

Good Samaritans

UnCLE Jerry is well into retirement age — 81 years. However, he chose not to sit at home, but help manage the chaotic traffic on Eliot Road. In recognition of his voluntary efforts, he was presented with a traffic jacket and a raincoat at Oxford Bookstore on April 19. This was the day on which the Apeejay India Volunteer Awards 2011 were given away. It is an initiative of the Apeejay Surrendra Group in association with iVolunteer and International Business Leaders Forum, UK.

Volunteering can save lives. It is a selfless act, not a job. Such were the sentiments expressed at a panel discussion held on the occasion.

The panelists, including Sudha Kaul, the founder of Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP), Shamlu Dudeja, the chairperson of Calcutta Foundation, Raktim Mukhopadhyay, the development consultant of NGOs, and Shalabh Sahai, the founder and director of iVolunteer — debated on "The Future of Volunteering — Be The Change You Want To See". Designer Agnimitra Paul was there as a special guest.

Kaul narrated how she started IICP when she discovered her son had cerebral palsy. Talking on similar lines, Dudeja conceded how volunteering fulfilled a certain emptiness in her.

Sahai felt that those who lead stressful lives often find satisfaction from doing sim-



ple tasks out of choice.

Moderator Renu Kakkar, the vice-president (corporate communications) of Apeejay Surrendra Group, stressed the importance of training employees on volun-

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teering ethics. The awards are to be held regionally first and then nationally, with the grand finale slated for August 2011.



Shamlu Dudeja and (right) Sudha Kaul at the Apeejay India Volunteer Awards 2011 event at Oxford Bookstore.

Picture by Rashbehari Das