

JOURNALIST JAGENDRA SINGH GETS POSTHUMOUS AWARD FOR BRAVERY, THE WIRE IS THE START UP OF THE YEAR

Mumbai, 21 April: The Mumbai Press Club, has instituted a special award for bravery in journalism and has decided to bestow the '**RedInk Veer Patrakar Puraskar** ' posthumously on journalist Jagendra Singh of Shahjahanpur, UP, who was killed at the behest of a minister for his exposes on illegal sand mining and other misdemeanours.

Jagendra Singh ran a Facebook page called *Shahjahanpur Samachar*, wherein he exposed the corrupt practices of a Uttar Pradesh minister. One of the issues taken up was the minister's illegal sand mining. He was murdered at the behest of the minister by being set on fire on 1 June 2015. His dying declaration was recorded as an FIR. He died on 8 June 2015 from burn injuries. The UP government has claimed he set himself on fire. A writ petition filed by journalist Mudit Mathur from Lucknow is pending before the Supreme Court.

The trophy and a small purse will be presented to the legal team and Lucknow journalist Mudit Mathur to aid the court battle to bring the culprits to book.

The Mumbai Press Club has also decided to present the '**RedInk Start-up of the Year**' Award to TheWire.in, a news and public affairs website that has experimented with various forms of Citizen Journalism with telling effect. The 'Best Media Start-up' award in previous years has gone to Fountain Ink of Chennai in 2014 and Scroll.in in 2015.

These awards will be presented along with 24 RedInk Awards by the Governor of Maharashtra C.H.Vidyasagar Rao, on 26th April, at the NCPA, in Mumbai.

The judging process for the 1,400 entries has just been completed, and has involved the herculean task of sifting 1,400 entries by 10 distinguished juries. On account of the large number of entries, the Club had to appoint specialized curators for each section for vetting and sorting the large number of entries. Each of the juries were composed of well known persons with specialist domain knowledge. These Included Arudhati Bhattacharya, Chairperson of SBI for business, Justice (retd) B N Srikrishna for Human Rights, Columnist Shobhaa De for Entertainment and lifestyle, Harsha Bhogle, for sports and Sudheendra Kulkarni for Politics.

A detailed note on the composition of the 10 juries is appended below:

The Principal Media Partner of the Redink Awards is STAR India, and is supported by the Aditya Birla Group, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Zee Entertainment, Eros International, Indiabulls Housing, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, 63 Moons Technologies and JSW Steel.

In a period when journalists and journalism are under severe threat and pressures from violence, vested interest and hash tag writing, the theme for the Redink Awards-2016 is: '**TO RISE ABOVE IT ALL**'.

The Awards will be presented to the winners at the JamshedBhaba Hall, NCPA, in Mumbai on **26th April at 6.30 pm**. Shri CH VidyasagarRao, Governor of Maharashtra will be the chief guest

for the event while Shri PiyushGoyal, Union Minister for Power, Coal, new & Renewable Energy will be the Guest of Honor.