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SOME UNKNOWN PEOPLE OF INDIA - PART 1

Bipin Ganatara - Fire Chaser

Meet Bipin Ganatara, a volunteer fireman from kolkata, also called the Fire Chaser.

A humble man of around 64 years, who is a small time electrician , Bipin lives in a one room accommodation in Kolkata.

He is not a professional fireman, but has been instrumental in saving hundreds of lives in fire accidents in the city of Kolkata.

When Bipin was 12 years old, his elder brother Narendra died in a fire accident. This tragedy shocked him completely. He had to drop out of school.

And compelled to do some odd jobs. Whenever he use to see a fire engine nearby, he would chase it and reach the spot of fire and would see the firemen working.

Since five decades, he has been helping firemen in saving people involved in fire, removing the dead from debris and even cleaning the debris. Fire department of the city had offered him job many times but he is willing to serve voluntarily.

He relies on TV and radio news or information from his friends. As soon as he gets news, he rings up the fire department and reaches there himself in his old fire boots and yellow helmet donated by someone. Even fire people trust him and take his help .

In honour of his services, fire department has issued him a rare steel volunteer card and a khaki uniform.

Bipin has suffered injuries several times while helping dousing the flames.

He even risked his life to extract two unexploded cylinders from a burning warehouse on Strand road. Another example of his dramatic rescue was convincing a pregnant woman stuck at fifth floor of a building to come down.

As the fire broke, woman was too scared to move, Bipin scaled the building and convinced her to come with him. There are several more incidences which are proof of his bravery and selfless service.

This unsung hero got Padma Shri in 2017 by the Central government . Unfazed by the recognition, Bipin da or Fire Chaser still gets alerted by the ringing bell of the fire engine and rushes to the fire scene.