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NAGPUR

Two Magsaysay awardees join hands for the cause of society



Dr Bharat Vatwani



Dr Prakash Amte

City psychiatrists come together to treat challenged destitutes

■ Staff Reporter

THEIR strong will to work for the mentally challenged destitutes has finally crossed the legal hurdle. Now, two Magsaysay awardees, Dr Bharat Vatwani, founder trustee of Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation, which has been working for the cause of mentally ill and destitutes, and 'Padma Shri' Dr Prakash Amte have come together to help the city psychiatrists succeed in their endeavour to provide better health care to mentally challenged destitutes.

Dr Amte has made available the place at Ashok Van along Wardha Road to run the project while Dr Vatwani's Shraddha Foundation will help in establishing and running the centre. Long ago, Dr Ashish Bhattad, the then President of Psychiatrists Society of Nagpur (PSN), had

thought of starting such a centre. But the idea could not be converted into reality because of some legal issues.

Now, under the presidency of Dr Nikhil Pande, the association, finally, could succeed in setting up the centre which will be inaugurated at 11 am on Sunday at Ashok Van in presence of Dr Amte and Dr Vatwani.

"There are a lot of issues with mentally challenged destitutes. Due to illiteracy and no family support, such persons remain untreated. Due to the mental ailment, these people have low intelligence quotient due to which they are not able to tell their identity, their residential address. Most of them are totally lost, their languages might be different. Dr Vatwani in his attempt to treat such people cured hundreds of people who reunited with their

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Two Magsaysay awardees...

families. The foundation is doing this work in collaboration with three states namely - - Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra so it takes the cases of people from these states," explained Dr Pande.

During the programme, some 20 persons from different States who got cured are to be sent to their respective States. These patients are mostly from poor background who are left alone by their families mostly at railway station or bus stands in other states. The centre at Nagpur will handle the part of transition of patients also after their recovery. There are

several places where mentally ill patients are treated in Nagpur but those are full. At Ashok Van, Dr Amte has provided huge place where wards have been planned for the patients' stay. They will stay till they get cured. In many cases families don't accept them. In such cases centre again accommodates them.

"But our main concern is finding the patients and treating them. Dr Vatwani has done yeoman's work in this particular sector so we will get a lot of support from him. We psychiatrists will go to the centre and treat the patients," said Dr Pande.