

Managers who beat odds

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Calcutta: A woman who worked as a domestic help to build a hospital for the poor and a third-generation industrialist who puts discipline above hard work were among the winners of a management awards programme in the city on Monday evening.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India presents the CMA Management Excellence Awards 2019, in association with The Telegraph, celebrated outstanding contributions made by the young and the old.

The mood of the evening was set by Tapi Mra, the first person from Arunachal Pradesh to scale Mount Everest. An audience of managing directors, CEOs and management professionals listened in rapt attention as Mra traced his journey from a tiny village in the hills to the world's highest peak.

The essence of his pep talk — no hurdle is too difficult provided the spirit is strong.

The first awardee of the evening was Subhasini Mistry, the founder of Humanity Hospital in Thakurpukur, who won an award in the public service category.

Mistry had vowed to build a hospital for the poor after her husband died in 1971 because of lack of treatment. From working as a domestic help to selling vegetables, she toiled hard for the next two decades to realise her dream. The hospital started its journey in 1993 from a 100sq ft space.

"We were so poor that we couldn't afford proper treatment for him. I do not want



(From left) Gautam Ray, past president of the CMA; R Gopalkrishnan, who won the management hall of fame award; and MK Kemmu, regional manager, LIC (eastern zone), at Hotel Hindustan International on Monday evening. Picture by Gautam Bose

AND THE AWARDS GO TO...

CATEGORY	WINNER
Business leadership	Anannya Chowdhury , director, Anjali Jewellers Karan Paul , chairman, Apeejay Surrendra Group
Corporate leadership	Abraham Stephanos , managing director, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Ltd Indrajit Sen , managing director, International Combustion (India) Ltd
Emerging leader	Suborno Bose , founder and chief mentor, Indismart Group
Public service award	Subhasini Mistry , founder, Humanity Hospital
Innovation excellence award	Arunava Dutta , founder, Ananya Farm and Garden
Leadership in institutional excellence	Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay , vice-chancellor, Amity University, Calcutta
Lifetime achievement award	Mani Shankar Mukherji (better known as author Shankar), chief group adviser (corporate relations), RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group
Management hall of fame	R Gopalakrishnan , former director, Tata Sons

anyone else to suffer that pain," said the 78-year-old who was conferred Padma Shri on Republic Day last year.

Karan Paul, the chairman of the Apeejay Surrendra Group, won the business leadership award. "I am a big believer in family business. I am not for splitting things up," he said. Asked about his two

guiding principles, Paul mentioned discipline and hard work. "I value discipline more than hard work because it prevents you from making catastrophic mistakes," he said.

R. Gopalakrishnan, former director of Tata Sons, received the management hall of fame award. Gopalakrishnan, who studied physics at St Xavier's

College and electronic engineering at IIT Kharagpur, said he was more Bengali than many Bengalis.

"When I walked across Dalhousie Square and Fairlie Place, I hoped one day I would get a chance to work in Martin Burn, Balmer Lawrie and other such companies," Gopalakrishnan recounted.