

Metro Plus (Hindu)

Promoting volunteering

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EVENT Apeejay Surrendra Group announces awards for volunteering

In an attempt to promote volunteering, Apeejay Surrendra Group recently organised a panel discussion in New Delhi and also announced the Apeejay India Volunteer Award 2011 (AIVA), in association with i-Volunteer and International Business Leader Forum, UK.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice President, Corporate Communications of the group Renu Kakkar said the awards would be given in four categories which will include an individual, youth volunteer, corporate volunteer and NGOs award.

Director and Co-founder of i-Volunteer, Rahul Nainwal said, "When we started volunteering in 2001, it was not very much in the air but now it has been accepted." These awards are an effort to spot role models in volunteering, he added.

Indira Dasgupta associated with the Board of International Association of Volunteer Effort, added that the media has played a tremendous role with its participative coverage of various issues, which has motivated youngsters towards volunteer work.

Citing his experiences, founder of the NGO Goonj, Anshu Gupta said volunteering does not demand a professional course or certificate; rather motivation on the part of the volunteer. Joe Phelan, Country Director, International Business Leaders Forum said transparency and motivation can bolster volunteering. "The need of the time is to involve oneself personally," he added.

The required skills of volunteers and the way in which NGOs can utilise them well were also discussed.

KUNDAN PANDEY