

Press Release

Jyoti Basu Memorial Foundation Institutes ‘Jyotirmoyee Awards 2020’

Ms Ayesha Noor & Mrs Pratima Podder Conferred With The Award

Kolkata 6th March 2020: At the advent of **International Women’s Day**, **Jyoti Basu Memorial Foundation**, a non-profit and non-political social organization, today, in the presence of its Founder, **Ms Rakhi Basu** and ace Fashion Designer, **Ms Sharbari Datta** felicitated **Ms Ayesha Noor**, Kolkata’s Wonder Karate Kid & **Mrs Pratima Podder**, Kolkata’s First Woman Bus Driver with the newly instituted ‘**Jyotirmoyee Awards 2020**’. The event was attended by crème de la crème from the society.

The idea behind establishing ‘Jyotirmoyee Awards 2020’ is to acknowledge the women who have excelled in life amidst adverse circumstances. This is the first year of the award. They were felicitated with plaques and a sum of Rs. 25,000 to each.

Ms Ayesha Noor had started karate at the age of 6 and is fighting epilepsy and poverty to come out of all odd stages in life and excel continuously. She now aims to impart self-defense and martial arts training to one lakh girls every year that too, free of cost. On the other hand, Mrs Pratima Podder is quite a self-made woman. Life became difficult for her when her husband met an accident and she had to take the lead to run her family. She took charge as the driver of the bus without a moment’s hesitation then. Now, the 42-year-old super-woman is probably the only female bus driver in Kolkata and she leaves home very early in the morning to make the trip from Nimta to Howrah. Last year, a popular Kolkata based club made her life-story the theme of their Durga Puja pandal.

“We at Jyoti Basu Memorial Foundation believe that our society is largely constituted by women. In today’s world, women take the front row in all matters. We have instituted ‘Jyotirmoyee Awards 2020’ to salute the women who have fought the odds with all their strength and have come out being even stronger than before. I wish both Ayesha & Pratima the very best so that they can excel in their respective fields and encourage others to be confident and excel in life. We would continue recognizing triumphant women from various walks of life every year”, said **Ms Rakhi Basu, Founder, Jyoti Basu Memorial Foundation**.

Carrying the wish forward of Late Shri Jyoti Basu, his daughter in law, Ms Rakhi Basu has been working tirelessly for the betterment of women and children in the city. After working towards arranging educational classes for the lesser privileged children in the slums and taking initiatives to make the City of Joy child labour free, she has now instituted “Jyotirmoyee Awards”, to celebrate the womanhood.

About Jyoti Basu Memorial Foundation:

Jyoti Basu Memorial Foundation is a non-profit, non-political social organization founded by Mrs Rakhi Basu in 2011 that works towards the betterment of underprivileged children and women in the city. The organization strives to strengthen the ideal of Human Rights through means of improving education, healthcare services, sanitation and addressing topics such as poverty, gender issues, and women empowerment.

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