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Social worker from Bastar wins Rohini Nayyar Prize

Deenanath Rajput was felicitated for helping change the lives of tribal women in Chhattisgarh

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ALISHA DUTTA

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Fifteenth Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh (left) presenting the award to Deenanath Rajput. | Photo Credit: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Recognising his efforts in changing the lives of over 6,000 tribal women in Chhattishgarh by establishing a farmers producers organisation (FPO), engineer-turned-social worker Deenanath Rajput was awarded the Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development at an event here on Tuesday.

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He received a cash prize of ₹10 lakh, a trophy, and a citation from the chief guest N.K. Singh, Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

Mr. Rajput, 33, set up the FPO in 2018 with an initial membership of 337 women from Jagdalpur in Bastar, a district known to be a hub of Naxalite activities. Since then, the FPO has more than 6,000 members across four districts. It helps women farmers by providing them with agricultural extension services, building cold storage infrastructure, connecting

them with national and international markets for their products, and helping them diversify into higher value-added products and services.

This is the second edition of the Rohini Nayar Prize, which was instituted in the memory of the eponymous economist and administrator who passed away in 2021.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Rajput said, “The prize has given us a platform and the financial support will only strengthen our future endeavours.”



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