

## PRESS RELEASE

# Electrosteel Jal Sevak Samman 2024 Honours the Water Warriors

Kolkata, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024: [Electrosteel Castings Ltd](#), one of the leading water infrastructure companies and pipeline solutions providers, hosted the second edition of their much-awaited award ceremony, [Electrosteel Jal Sevak Samman 2024](#) which honors individuals and institutions working in the water space. The glittering award ceremony was held in the august presence of **Chief Guest, Mr. G Asok Kumar, Director General**, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) "Namami-Gange" in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, Former Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Water Mission, Government of India who is also known as 'The Rain Man of India' and **Guest of Honor, Padma Shri Uma Shankar Pandey**, popularly known as 'Pani Ke Pehredar' in the villages of Uttar Pradesh for his initiative in groundwater contribution, **Mr. Subhaprasanna Bhattacharjee**, renowned painter from Kolkata along with other eminent dignitaries like industry leaders, environmental advocates, and community members.

The winners of the Jal Sevak Samman 2024 Individual Category are **Mr. Alope Sarkar** receiving the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, whereas **Mr. Rajendra Khawas & Mr. Somnath Darjee**, secured the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first prize went to the **Tagore Society for Rural Development, Kolkata** and 2<sup>nd</sup> to **Nature & Adventure Study Group, Cooch Behar** in the Organizational Category, for their remarkable efforts in demonstrating innovative solutions, practical applications and tireless advocacy that significantly impact water sustainability.

This year, the winners were shortlisted from over 50 nominations received by eminent Jury members, **Mr. Soumen Mitra**, IPS (Retd.), Officer on Special Duty & Director, Training, Government of West Bengal & Former Commissioner of Kolkata Police, **Dr. Jayanta Sengupta**, Director, Alipore Museum, Kolkata, **Prof (Dr) Abhijit Mukherjee**, Professor of Geology & Geophysics, Environmental Science & Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, & **Mr. VM Ralli**, Independent Director, Electrosteel Castings Ltd.

"As a leading water infrastructure solution provider, our mission extends beyond delivering high-quality products. We are deeply committed to ensuring access to clean water. Today we celebrated the efforts of water conservation heroes who work tirelessly for the cause. Their dedication and innovative solutions are crucial for ensuring a sustainable future, and we are honored to recognize their outstanding contributions. Through Electrosteel Jal Sevak Samman we aim to increase awareness about the importance of water conservation and inspire more people to engage in meaningful water-saving initiatives, thus creating a larger social impact. Together, we can build a world where every drop counts and every community thrives with clean, safe water", said **Mr. Sunil Katial, Whole-Time Director & Chief Executive Officer, Electrosteel Castings Ltd.**

The award ceremony was preceded by an invigorating panel discussion on 'Water Sustainability, Conservation & Climate Change'. Participants included **Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS**, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, **Dr. Kapil Kumar Narula**, Executive Director & CEO, CII-Triveni Water Institute, **Mr. Subhajit Mukherjee**, the 'Green Man', who is credited with driving the mass movement of 'Tree Plantation' in and around Mumbai, **Mr. Samrat Moulik** "The River Cyclist" is an Indian Book Of Record holder cyclist, trekker, rock climber, traveler, and writer and **Mr. Pankaj Poddar**, Chief Marketing Officer at Electrosteel Castings Ltd in the role of Executive Director, The panel discussion was moderated by Digital Marketer, **Mr. Shubho Sengupta**.

Following the insightful discussion, the audience was treated to 'Jal Stuti', a soulful invocation celebrating water as a sacred resource. As the melodies of 'Jal Stuti' faded, the stage came alive with a vibrant dance performance by Dona Ganguly's Diksha Manjari troupe. The audience was mesmerized by the fluid movements and the seamless integration of traditional and contemporary dance forms, celebrating the essence of water. After the awards ceremony, the audience was treated to another spectacular dance performance by the young artists from Dona Ganguly's Diksha Manjari troupe, many of whom are children of Electrosteel employees, who portrayed the delicate balance between nature and human intervention. The evening concluded with a soulful performance by Tabla maestro, Pandit Kumar Bose, leaving the audience inspired and uplifted.

#### **About Electrosteel Castings Ltd:**

Electrosteel Castings Ltd., a leading provider of water infrastructure solutions in India for nearly 60 years, is a pioneer in Ductile Iron pipes. Committed to clean water access, the company instituted Electrosteel Jal Sevak Samman in 2023. With nearly six decades of expertise, the company fulfills its vision of 'Carrying life to people, safe drinking water for all.' This award honors "Water Warriors" who make a significant impact on water issues and communities. Electrosteel serves millions with clean drinking water, achieving global recognition across 5 continents and 110+ countries spanning South East Asia, the Middle East, Europe, the USA, South America, and Africa.

#### **Awardee Profiles**

##### **Individual Category**

**1st Prize** - Mr. Alope Sarkar - Alope Sarkar, through tireless efforts and grassroots activism, spearheaded the movement and reintegrated the vital water resource of 'Tapan Dighi' and restored the drainage system for the livelihood of people in Dakshin Dinajpur. By mobilizing local communities, petitioning government bodies, and garnering support from renowned figures like Rajendra Prasad, he successfully secured funding and initiated renovation work. His leadership ensured the preservation of Indigenous livelihoods and environmental sustainability, benefiting thousands directly and indirectly.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** - **Mr. Rajendra Khawas & Mr Somnath Darjee** - Rajendra Khawas and Somnath Darjee, have been instrumental in raising awareness about water conservation since 1980. Through their persistent advocacy and educational campaigns, they have reached a large part of North Bengal's population, emphasizing the importance of water preservation and sustainable usage practices.

##### **Organizational Category**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** - **Tagore Society for Rural Development** - Tagore Society for Rural Development (TSRD), founded in 1969 by Jayprakash Narayan and Pannalal Dasgupta, follows Rabindranath Tagore's ethos. Operating across 2801 villages in West Bengal and Jharkhand, TSRD's projects like Rangabelia and Sagar address varied issues. Instrumental in bringing water close to home in Purulia, by planting over 3,50,000 trees. This enabled the rise of the nearby underground water table. Led by Padma Shri Tushar Kanjilal, TSRD extends its impact to remote regions like the Sundarbans and border areas, fostering rural development and social welfare.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** - **Nature & Adventure Study Group** - Since its inception on January 19, 1980, in Cooch Behar, the NASH group has been dedicated to raising awareness about water conservation and combatting wastage. Primarily spread awareness about water conservation among the young generation, imparting knowledge about this precious resource in Cooch Behar. Their extensive outreach efforts have reached nearly half of North Bengal's population, championing the cause of water preservation and sustainability for a healthier environment.