOR
Founder, Barrier Break Solutions



Honoured: Lemon Tree Hotels Limited were among winners of awards for 'Role Model Companies'. ■ SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

ral Gas Corporation (ONGC) filled in for Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas as the Chief Guest of the event.

"Education is crucial for employment of the differently-abled and it cannot come without awareness. Organisations like these help to spread awareness about the government's initiatives and other opportunities available to them," Mr. Jandial said.

Companies recognised

The award winners in the 'Role Model (Disabled Persons)' category this year are: Dr. Charudatta Jadhav, Devanshi Joshi, Dr. Nirmita Narasimhan and Pradip Sinha.

S.V. Krishnan, CEO, Dialogue in the Dark and Swaminathan Subramanian, Manager, Payments and Operations, ANZ Bengaluru Service Centre bagged awards under the 'Role Model Supporters of Increased Employment Opportunities for Disabled People' category.

The award winners in the 'Role Model Companies/NGOs/Institutions' were Barrier Break Solutions Private

Limited, Hatti Food and Beverages Private Limited, The Lemon Tree Hotel Company and Vindhya e Infomedia Private Limited.

Devanshi Joshi, in her acceptance speech on behalf of the individual awardees, said that failures for differently-abled people were not due to their disability but due to the society's attitude and understanding. She added that this needs to change.

"When we hire them, we don't find them a liability but an opportunity. We don't look at disability through a single lens. I think that's what makes us different. It is the recognition from organisations like these (NCPEDP and Mindtree) that keeps us going," said Shilpi Kapoor, awardee and founder of Barrier Break Solutions.

Mr. Krishnakumar Natrajan, Chairperson, Mindtree Limited expressed joy over Mindtree's collaboration with NCPEDP's initiatives. He stressed that it is important that organisations have vision with regard to making an impact through their Corporate Social Responsibility.