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Name of spiritual leader Chitta Maharaj likely to be recommended by state government for 'Padma Sri' award

By Our Correspondent

Agartala, September 26, 2023



Tripura government is short-listing names for recommending to Centre for 'Padma Sri' award conferred by the government of India. Official sources said that the officials in charge of finalizing the recommendation are in favour of recommending the names of M. Damodaran and V.Shankaran who served as chief secretaries in the state. Damodaran had also served later as chairman of RBI and Security & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and universally respected Shankaran who is now in eighties rose to become the secretary, rural development department in the central secretariat. But their names may be dropped in favour of famous Hindu spiritual leader Chitta Maharaj who set up and is running a number of 'Shanti Kali Ashrams' in different parts of the state including the headquarter at Champak Nagar. The name Shanti Kali is derived from the name of famous Hindu tribal saint Shanti Kumar Tripura who had been shot dead by the banned NLFT militants in the year 1999. Revered Chitta Maharaj has been playing a key role in spreading the message of Hinduism and preserving religious faith and culture of the indigenous tribals.

While Chitta Maharaj's name is accepted by all as a nominee for the 'Padma Sri' award for his contribution to education, culture and spiritual values among the indigenous people, many observers feel that names of famous chemistry scholar D Arijit Das and leading educationist Abhijeet Bhattacharjee can also be considered for nomination for the prestigious award. Dr Arijit Das who has invented twenty new methodologies and 40 formulae for the study of chemistry was offered the membership of renowned American Chemical Society (ACS) and his methodologies and formulae have been included in digital records of world's leading universities like California Davis, Berkley, Cambridge and others. His book on chemistry containing his methodologies and formulae has been published by the Cambridge university.

Sri Abhijeet Bhattacharjee, on the other hand, has been running entire northeast's most successful coaching institute for competitive exams for higher education and jobs. He also renders great social service by coaching poor and meritorious students free of cost and gives them scholarships. He has produced hundreds of officers, doctors, engineers including IITians from his institute famously known as 'School of Science'. The intellectuals and educated class in general in the state feel that Dr Arijit Das and Abhijeet Bhattacharjee's names also deserve to be recommended for the 'Padma Sri' awards which started coming to the state only after the BJP government had come to power here in the year 2018.

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