

Name : Mr. Seshadri Nathan SUKUMARAN

Father's/Husband's Name : Seshadri Nathan

Date of Birth : 09/06/1955

Gender : Male

Country : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

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Religion : Hindu

Nationality : Indian

Category : General

Weather Posthumous : NO



NOMINATION DETAILS

Field of Activity : Art

Sub Field : Photography

Earlier Padma Award Received : No

Award Applied For : Padma Shri

CITATION

For the outstanding contribution of Seshadri Nathan Sukumaran as sports photographer, he has won the hearts of young sportspersons of eminence. Hailing from a middle class family with seven siblings, it was his childhood dream to come out of shackles / break the glass ceiling and emerge as a National and International photographer of repute. For over four decades his passion, dedication, hard work earned him recognition from sportspersons as an unobtrusive. exemplary freelancer who captures emotions like joy, happiness, ecstasy, sorrow, disappointment, anger, desperation, frustration of individuals as well as team members through his astute photographic techniques / clicks.

His relentless pursuit in search of excellence and the insatiable desire to achieve personal distinction and bring glory to the Nation has earned him many National and International awards. Gold medal from Photographic Society of America in 2016 Rio Olympics was given for his picture, out of 5579 entries received from across 46 countries. Gold medal and **Kalaimamani** title, highest honour from Govt. of Tamil Nadu was awarded in 2017. He has captured live moments of sportspersons in the 2010 South Africa FIFA World Cup, 2014 Brazil and 2018 Russia; 2012 Wimbledon, 2014 US Open, ICC Cricket World Cup ICC T20 and the IPL. Pictures of Asian Games in Qatar, Guangzhou

and Indonesia, 2010 Delhi Common Wealth Games, SAG in Sri Lanka and India drew admiration from many sportspersons for portraying the moments back to memory. It is honour for himself and the country to photograph 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, 2012 London and 2016 Rio.

With great humility he acknowledged when Bharat Ratna Shri Sachin Tendulkar the God of Cricket mentioned that Sukumaran's work not only beautifully encapsulated the story of his last test match but also brought out true emotions of facial expressions that conveyed thousand words. Bharat Ratna Shri Sachin Tendulkar has the picture as the cover photo for his Autobiography *Playing It My way* released in Mumbai in 2015. Sukumaran has been conducting photo exhibitions on International sporting events since 2008. These were conducted with the objective of inspiring and motivating budding sportspersons and spot the young skilful photographers. His Photo Exhibition in Beijing, London and Rio were much appreciated by digital and print media.

His simple and unassuming nature is evident from the fact that he believes in capturing the young talent at schools / colleges by holding exhibitions and motivate youngsters with necessary guidance, hand holding support in various disciplines of sports and sports photography. His dedication has won the Rotary Club Vocational Excellence Award 2012. Sports Photo Exhibition at Sports Authority of India New Delhi with stunning action pictures was inaugurated in Nov 2015 by the then Honourable MoS Sports. In 2016 two photo books on Rio Olympics was launched by Honourable Home Minister. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports IC released the books and inaugurated the Rio Olympic Photo Exhibition at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi in Dec 2016.

He has provided free vocational training for around 200 under privileged students in schools / colleges to make them **'Atma Nirbhar'**. His penchant for religious activities and temples is commendable. He has captured photographs of various temples across the State and presented a dossier to Govt of Tamil Nadu. He has also provided photographs of Tirumala Lord Balaji to adorn TTD 2018 calendar. Recognizing his services to the society, Guru Sringeri Acharya instructed him to take up vocational training for the under privileged. Our Honourable PM Shri Narendra Modi ji had exhorted during his personal interaction with Sukumaran that he should develop the skill upgradation of the talented youth in our Country.

Under the able guidance of Shri P R Rao, Principal, recipient of national award for teachers in 2002, Sukumaran associated in construction of a big Buddha statue for a school to provide inspiration / learning to the students. His contribution as honorary trustee for an old age home for destitute senior citizens is quite significant.

The journey of a young Hindu boy from a middle class family with seven siblings who dreamt to make big, despite struggles at different stages of life, facing criticism, monetary constraints, sacrificing job in pursuit of the dream has culminated into an accredited freelance sports photographer of International repute. He has left an indelible impression among the sportspersons through his photographic skills. Giving life to expressions makes sports photography enjoyable to everyone young and old alike. With the advancement of digital technology he is bound to scale newer peaks and bring glory to our Nation. It is said that "Pen is mightier than the Sword". Sukumaran through his sports photography has redefined the above and it can be said that "Pictures speak more than Words".

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION OF THE NOMINEE/APPLICANT

Mission is to reach the zenith in sports photography and help youngsters to take up sports activities. Vision to demonstrate sports photography as a vocation for the youth to take up sports and other allied activities to bring laurels to Nation.

His significant contribution includes capturing live moments of 2010 South Africa FIFA World Cup, 2014 Brazil and 2018 Russia. 2012 Wimbledon, 2014 US Open, ICC Cricket World Cup ICC T20 and the IPL. Pictures in Asian Games in Qatar, Guangzhou and Indonesia, 2010 Delhi Common Wealth Games, SAG in Sri Lanka and India drew admiration from the sports fraternity. As an accredited freelance photographer has the distinguished credit of representing three consecutive Olympic events, viz. 2008 Beijing, 2012 London and 2016 Rio. He has provided honorary skill development training for around 1000 under privileged students in schools, colleges in TN and Pondy to make them self reliant. Around 1500 students were benefited through his exhibitions and guidance. His dedication to the field earned him the Rotary Club Vocational Excellence Award 2012. Notable achievements include Gold medal from Photographic Society of America in 2016 Rio Olympics. Gold medal and Kalaimamani title, highest honour from Government of Tamil Nadu in 2017.

His contribution to this medium has generated immense interest in post millennial to take up sports and photography as a vocation to showcase their talents to the world. His numerous exhibitions were a testimony to motivate the young boys and girls to upgrade their skill sets to achieve awards, distinction for themselves and bring glory to the Nation.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION RECEIVED BY THE APPLICANT/NOMINEE

State Awards : Mission is to reach the zenith in sports photography and help youngsters to take up sports activities. Vision to demonstrate sports photography as a vocation for the youth to take up sports and other allied activities to bring laurels to Nation.

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the young boys and girls to upgrade their skill sets to achieve awards, distinction for themselves and bring glory to the Nation.

National Awards : Nil.

Till recently freelanceers were not considered for National Award of Govt of India (Ministry of communication and Broadcasting) Hence he is not lucky with his entries.

Sukumarans photographic skills were well acclaimed by various sports persons of National and International repute. A testimony for his exemplary work was displayed by Bharat Ratna Shri Sachin Tendulkar who taken Sukumarans picture as cover photo for his Autobiography Playing It My way. Padma Bhushan awardee Smt Sania Mirza has appreciated his collection of pictures are a tribute to his abundant talent. The photographs taken by him were extensively used in digital and print media while covering the events during the national tournaments and international championships.

Sports Photo Exhibition at Sports Authority of India New Delhi with stunning action pictures was inaugurated in Nov 2015 by the then Honourable MoS Sports. In 2016 two photo books on Rio Olympics was launched by Honourable Home Minister. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports IC released the books and inaugurated the Rio Olympic Photo Exhibition at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi in Dec 2016.

International Awards: His photograph won a **Gold medal from Photographic Society of America** for his image of 2016 Rio Olympics out of 5579 entries received from across 46 countries. True to his photographic skill he captured the emotions of winner and runner up in a fiercely competed final in 2016 Rio Olympics and presented the picture of both the contestants in

a single photo image, one expressing delight over winning a gold and disappointment writ large on the face of the runner up who won the silver medal. His Photo Exhibitions of Olympics, 2008, 2012 & 2016 Beijing, London & Rio FIFA World Cup Photo Exhibitions of 2014 Brazil & 2018 Russia were visited by number of sports lovers across the globe and was much appreciated by digital and print media.

IMPACT OF THE WORK DONE BY THE NOMINEE/APPLICANT

Contribution to the Field : For excellent contribution in the field of visual arts Seshadri Nathan Sukumaran an accredited sports photographer is class apart for his achievement. He has contributed as a freelancer amongst the group of Sports Photographers, the field which is represented by a set of highly skilled professionals who generally work for major digital, print, wire agencies and sports magazines.

He does a spectacular job by bringing us in the game itself with his lens, which is often unnoticed to acknowledge his hard work to capture that picture. It takes a combination of technique, eagle eye, endurance, dexterity and speed to get the best of the emotions. He is good at predicting what will happen next in a game which is critical in understanding to compose shots. The action gives little time to react and it is no surprise that one of the most powerful images of the fastest man in the world, Usain Bolt, sporting a smile while he storms ahead of his opponents at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games comes from the field of sports photography. Sukumarans photograph was adjudged the **best** by **Photographic Society of America in 2016 Rio Olympics**.

His impressive snapshots of professional athletes, amateurs and spectators, captures the passion, sacrifice and victory. He had to train his eagle eye to achieve perfection and remain ever vigilant to offer his best. The mastery of moment capturing is the beauty, which is often over shadowed by the intensity of the action, the portrayed individuals, the shot itself - and it is precisely here lies the genius of Sukumaran.

Contribution to the Society : For sustained commitment in promoting sports photography Seshadri Nathan Sukumaran has strived hard to encourage the Gen Z to upgrade their skill sets and prepare themselves to be self-reliant through various activities. He inculcated in the young minds in schools / colleges about the importance of sports photography which is a powerful medium to not only remind the society of an historical event or details of achievements, but can bring right back the emotions, feelings, sounds, and even smells of the moment.

His vocational training to poor school students to be re-started after the pandemic. He always believes in spotting the young talent at schools / colleges by holding exhibitions and providing youngsters with necessary guidance from eminent sports persons, hand holding support in sports and photography. His Sports Photo Exhibition draws lots of young crowd from schools / colleges who are keen to pursue sports as a career. He interacts with the students and impresses upon them that in a fast changing world, sports photography has the potential for one to travel all over the world and end up on the international front pages in no time.

It is always said that Health is Wealth. Sukumaran's contribution towards preparing the youth to take up sports as a vocation would prove to be a game changer in the years to come and would bring laurels to our Country by way of more medals in Olympics, Youth Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, ICC WC and every other international sport tournaments. Through his services an environment is created for showcasing the greatest strength of our Nation, which is undoubtedly the invaluable Human Capital.