

# Nominees find inspiration in each other's work

## Nagpur Heroes Awards To Be Presented Today

Barkha.Mathur@  
timesgroup.com

**A** day before the Nagpur Heroes awards function to be held on Wednesday, the nominees were filled with anticipation and hope. The awards will be presented to the final five, who have been picked up by a jury, and also to the candidate who polled maximum votes at a city hotel.

"We are all mature enough to take winning and losing in our stride," says social entrepreneur Khushroo Poacha, who has won the award previously. "But what I am truly looking forward to is that I will be meeting people whom I have hero worshipped, like Dr Amit Samarth who pushes the limits of endurance, and Vishnu Manohar, who prepares meals for 5,000 people at one go," says Poacha, adding, "Being in a gathering of such persons helps in increasing one's outreach."

Agreeing that getting nominated for the award itself serves a purpose, Dr Vinky Rughwani says, "People learn about our work when we are nominated for such an award. We are able to connect with so many more to spread awareness regarding our work. This works perfectly," he says. "I quite enjoyed being a nominee as people would keep calling me and telling me about the votes that were coming my way," he adds.

It was a hoarding about Nagpur Heroes awards which made Tejas Parshonikar to nominate his NGO SEAT. "As we work in the field of wildlife conservation and in rural areas, not many in the city



are aware of what we do. But since the nominations, we are getting a good response and there are many who are connecting with us, especially students from colleges," he says.

The competition is tough, feels Deboshree Bhattacharya from NGO Upay. "The nominees have been picked up from such diverse fields and all are leaders in their sphere of work. So, each one is the best and this makes the competition very tough," she says.



Termining the awards as a terrific initiative, theatre director and actor Vikash Khurana says, "This is a big platform for getting together so many successful people, who have done path-breaking work. All the nominees are leaders with their own considerable following and idols who can motivate the youth."

For Prateek Malhotra, his sister Ritu and friend and co-worker Prateek

Harde, the nominations have been like a dream. "We never expected to achieve so much in such a short time," says Malhotra about the winning streak of the trio, who have picked up many awards in recent months.

"We have taken this competition in our stride. Even in our work sphere, we have tried to model our products in a way which makes them different, effective and useful," he adds.

"I was in Jammu for a tournament and it was a tremendous boost to my confidence when I learnt that I have been nominated by TOI for these awards," says chess coach Anup Deshmukh. "The awards are very unique and those nominated are all heroes as I gathered after reading their profiles. I am not really into the race for winning post but just happy to be there and meet them all," he adds.

Getting nominated has been a big motivation to achieve higher goals, says endurance sports trainer and cyclist Dr Amit Samarth. "I have learnt a lot about the nominees and their work and feel very inspired. I am looking forward to meet all of them," he says.