



HONOURING INTERGRITY: Activist Aruna Roy (second from left) presenting the Manjunath Shanmugam Integrity Award to DEHAT Founder, Dr Jitendra Chaturvedi; Revenue Officer from Maharashtra, Vinod Adhau; and IFS officer from Haryana, Sanjiv Chaturvedi in Bangalore on Saturday. DH PHOTO

Aruna Roy moots Whistle Blowers' Act

Manjunath Shanmugam Integrity Award conferred on three persons

BANGALORE: Ramon Magsasay award winner and activist Aruna Roy on Saturday urged citizens to fight for a 'Whistle Blowers' Act to protect people in lower ranks of the government.

Presenting the Manjunath Shanmugam Integrity award for 2009 at the Indian Institute of Management here, Roy said "Till today we do not have a Whistle Blowers' Act to protect government employees who show immense courage in exposing malpractices despite the threat of harassment from seniors." She added that the Act

was necessary to preserve the 'transparency and accountability' of the system and the fabric of society.

Roy said that there were lakhs of Indians like slain Manjunath Shanmugam fighting corruption in the system at the risk of their lives. "It is a huge struggle for people in and out of government, men and women and all Indians to maintain the idea of India enshrined in the Constitution," she observed.

Awards presented

The award was conferred on three persons - Jitendra

Chaturvedi of DEHAT, a voluntary organisation, Vinod Adhau, a revenue officer from Maharashtra and Sanjiv Chaturvedi, a IFS officer from Haryana.

The award is named after Manjunath Shanmugam, an Indian Oil Corporation employee and an IIM alumnus who was brutally murdered for exposing an oil adulteration racket in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh in 2005. A network of IIM alumni started a trust in the name of Manjunath and instituted the award for courage and integrity in public life, in the year 2006.

Although the award was given away to three individuals, the trust decided to give the cash reward of Rs one lakh to Jitendra Chaturvedi. Jitendra, an activist from Bahrach district on the Indo-Nepal border has been fighting for the rights of the people of the district, who are still not considered citizens of India. "I am both honoured and privileged for conferring the award, particularly because I hail from the place where Manjunath fought to rid the system of corrupt practices," an emotional Jitendra said.

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