

NEWS PAPER CLIPINGS

Name of News paper : The Times of India

Dated : 22-8-2009



Manikrao Thakre presents Narendra Jadhav the award

GLITTER, GLAM AND OF SUBSTANCE!

Times Group among the Raj

ROSHNI K OLIVERA
Times News Network

Whoever said politicians are a grim and serious lot? They can have a great sense of humour too and enjoy themselves to the hilt. This was more than evident at the 12th Rajiv Gandhi Awards '09 held at NCPA, Mumbai, on Wednesday.

At this star-studded ceremony - which saw a good presence of Bollywood as well - 12 eminent personalities from diverse fields including education, sports, industry, journalism, entertainment and the social field, among others, were honoured.

Vineet Jain, MD of The Times Group, was conferred the award for Excellence in Industry. The other awardees included Sam Pitroda (Global Indian), Olympic gold shooter Abhinav Bindra (Sports), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair (Super Achiever), Rajashree Birla

(Social Field), Pune University vice-chancellor Dr Narendra Jadhav (Education), Rohit Kohli (Young Entrepreneur), Ramesh Chandra Agarwal, chairman, *Dainik Bhaskar* (Journalism), Everest conqueror Krushna Patil (Young Achiever), Shahid Kapur and Katrina Kaif (Entertainment) and telly wonder Avika Gor (Child Prodigy).

"We choose people from diverse fields and the one thing common to all the winners is that they're a source of inspiration for others to excel," said Maharashtra MLC and Mumbai Congress vice-president Charan Singh Sapra, convener of the awards. The theme this year was 'Celebrating Modern India'.

"It is a great honour to receive this award and I accept it on behalf of the 11,000 employees of The Times Group family," said a dapper Vineet Jain, who was presented the award by Union Minister for Food Processing Subodhkant Sahay and Sapra himself.

"Rajiv Gandhi will always be remembered as a great icon who focussed on youth and technology. He believed in our cause



Photo: Shantanao Das

and supported a free press. I dedicate this award to my brother Samir Jain, Vice-Chairman of The Times Group, for his vision for the media industry," Mr Jain further said.

With The Times Group already being present across all mediums - be it print, television, internet, radio - what next, asked anchors Shreyas Talpade and Mahima Chowdhary. To which Mr Jain replied, "It's got to be the mobile phone. A time will soon come when people will depend on their cell phones for newspaper reading, television, radio, etc."

Priyanka Chopra and Hrithik Roshan's high-octane performances were the high point of the afternoon. Esha Deol, telly star Hussain Kuwajerwala and music director duo Vishal-Shekhar too enthralled the audience with their acts. The gorgeous Katrina Kaif attracted a huge round of applause as she danced to *Teri Ore* sung by Shreyas. Funnyman Raju Srivastava's gags had

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: (left to right) Vineet Jain, MD of The Times Group; Shahid Kapur receiving the trophy from Vilasrao D. Patil; and Avika Gor and Katrina Kaif. For more pics of the awardees and the event, log on to <http://photogallery.indiatv>

Pictures of Rajiv Gandhi Award Function

Super achievers take it all!

There was lots of glitter, plenty of glam, loads of entertainment and a number of lessons of excellence at the 12th Rajiv Gandhi Awards '09 ceremony held on Wednesday at the NCPA in Mumbai. As anchors Shreyas Talpade and Mahima Chaudhary took centre stage and entertained the packed hall, politicians from across the country, sports persons, Bollywood celebs and others sat back for an afternoon of tributes, awards and merriment.

Shreyas and Mahima made the politicians sing their favourite songs. Vilasrao Deshmukh cheerfully declined the proposal saying he had never sung in his life, while Vilas Mutenwar impressed with his *Jab Koi Baat Bhaad*. Jaye number Former cricketer Mohammed Azharuddin, the newest politico on the block, sang *Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na* for wife Sangeeta Bijlani, who was accompanying him. And when the good-looking Jyotiraditya Scindia came on

stage with Madhur Bhandarkar, Mahima couldn't help but remark that the filmmaker should consider Jyotiraditya for his next. Later, Milind Deora was asked what he liked better—being a rockstar guitarist or a politician. Milind, of course, said he could do both.

When Rajeev Shukla came on stage with Katrina Kaif to give away an award, he wittily thanked god that he wasn't asked to come with Kripa-shankar Singh! The latter of course was most sporting and burst out laughing, waiting for Shukla to step down from the stage! Shahid Kapur enthralled the audience with a sudden jig. Hrithik Roshan and Priyanka Chopra put up some enchanting performances. Hrithik's son Hrehaan, who was seated with Sussanne, seemed to love his daddy's performance. Not surprising, the little one became the centre of attention. Also present at the event were Shekhar Suman, Poojan Dhillon, Tulip Joshi, Suresh Shetty, Vijay Kalantri, Mukkesh Tyagi, Viren Shah and Raza Murad.

Nineteen-year-old Krushnaa Patil, the courageous Puneite to

scale Mount Everest, who bagged the award in the Women Achiever category, said she now wanted to "create awareness of the effects of global warming such as melting glaciers". Planning Commission member Navendra Jadhav, on receiving his award for Excellence in Education, stressed that, "Education is the only thing that can change an entire generation." Sam Pitroda, who started the 'Yellow Revolution' in India (STD and PCO booths), received the global Indian award. He could not attend the event as he was in the US and had a dinner engagement with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

At the end of the ceremony Charan Singh Sapra, who instituted the awards 12 years ago, was a happy man. Not surprising he sang *Chalte Chalte Mere Yaar Geet Yaad Rakhta* straight from his heart when he was asked to hum his favourite number.

TNN



WALK THE TALK: Mahima Chaudhary



OH HO! Husain Kuwajerwala



CHAMPION STROKE: Abhinav Bindra



Shreyas Talpade anchors the show



Rajiv Shukla (R) presents the award to Rohit Kochhar



Madhur Bhandarkar (R) congratulates Ramesh Chandra Agarwal (L)