Two Indians among Ramon Magsaysay Award winners

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Magsaysay for city shrink, Ladakh man

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HONOR ROLL

Bharat Vatwani was recognised for “his tremendous courage and healing compassion in embracing India’s mentally-afflicted destitute...”

Sonam Wangchuk was recognised for “his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India.”

Vatwani and Wangchuk, who live in Ladakh, were declared winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award. Vatwani, a psychiatrist who works for the mentally-ill street persons and another whose initiative to harness science and culture creatively for economic progress improved the lives of the Ladakhi youth, was awarded the prize for his work in immigrant communities. Wangchuk, a social entrepreneur and founder of the Ladakh Institute of Management and Development, was cited for his efforts to improve the education system in Ladakh.

The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to society through their work. The winners were selected from a pool of over 1,000 nominees from around the world. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is one of the most prestigious international awards given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to society.

In his acceptance speech, Vatwani thanked his team and the people of Ladakh for their support. He said, “We are very grateful for this recognition, and we will continue to work towards improving the lives of the people in Ladakh.”

Wangchuk, on the other hand, thanked his team for their contributions to the institute. He said, “We are happy to receive this recognition, and we will continue to work towards improving the education system in Ladakh.”