

Civil Society

Recognising voluntarism

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Clip: 1 of 1

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Civil Society News

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APPLICATIONS are being invited for the Apeejay India Volunteer Awards, (AIVA) 2011, by the Apeejay Surrendra Group. The corporate is partnering iVolunteer, an NGO and International Business Leaders Forum, (IBLF), to recognise volunteering talent at the individual, corporate and NGO level in India.

The awards were launched at an event held in New Delhi. There is a Volunteer of the Year award and a Youth Volunteer of the Year award for young people below 25 years of age. Also included is an Employee Volunteering Programme of the Year award for companies and an award for Volunteer involving NGO of the Year.

"We realise that there are a lot of people who do a great deal of good work and they don't do it just for recognition. By recognising them we might just encourage thousands of Indians to volunteer," says Renu Kakkar, vice-president, Corporate Communications and Technology, Apeejay Surrendra Group.

At the event there was a panel discussion on the future of volunteering. Those who took part included Anshu Gupta, founder-director of Goonj, Indira Dasgupta, executive director, Peoples Institute for Development and Training, Joe Phelan, country director, IBLF-India, and Rahul Nainwal, director, iVolunteer.

The panel discussed what was driving volunteerism in India, what motivated volunteers, opportunities for volunteering and the significance of the upcoming awards.

The increase in volunteering was attributed to greater exposure, options such as 'gap years', technology, mobility and interest by major companies who felt it built team spirit.