

Geeta Chopra Award



Tejasweeta Pradhan

तेजस्विता प्रधान

West Bengal

17 years 10 months



Shivani Gond

शिवानी गोंद

West Bengal

16 years 9 months

Deed: MARG, an NGO, received a request from Maiti Nepal for seeking help to locate a minor girl who had gone missing from Nepal. MARG located the missing girl in New Delhi and instantly informed CBI in Delhi and also Students Against Trafficking Club (SATC) members of two schools. Tejasweeta Pradhan & Shivani Gond (SATC members) befriended the missing girl on Facebook and started chatting. They continuously kept the minor girl engaged in chatting and pretended to be in need of employment. These SATC members were lured by the missing girl to flashy work/sex trade in New Delhi. Fake Aadhar Cards were sent to them and they were told to cross the border immediately. A trap was laid by the local police with the help of MARG and SATC members. A lady and a man, who had come to pick up the girls of SATC, were apprehended by the Police.

Tejasweeta Pradhan and Shivani Gond showed immense courage in fearlessly helping the Police and the NGO in uncovering an international sex racket leading to the arrest of the mastermind in Delhi.

कार्य: मैतैई नेपाल ने, एक गुमशुदा लड़की को तलाशने के लिए, एक एन.जी.ओ. मार्ग से मदद माँगी। मार्ग को पता चला कि गुमशुदा लड़की नई दिल्ली में थी। तुरन्त उन्होंने दिल्ली सीबीआई और स्टूडेंट्स अगेन्स्ट ट्रैफिकिंग क्लब के दो स्कूल के सदस्यों को सूचना दी। एस.ए.टी.सी. सदस्य तेजस्विता प्रधान और शिवानी गोंद ने लापता लड़की से फेसबुक पर दोस्ती की और उससे बात-चीत करना शुरू कर दिया। उन्होंने लगातार उस नाबालिग लड़की से संपर्क बनाए रखा और नौकरी की तलाश में होने का बहाना किया। लापता लड़की ने एस.ए.टी.सी. सदस्यों को नई दिल्ली में देह व्यापार का लालच दिया। उन्हें नकली आधार कार्ड्स भेजे गए और तुरन्त सीमा पार करने को कहा गया। पुलिस द्वारा मार्ग एवं एस.ए.टी.सी. सदस्यों की मदद से एक जाल बिछाया गया। एस.ए.टी.सी. सदस्यों को लेने आई एक महिला और एक व्यक्ति को पुलिस ने पकड़ लिया।

तेजस्विता प्रधान और शिवानी गोंद ने असीम साहस और निर्भीकता से पुलिस और एनजीओ की मदद की जिससे एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सेक्स रैकेट का पर्दाफाश हुआ और दिल्ली में मुख्य आरोपी को भी पकड़ लिया गया।

Darjeeling girls shun fear and reveal identity

Brave faces unveiled

VIVEK CHHETRI

Darjeeling, Jan. 19: Two girls from Darjeeling who were selected for a national bravery award have again shown exemplary courage and decided to reveal their identities despite fear for their lives.

Tejasweeta Pradhan, a Class XII student of Loreto Convent in Darjeeling, and Shivani Gond, who reads in Class XI of St Teresa Higher Secondary School here, were selected by the Indian Council for Child Welfare for the Geeta Chopra Award for helping police bust a human trafficking ring.

The duo posed as girls willing to leave the hill town to take up jobs in metros. Their act as decoys helped the police catch three trafficking agents and the ring's kingpin in Gurugram last year.

Soon after their selection, the students and their parents had refused to divulge their identity raising security concerns.



(From left) Shivani Gond, Kamlesh Rai Pradhan and Tejasweeta Pradhan in New Delhi. Telegraph picture

Tejasweeta and Shivani reached Delhi on January 16 along with their parents to receive the award and decided to disclose their identities.

Kamlesh Rai Pradhan, mother of Tejasweeta, said over the phone from Delhi: "Upon reaching Delhi, our families held discussions among ourselves and felt that we should come out in the open as we had to face this challenge. We were definitely worried for the se-

curity of our daughters but we felt that we needed to be brave and carry on the fight against human traffickers."

"It would make little sense accepting a bravery award in a closed room or wearing a mask and hiding from the world," said Kamlesh.

Shivani's brother, Bishal who is also in Delhi, said: "The two families decided that it was no use backing off. We felt that if their stories were told,

many others could be inspired."

The two families then gave a no-objection certificate to officials of the ICCW and a Darjeeling based NGO, Mankind in Action for Rural Growth (MARG) stating their desire to reveal the identities of the two girls. The students had volunteered to work with MARG to bust the racket. "We submitted an NOC to the council and MARG so that they were not held liable," said Kamlesh.

Nirnay John Chhetri, the founder of MARG, said: "Four members from the Students Against Trafficking club had helped bust the racket. The two other students are Neena Rai and Shalini. However, they were not qualified for the award as they are above 18. MARG will, however, raise funds for the future education of Neena and Shalini."

The winners will be receiving the award from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 23 and taking part in the Republic Day parade.

