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Top biz honours for young achievers

By Mail Today Bureau
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THE ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship (MSDE) concluded the third edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA) on January 4 in New Delhi. This was done by honouring 30 outstanding young entrepreneurs and three entrepreneurship ecosystem builders for their exceptional contribution in entrepreneurship development.

The awards were conferred in the presence of Suresh Prabhu, minister of commerce and industry, Anantkumar Hegde, minister of state for MSDE, and Dr KP Krishnan, MSDE secretary. Among the winners included Roshan Kahtoon, 23, from Bihar. Despite her physical disability, she has set up a small bangle manufacturing unit. Shruthi Reddy Sethi, 33, of Kolkata, who started Anthyesti Funeral Services to provide a funeral management service, Tana Sumpaaged, 35, of the Nyishi tribe, Arunachal Pradesh, who successfully runs fisheries and also helps local people including women and unemployed youth with quality training and livelihood support.

Prabhu said, "I would like to congratulate all award winners for their exemplary performance. The definition of entrepreneurship is constantly evolving and with change in fixed tenure jobs, the nature of working environment is changing with more people creating their job space versus joining a certain industry. There are ample opportunities for our youth to be gainfully engaged in launching start-up initiatives in the country". He added, "The economic growth of a country depends on the economic growth of its people. The youth needs to be empowered today with skills which can empower them. The change in

market environment is no more a challenge, but has become an opportunity for many. Initiatives like Mudra Yojana, Start Up India, the GeM portal, etc. are giving the best and most conducive environment to our young entrepreneurs".

Congratulating the winners, Dharmendra Pradhan, minister of petroleum and skill development, said, "Adopting an inclusive approach, new categories were introduced for grassroot entrepreneurs with special focus on women, persons with disabilities, SC/STs and entrepreneurs from difficult areas. Our endeavour has been to incubate entrepreneurial spirit to build self-sustainable liveli-

hoods. NEA not only recognises small and medium entrepreneurs, but creates aspirations for all those who are willing to innovate. India is emerging as the fastest growing economy in the world and we are committed to promote entrepreneurship to fuel growth".

The minister of state, MSDE, Anantkumar Hegde, stated, "Our country's strength is its human resource. The government is committed to supporting everyone - across all categories of entrepreneurs. No entrepreneur is different from another as each has to invest the same amount of passion, grit and commitment in their venture. National Entrepreneurship Awards

is a recognition of immense talent that our youth has. I would urge our youth to work hard, take risks and write their own destiny. This is just the beginning. There are immense opportunities in the country and sky is the limit".

Milind Kamble, founder and chairman, The Dalit Indian Chamber of commerce and industry, declared, "The current incumbent government is making commendable efforts to create a strong support system for entrepreneurs across categories including those who are marginalised. I would give AAA rating to the government for being Accessible, Accommodating and being Action oriented. We are happy to associate with the ministry and commit our support in their endeavours to boost the MSME sector".



Anantkumar Hegde (second from left) and Suresh Prabhu (centre) at the function.

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